

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016



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**ALL NEW METAMORA
NOTE CARDS NOW
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SETS**



ALL NEW SCENES!

Each pack has 10 cards –

- **Color Packs** – 2 cards each of 5 different scenes - \$6 a pack
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Cards may be purchased at Commerce Bank, Historic Grounds, the Metamora Library, Village Floral, If the Shoe Fits, or by contacting any of the board members listed below. They can also be mailed (will include a shipping and handling charge)

Open Houses Resume

New items are added regularly...
Sharing your old pictures, stories, etc. is ALWAYS welcome!! Please contact us if you have anything you would be willing to share!

The Stevenson House will be OPEN

1-4 on

- June 5
- June 19

**STOP IN AND SEE
WHAT'S BEEN ADDED!**

What's New (Old)

- New Board Member Rick Lotz – 648-2010
- Bottle from Herb's Market in GH
- Court House pillow
- Old local business receipts
- Sesquicentennial history books
- An English Birmingham bicycle from the 50's or 60's
- Special thanks to Murlene Kramer for her donations

Christian Engel

WHY MANY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH CAME TO AMERICA.

From 1809 to 1819. Christian Engel led the church to petition the French government to not conscript members, as their beliefs forbid bearing arms against others.

When these efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, many members decided to "go into exile" in America.

Thanks to Julie and Bob Schertz for their contribution of Steven Estes' book on the Engel family. The book, "Love God and Your Neighbor – the Life and Ministry of Christian Engel" – traces the family and their remarkable experiences back to the 1600's.

An excerpt – "Christian and Barbara Brunner Engel came from France on the ship Concordia and traveled 65 days on the ocean. They apparently left France on 16 May, 1833. Christian was 68, Barbara 64, and three daughters – 28, 24, and 20, plus Barbara's mother, Marie Ringenberg, 72, the mother-in-law of Peter Engel. "They landed in New Orleans and made their way up the Mississippi River.

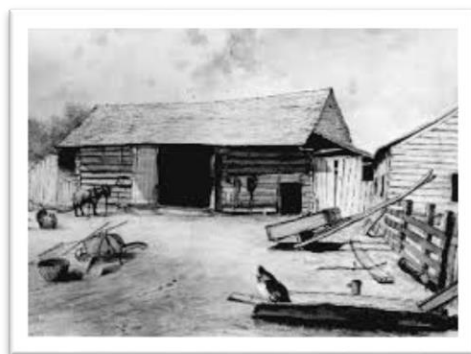
The family came to the home of their son, John Engel, who lived one mile west of what would become Metamora. Christian later organized the first Amish congregation in the state of Illinois in the home of his son, John."

Christian had abilities that were of great use on the frontier. He hewed furniture for the one-room log house of his daughter and son-in-law Jacobina and Joseph Verkler from trees on Kickapoo Creek, where they lived.

Log Barn Church

This log barn on the Peter Engel farm was used as a meeting place for early Apostolic Christian Church services in the 1850's and 1860's just as early Amish services had been conducted by Christian Engel a generation before.

This barn was located approximately behind the last house in Metamora on the west side of the Washington Blacktop.



An interesting sketch was found of an old log barn that stood about a mile south of town on the Peter Engel farm. It was used for a time as a meeting place for the members of the Partridge Prairie Apostolic Christian Church. A quote from an article in "The Silver Lining" by Irene Hodel Legel says:

"Wooded areas attracted early settlers, because of the timbers providing lumber for their homes. On occasions when there were visitors from a distance, or visiting ministers, they would assemble in barns in order to

provide seating capacity for all who assembled."

An excerpt from the diary of Bro. Henry Geistlich states, "Sunday, July 1, 1866: At Metamora today there was church here by Bro. Peter Engel. A large barn was our place for assembling, there being a large number of people assembled. In the forenoon there were 53 rigs in the yard and in the afternoon still more..."

The old road used to cut through this area before Rte. 116 was built. (See the 1873 plat map below.)

The barns were thoroughly swept, including the walls and rafters, and pieces of logs were carried into the barn. Planks were laid across the logs to serve as benches. Chickens would wander in, but if they became too noisy, someone would quietly shoo them out.

People sometimes came great distances on foot to attend church services in Partridge (Metamora). "One family living at Crow Creek, not too far from Lacon, drove to Partridge early on Sunday mornings with their log wagon. Others from Morton and Dillon walked a distance of twenty-five miles to Partridge, leaving home at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday in order to arrive at Partridge in time for services.

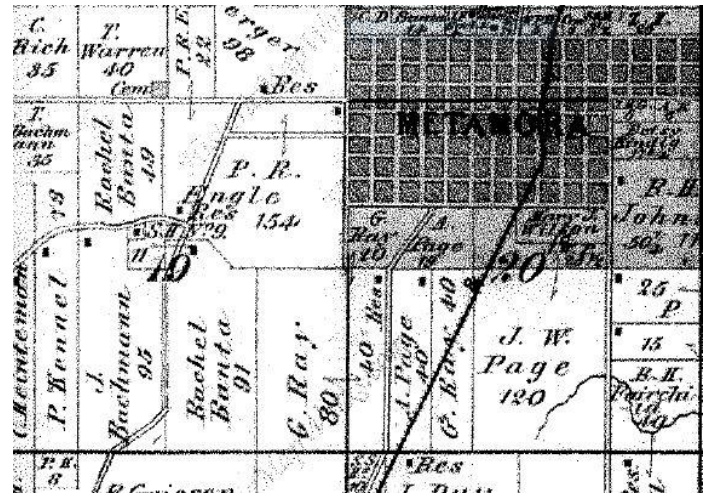
Engel Home 1903

This is the old home place. This building no longer stands.



Engel Plat 1873

Note the home was on the west side of the road. The house was approximately in the junction of the old road to Peoria and what is now the Washington Blacktop



Contact Us

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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