

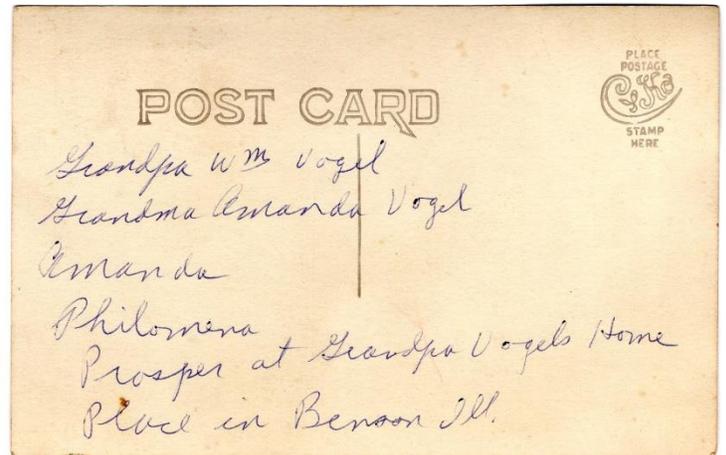
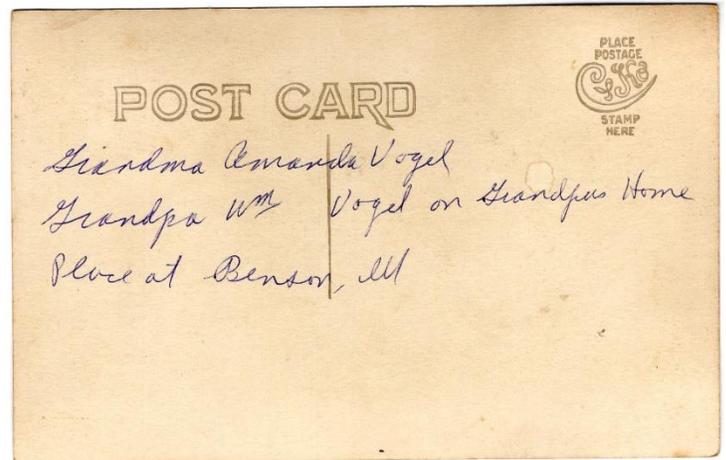


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POST CARDS FROM THE PAST. The State of Illinois has recently been reviewing the artifacts at the Metamora Courthouse and found that there are several items that didn't support the Lincoln theme. As such, they offered the unneeded items to us, MAHP. The next few pictures are items we now have. If anyone has any information about these folks, scenes, etc., we'd love to hear from you.

The backside of the pictures are copied on the right.



FROM THE 1873 COUNTY ATLAS...

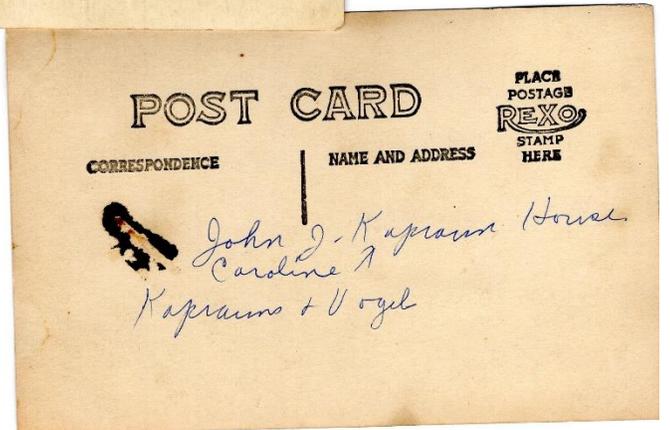
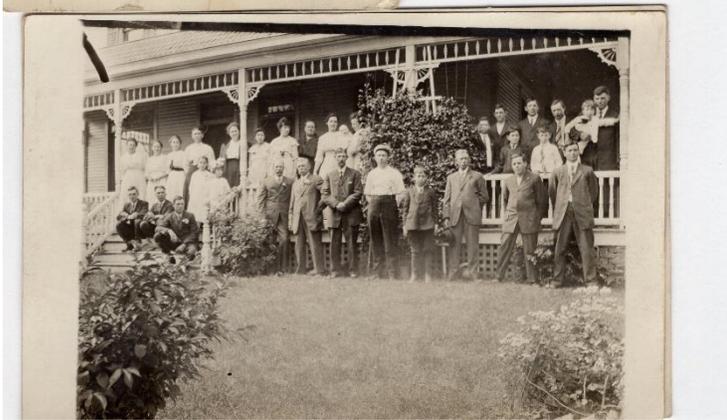
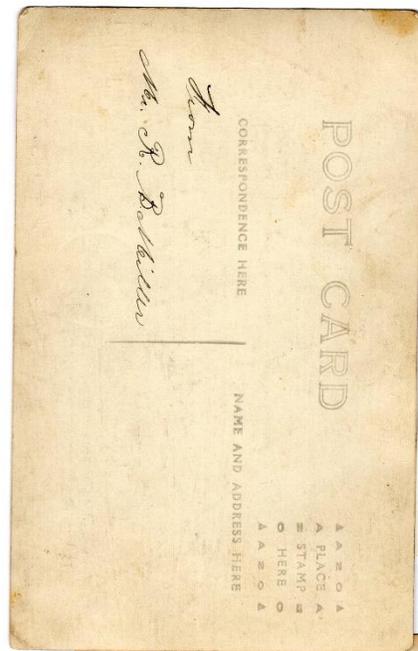
Calling Perry Mason... in 1873, five lawyers had offices in Metamora.

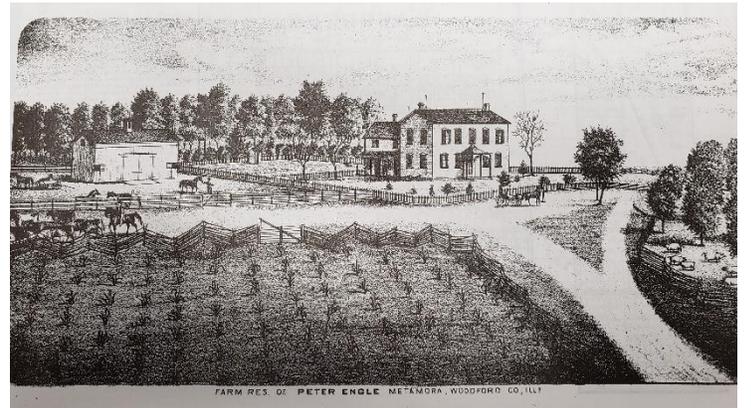
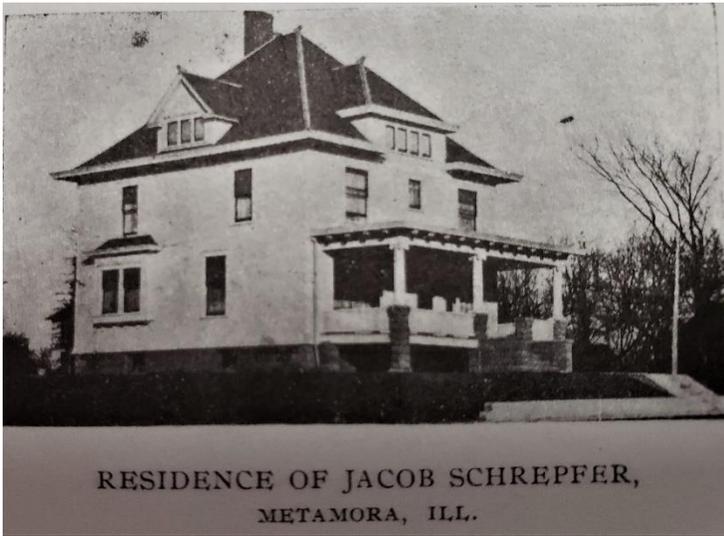
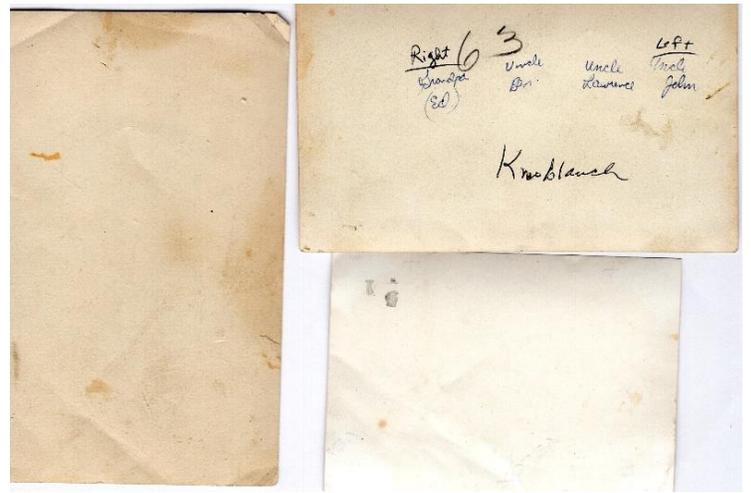
George Kern...from the Metamora business directory - "Livery, sale and feed stable, first class rigs, single or double, with or without driver. Horses and carriages all new." George was a conductor on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War and was arrested and represented by A. Lincoln.

Knoblauch Building... in 1873, the Metamora business directory - "John Knoblauch - dealer of choice family groceries, agricultural implements, builders' hardware." His shop was on the northeast corner of Partridge and Davenport - the old American Legion site. Your editor cannot confirm any connection or relationship between Dr. Knoblauch, who lived in what is now the Mason Funeral Home and John. Dr. Knoblauch also had his office in a small building next to the alley between his home and the Knoblauch Building.

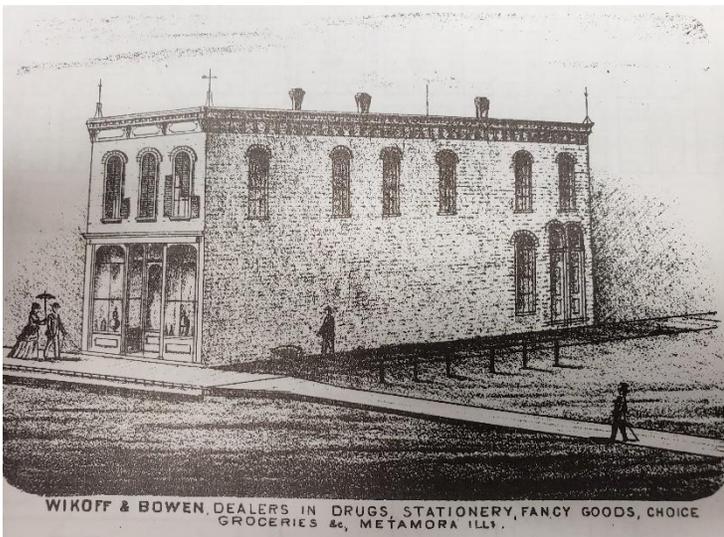
FF Briggs, Undertaker... "undertaker, coffins always on hand or made to order on short notice. Will attend funeral with hearse when so desired." His shop was on Niles Street, "two doors south of the jail." (Does anyone know what was done if the hearse wasn't used?? Let us know!)

Linus Carpenter... "manufacturer and dealer in bricks. 1 and one half miles north of Metamora." Does anyone have any information about this?

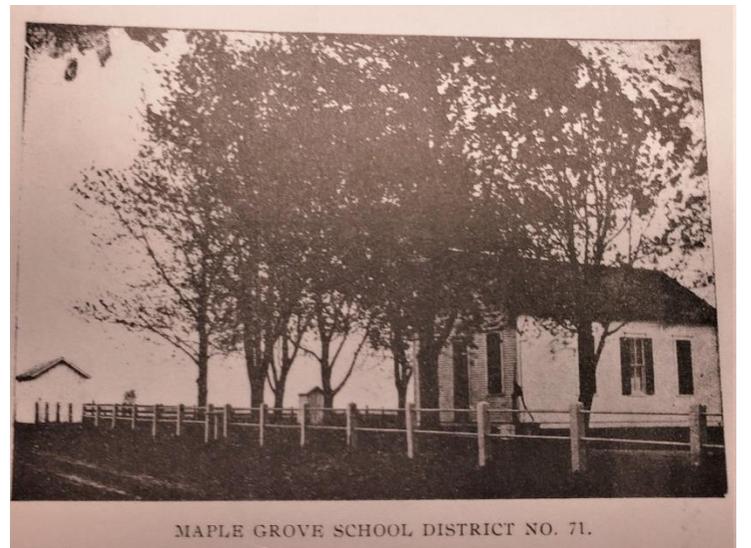




The farm residence of Peter Engle. Still a residence, it is the last home in Metamora headed south on the right side of the Washington Blacktop. Helps explain why the house sits at an angle.



This is the building on the southeast corner of Partridge and Davenport – the location of the former Mexican restaurant. It was known as the Wikoff Building.



Do you know where this country school was located? Who went to school there?

HISTORY OF DOCTORS WHITMIRE HOMES

The Whitmire homes were built in the 1850's. This was the local style of architecture as there are at least six old homes still standing in Metamora. These homes have not been altered with in my memory.

But it takes more than a house to make a memory. Both of these houses were occupied by people who had the good of the community in mind.

The doctor brothers James, born 1821, and Zachariah, born 1823 both were graduates of Rush Medical School. The two men were quite different. Dr. Zach had poor health so his practice was limited, but he was appointed by President Lincoln in 1863 to be Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment for the eight District of Illinois with headquarters at Springfield. He performed his duties well, but in 1865 he was obliged to resign because of ill-health. He then returned to Metamora and resumed a limited practice of medicine.

Dr. James S. Whitmire was one of the most distinguished members of the medical profession as represented in Woodford County. He came to Illinois from Ohio in 1840. His chances for obtaining an education were limited as the only schools being taught then were on the subscription plan. But being ambitious, he, (like Lincoln) kept all the books he could find on his bench, where he worked as a shoemaker. With the help of friends he finally entered Rush Medical School, graduating with honors.

In 1846 he located in Metamora; in 1855 he continued his studies at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, coming back to Metamora in 1856. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 he joined

the army as assistant Surgeon of the sixth Illinois Infantry. He served the Army until 1863 when he resigned and returned to Metamora. He was a man of large public spirit and had a marked influence in advancing the highest interest of Metamora.

He was a familiar figure as he traveled the country roads roads in his cart and Indian pony. One of his proudest moments was when he and his brother became members of the G.A.R.

By: Mrs. S. M. Snyder

Dr. Z.H. Whitmire, Physician and Surgeon, came to Metamora from Shelby County, Ohio in 1848. He lived at 105 S Menard. Old timers may remember his home, a huge white house which stood directly behind the Standard Station. His brother, Dr. J.S. Whitmire came to Metamora in 1856 from Sidney, Ohio. He lived at 120 S Mendard (Hugh Abel's old home.) A Civil War surgeon, originally with the 6th Illinois Cavalry and promoted to the 56th Illinois Voluntary Infantry, he later shared an office with his brother, which was located on the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon and Menard – where the Subway sits today. Dr. Whitmire died July 15, 1897 and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery.



Adlai Stevenson I was Vice-President of the United States during Grover Cleveland's second term of office. During Cleveland's first term, Stevenson served as Postmaster General.

Mr. Stevenson was a circuit lawyer in Metamora from 1859-1869.

In 1866 he was married to Letitia Green and they moved into the George Lemon house a block south of the park. George Lemon is the one who built the house and is thought to have owned or built on much of this property, but there is nothing about him in the early histories.

Mrs. Stevenson was described as a "beautiful and cultured southern lady." She was reportedly "astounded" at the streets of mud and the unrefined manners of the native citizens.

As near as can be told, the house was built in the late 1830's or the early 1840's. It was built of native brick.

The house was constructed of three layers of brick including the east-west interior walls. The windows extend almost from the ceiling to the floor. In all of the rooms except the front room there are window seats.

The four upstairs rooms are identical to the downstairs rooms except for a large double door which was cut between the two east rooms about fifty years ago.

The stairway is actually a triple stair as it extends from the basement to the attic. It is not a winding stairway as in most southern-styled homes, but each stair is located one above the other. There are also steps which lead onto the top of the house from the attic. All of the stairways are made completely of walnut.

Although there are four chimneys, the house does not have a fireplace. At the time the house was built, the Franklin Stove was popular and it is thought that this is what was used.

There was possibly a separate kitchen behind the house because digging in this area revealed another brick foundation.

When Ambassador Stevenson was Governor of Illinois, he visited his Grandfather's home along with his sister, Mrs. Ives. Adlai Stevenson III made visits to the home in 1964 and 1966.

This Isch's Store Flyer was Mailed to Lawrence Dubois in 1930.
Thanks to Bob Remmert for sharing it with the Newsletter!

IN KEEPING WITH THE WEATHER
Saturday RED HOT SPECIALS JULY 26
J. F. ISCH

ALLEN-A B.V.D for MEN 59¢

MEN'S BLUE STRIPE OVERHALLS 89¢

CHILD'S ATHLETIC UNION SUITS 39¢

REGULAR 25¢ COTTON BATT SPECIAL 19¢

COLLEGE GIRL GIRDLES \$1.00

LADIES 25¢ WHITE HOSE SPECIAL 19¢

BANANAS 4 LBS - 24¢

APRICOTS 23¢ per pound

Special sale - WEENERS - MINCED HAM - SPECIAL

Sony Bricks - Cream CHEESE - 30¢ pound

Schulz's large loaf BREAD 3 for 20¢

PICNIC SETS - 10¢ each

We hear they are no longer taking orders for this stuff!



These tools were very important back in the day. Do you know what they were used to make? If you'd like to see them and find out more, they are now on display at the Metamora Association for Historic Preservations Stevenson House at 104 W W. Walnut, Metamora. Stop by an open house and see them!



Can anyone help ID these folks? Hint – Magdalen Hagemann is on the far right. HELP!

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. Excerpt from a letter from Lincoln R. Scott, Denver, 1946 written to Florence Adami. Mr. Scott was the son of J. Randolph and Asenoth (Hicks) Scott. They were married in Tonica in 1888.

“A Mr. Andrew Cress, Sr. of Washington Illinois had Mr. George Kern Sr. and my father arrested, trying to aid Negroes farther north. Their case was tried in the April term of the Circuit Court in 1847. The evidence did not prove that Negro was a slave and the case was dismissed. In their appearance, they were honored by having Lincoln, then a rising young lawyer, to defend them. My father continued as an engineer on what called “the Underground Railroad”. It was a grievous wrong to assist Negroes to Canada. It was a violation to do so, but my father was one who took the chance frequently - got into trouble at times - but had the courage and the bravery to attempt the task.”

Thanks to Mr. Marvin Keys for preserving this historic letter.

This Newsletter will have more EXCITING NEWS on honoring George Kern and other UGRR conductors in the coming months.

STAGE COACH TRAVEL. When the roads were in good shape, a stage coach could make 70 to 80 miles between daybreak and sunset in 1838.

Contact Us

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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