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Thanks to Karl Burmeister – for this old sign with an interesting history! Several years ago, Karl's mother, "Ma" Burmeister (many will remember her dedication to the marching band) bought the old Schlipf house at 203 W. Lafayette Street. Among other ventures, Mr. Schlipf, a successful businessman, owned the implement business on Rt 116 where the Chimney Doctor now operates. Schlipf sold farm equipment as well as home appliances at this address. (He also had the Tucker automobile franchise which was housed in the block-building garage next to his home on Lafayette. This business was featured in an earlier Newsletter.)

The Lafayette house is still in the Burmeister family, now occupied by Karl's son Andrew and daughter-in-law Samantha. During some recent tidying up around the house, Andrew uncovered the sign below, which was serving as a shelf. In almost perfect condition, it dates back the Schlipf store. The "E.W. 3400" implies that the sign might have been part of a truck. Note that the phone number is only two digits!



Abraham Lincoln Circuit Markers

2022 marks the 100th Anniversary of the placement by the Lincoln Circuit Marking Association (under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Illinois and led by Lottie Jones of Danville) of Courthouse Markers and County Line Markers throughout Central Illinois. These Courthouse Markers and County Line Markers highlight the location of the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit between 1847 and 1859, when this route was traversed by a young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln.

The 17 Courthouse Markers were placed at the Courthouses of the Eighth Judicial Circuit operating from 1847 - 1859. Constructed of New Hampshire Greens Landing granite 5 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 4 inches and 12 inches thick, they were designed by Henry Bacon, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, at an original total cost \$4,950. All 17 Courthouse Markers still survive today.

The 19 County Line Markers (pictured at right) act as guideposts to the route traveled by Abraham Lincoln between 1847 – 1859 across the vast Eighth Judicial Circuit. Uniquely made of pressed concrete with a bronze plaque, they were designed by Edgar Martin of the Illinois State Department of Public Works and Buildings at an original total cost of \$2,887. Only 14 County-line Markers remain today.



Tazewell County has the Courthouse Marker at the entrance of the Tazewell County Courthouse and two County Line Markers; Tazewell/Woodford on Washington Blacktop outside Washington and Tazewell/Logan on Delavan Road outside Delavan.

Tazewell is planning a rededication ceremony in February. For this "Rededication Of Tazewell County Abraham Lincoln Markers" event, a wreath will be placed at the Courthouse Marker by the speakers gathered. In advance of the event, the Mayors of Washington and Delavan will place a wreath at their respective County Line Markers. The program will include remarks by 10th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Katherine Gorman, Tazewell County Presiding Judge Paul Gilfillan, Tazewell County Circuit Clerk Lincoln Hobson, Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman, Mayor of Washington Gary Manier, and Mayor of Delavan Elizabeth Skinner.

Keynote Address will be from renowned Abraham Lincoln Scholar and author of the book "Looking For Lincoln In Illinois: A Guide To Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit" Guy Fraker. (The map below was produced by Guy Fraker.)

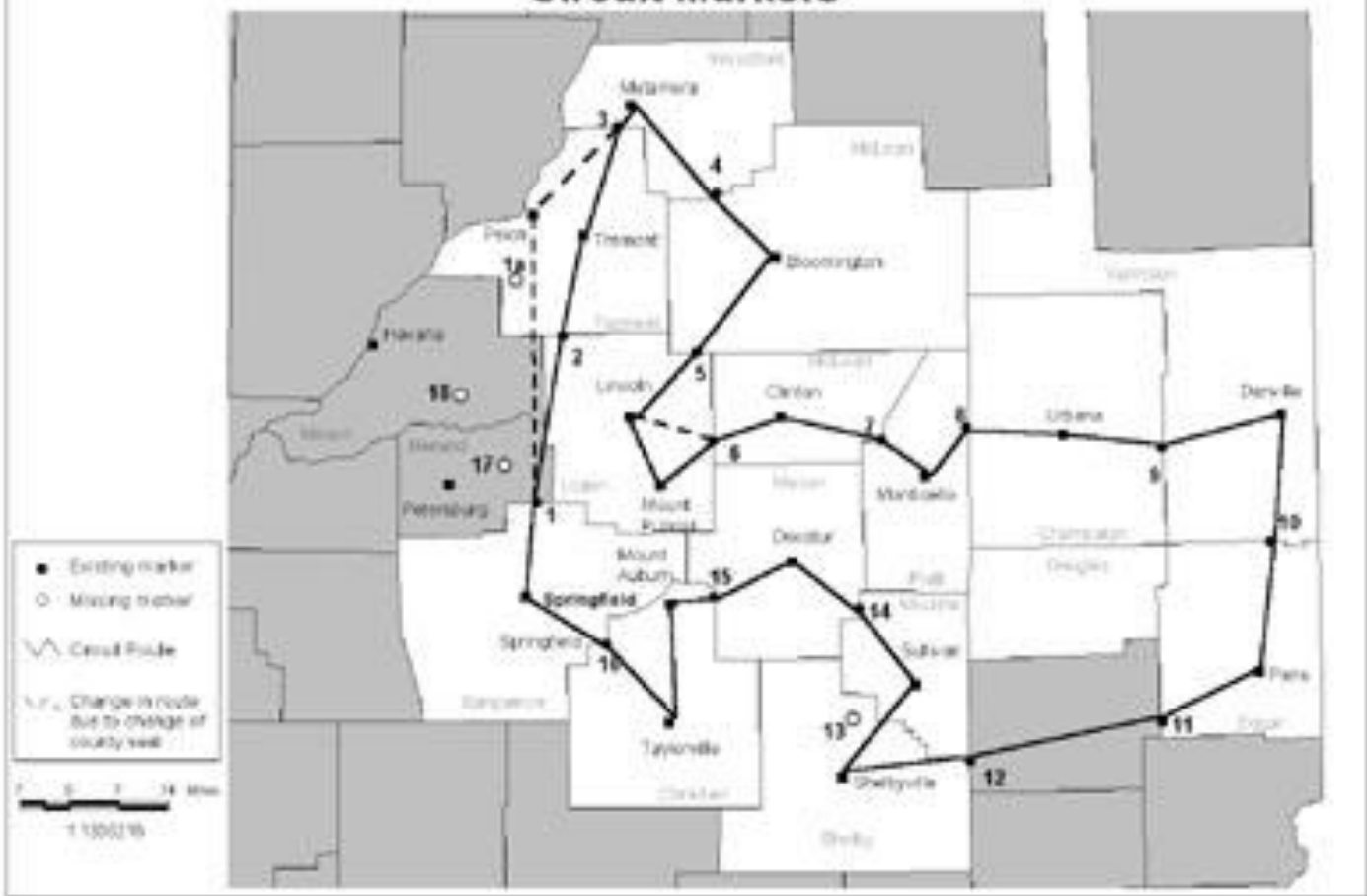
This Rededication Event will be FREE and open to the public. Children are strongly encouraged to attend. Media coverage of this event is welcome and appreciated.

What: Rededication of Tazewell County Abraham Lincoln Markers

Where: Inside Tazewell County Courthouse

When: February 21st at 10:00am

8th Judicial Circuit (1847-1853) Circuit Markers



Marker #3 in the map above is located on the Tazwood Road on the Washington Blacktop. Marker #4 is located on the Woodford/McLean county line on the old Metamora to Bloomington Road one-half mile north the County Road 2250N, north of Carlock on the west side of the road. Note that Carlock did not exist at this time.

Old Roads Disappear. According to noted Lincoln historian and scholar, Guy Fraker, finding the roads in the 1920s – seventy years after the fact – was a difficult task. Finding them now another hundred years later is almost as difficult. Records of the association refer to maps that were made as the search continued during the site selection process, but the records do not include these maps. They do reveal the difficulty of the task. An official in 1922 noted the impact of the settlement of central Illinois on the locations of roads. Land ownership and creation of farms often moved the roads from the direct route, frequently diagonal, to following the section lines, on the square, erasing some of the original landmarks.

We saw a hint of this in the previous newsletter when Mr. Keys laid out the old stage coach route that went diagonally from the Boys farm southwest to the Snyder farm to the Parke sawmill to the Engel Inn. But without any records, it's difficult to pinpoint where these old paths actually lied.



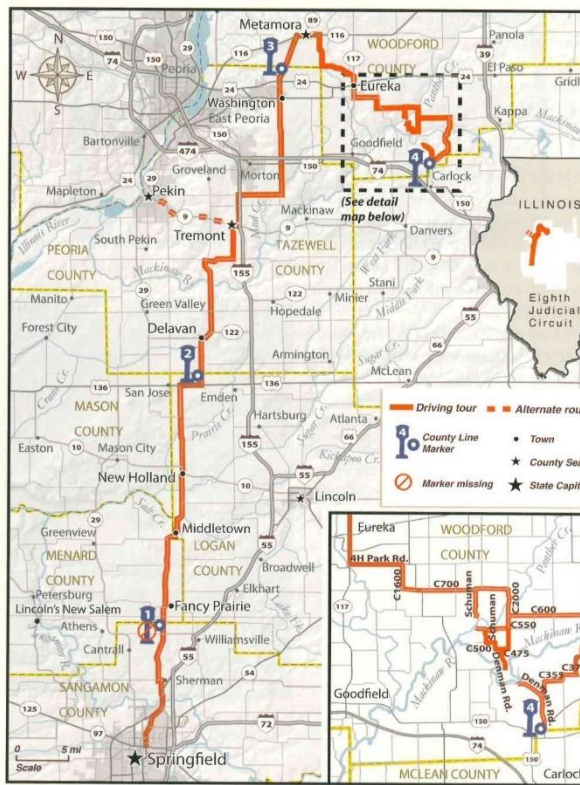
John Zimmerman Boarding House

The boarding house was owned and operated in the first Woodford County Jail building at 304 E. Partridge. The jail was moved to Eureka in 1897 when the county seat moved to Eureka.

The sale of the old jail to W.T. West took place in February of 1898 for the price of \$750.

John Zimmerman and his wife, Johanna, bought the property from Barbara West, a widow on February 24, 1903 for \$1,200. The Zimmerman family operated their home as a boarding house with a tavern next door known as Uncle John's. John and Johanna are pictured on the front porch with Kate Risson.

The jail is privately owned today.



Map showing the west side of the Circuit.

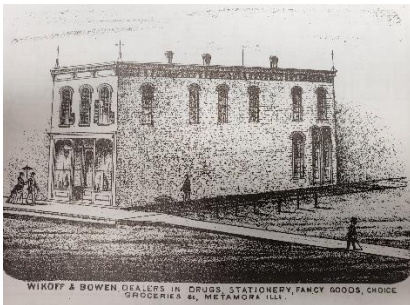
Thanks to Carl Volz for his contribution of letters from S.P. (Sam) Griffin, a local teacher, to Miss Mollie Griffin of Mason City in 1864. Griffin said he has 49 students, was paid \$30 per month, and had a “first rate place to board.” He planned on going to Peoria that week and selling his horse and get his picture taken. He then planned on moving to Iowa for another teaching position. In another letter, he talks about being lonesome because his male friends had all left for the (Civil) War.

The letters contain a lot of chit chat about family and friends – and don’t provide many details, such as where his school was located – but are a fun read about everyday life in the 1860s.

Carl is a stamp collector who buys old letters to get the envelop with the stamps still attached. As in the past, after detaching the stamps, Carl generously sends us letters from Metamora. We are are grateful for Carl’s contributions!

Here’s our favorite Valentine picture from days gone by. These leaders were instrumental in Metamora’s early 20th Century growth.

They met in the hall above what is now the Biscuits and Gravy training center at the southeast corner of Davenport and Partridge.



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Pictures from the Past

Clara Regele, Metamora, provided this old photograph of the Metamora Businessmen’s Club at a Valentine Party in their club room upstairs in the building on the corner of Partridge and Davenport Streets. The date of the photo was not known. Anyone having knowledge of the approximate date of the photo is

encouraged to contact the Herald and provided the information. Those pictured and their business are, seated, L-R, Louie Meister, bakery; Simon Snyder, banker; Frank Giehl, hardware; Charlie Conard, merchant; Henry Isch; Joe Wagner, grain dealer; William Bronnel, harness maker; William Ryan, editor of the Herald; and J.C. Irving, circuit clerk; and standing, L-R, Adino McGuire; William Briggs, mortuary; Joe Theena, hardware; Dr. H.I. Harvey, dentist; John Isch, merchant; Jeff Griggs, painter; Dr. J.I. Knoblauch; Jacob Schrepfer, lumberman; Ed Knoblauch, banker, John Snyder, banker; and Elias Grove, mail carrier.

Contact Us

Questions, Ideas - Love to hear from you

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