

## Newsletter

April 2024



Like us on [Facebook](#) (Ctrl+click here)

Visit our **Website** at  
[www.historicmetamora.com](http://www.historicmetamora.com)

If you're a fan of old maps, you've probably noticed that there was a farm on the west side of Washington Street, about half way to CR 1500N. This is now part of Metamora Fields Golf Course. Two of our favorite MAHP members, Don and Ann Charleston, shared its story. The farm was originally owned by the Favre family. Later John and Elizabeth Schrepfer bought the property, including the farm home. Mr. Schrepfer's daughter, Anna, married Adam Nuhn where they raised several children (see history below), one of whom was Gladys (see the class pictures below). To complete their history, Gladys was Ann Charleston's mother.

### SCHREPFER FAMILY HISTORY

John M. Schrepfer (great-grandfather) was born on 4/2/1849 in Filzbach, Switzerland and died on 4/21/1932 in Metamora, IL. Elizabeth Bader Schrepfer (great-grandmother) was born on 7/21/1853 in Oberhausen, Germany and died on 1/8/1945 in Metamora, IL. Elizabeth came to America at the age of 14 with her widowed mother and brother.

John and Elizabeth were married in 1876, and owned 3 farms, two in Metamora, IL and one in Varna, IL. John and Elizabeth had 4 children:

1. Anna Schrepfer (oldest child) (grandmother) was born on 7/18/1877 in Worth Township, Metamora, IL.

Anna married Adam Nuhn (grandfather) in December 1897. Adam was born on 10/13/1870 in Tazewell County, IL.

Adam and Anna farmed the 100-acre farm located on the east side of the golf course (colored photo below). Anna and Adam had six children: Elmer, Charlotte, Harold, Floyd, Milton, and Gladys (mother).

Milton died at age 2 of spinal meningitis. The other five lived to adulthood.

Anna and Adam raised their family on the farm until their retirement, when they moved to Metamora. Upon the deaths of John and Elizabeth, the ownership of the farm transferred to their son Casper.

2. Frederick Schrepfer lived on and farmed the Schrepfer farm in Varna, IL. His wife's name was Amelia. They had one child that died in infancy.

3. Casper Schrepfer was a mailman in Metamora. His wife's name was Carrie. They had no children.

4. Harry Schrepfer lived on and farmed the Schrepfer farm west of the golf course. His wife died at a young age of anemia. They had one son.

Harry's descendants still live in the area.

Buried in Oakwood cemetery in Metamora are: John and Elizabeth Schrepfer, Adam and Anna Nuhn, Charlotte Nuhn, Milton Nuhn, Frederick and Amelia Schrepfer and their infant son, Casper and Carrie Schrepfer.

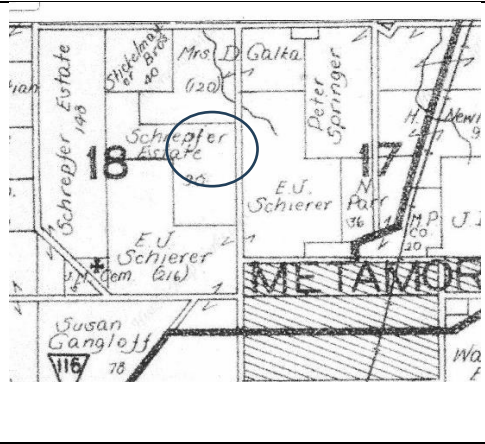
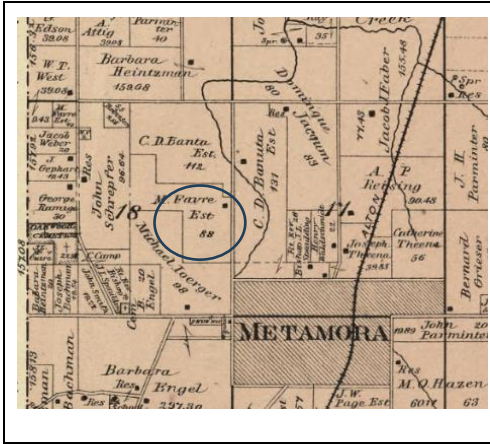
Buried in the Catholic cemetery in Metamora is: Harry Schrepfer



**Adam and Anna Nuhn**



**John and Elizabeth Schrepfer**



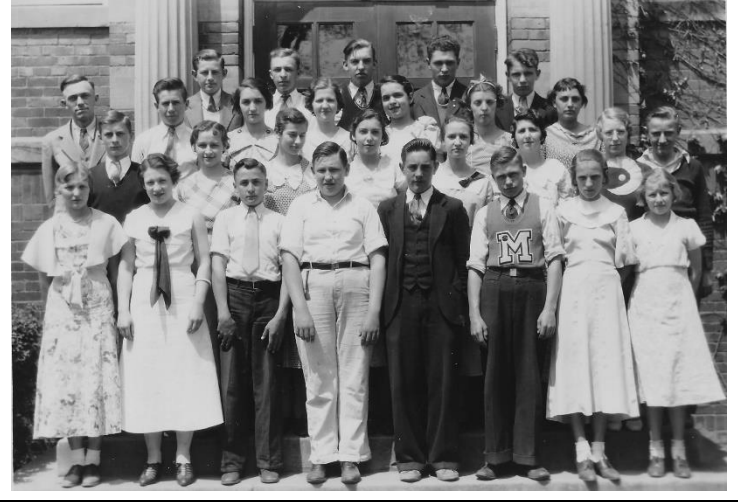
**Old Plat Maps**  
 Here is the old plat map showing the property when the Favres owned it. The homestead is shown.  
 A later map shows the property then owned by the Schrepfers. (Circled)  
 The location is now part of Metamora Fields Gold Course.



Here's the Class of 1936 as they progressed through high school. Gladys Nuhn, who grew up on the Nuhn farm where the golf course is now located is the 3<sup>rd</sup> young lady from the left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of the Senior picture. Can you identify any of the other students?



**MTMS Class of 1936 as Freshmen**



**MTMS Class of 1936 as Sophomores**



**MTMS Class of 1936 as Juniors**



**MTMS Class of 1936 as Seniors**





Anna Marie Dubois Kleiss

**OLDEST BURIALS IN ST. MARY'S (Lourdes) CEMETERY. Sad....** Poking around n Find-A-Grave, the **oldest burials** in St. Mary's were the Kleiss children. However, FAG placed them in Metamora, when in fact they were buried in Lourdes. Catherine died 10/21/1861 aged 4. Her brother, Huburt, died just 2 days later at age 10. Then on 11/14/1861, another brother, Jean Pierre died at age 12. Five other siblings lived to adulthood. The children's parents were Peter and Marie Anna Dubois Kleiss. Peter (Pierre), who was born in Vilsberg, Moselle, France, (1821-1909) died Okarcho, OK and was buried there at age 88. Marie Anna Dubois Kleiss was born in Phalsboug, Lorraine, France in 1821, was married in Vilsberg in 1842 in Vilsberg. She died in 1896 at age 74 in Lake Creek, Missouri and is buried there. Nothing indicates why they were not buried together. (We don't have an answer, but does anyone know why the deceased were buried in St. Mary's and Oakwood before they became official cemeteries? Let us know



St. Mary's Portman

**EARLIEST BIRTHS St. Mary's Cemetery.** Searching for the pioneers born the earliest, FAG shows Nikolaus Portman is the earliest birth. Mr. Portman was born in 1790 in France. He died in 1870, His wife, Margaretha Jacquin Portman was the second earliest, born in 1796 in France (died in 1885 at age 88.) (Sidenote: St. Mary's Metamora started in 1867.) The Portmans had 4 children, all of whom lived to adulthood. Their youngest child, Nicholas (1838-1904) was a successful general merchandise retailer in Metamora. Eight years old when the family came to America, Nicholas started his business on the east side of the Square in 1858, running that location for 2 years, until he built a 2-story frame building (where the post office is today. It burned in 1877 and Portman built a two-story brick building with a basement.



Portman is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Peoria. There is no mention of any family. Other siblings of Nikolaus and Margaretha included Joseph (born in France, 1833-1912) a farmer (1870) and saloon and boarding house keeper in Washington (1880). His wife Ann Mary (born in Germany, 1843-1884) both buried in St. Mary's; and Katharina (1819-1889), buried in St. Mary's.



**OLDEST BURIALS IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY**

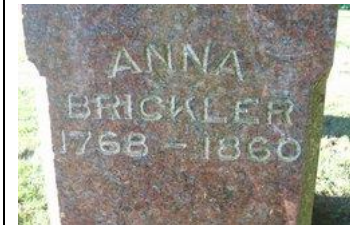
William Walden  
Birth: 1811  
Death: 1816 (Age 4-5)  
(Question: since Oakwood did not begin until after the Civil War, were these buried elsewhere and later moved?)



Nancy J. Wilkerson  
Birth: unknown  
Death August 3, 1818  
Aged 5 years, 11 months, 3 days  
Daughter of Joseph and Nancy Wilkerson  
(If you recall, the Wilksens were friends with the Samuel Parke family and helped them when they first moved to the area. Both families lived in the vicinity north of Metamora. She is buried in the Wilkerson family plot (pictured at left.)



**EARLIEST BIRTHS OAKWOOD CEMETERY**



Anna Brickler (born in France) 1768-1860 aged 92. Husband John Brickler  
Children: Augustus, Mary Elizabeth (Huguet), Jane, Eugenia (Butler), Elizabeth, Anne Nanette (Riley), Philomene (Gingrich), John, Frederick & Henry Isabell



Jacob Banta  
1771-1861 (age 89 years, 10 months)  
Born in New Jersey, but his children were born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky  
Wife: Elvira Page Banta 1817-1909.  
Her brother was prominent Metamora resident Adino Page. Her brother, Benjamin Page, was a member of the Society of Friends. He was killed in the Civil War at Spanish Fort, Alabama,



John Page (father of Elvira Page Banta) 1787-1855  
Born Gilmanton, New Hampshire  
Buried in the Page Family Plot at OakwoodCemetery (picture on right)  
Father of John (Uncle John), Adino, Sam, Benjamin, and seven others.  
Son Sam was a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars



**Contact Us**

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

Laure Adams, President, 369-2353 or jrfarmer@mtco.com; Dave Pohlman, Vice President 369-3290; pohlman46@yahoo.com 367-4426; Jim Efaw, Secretary, 367-6099 or jimfaw-mahp@eggroll.com; Jack Weddle, Treasurer, 645-0963, jweddle@mtco.com; Board members: Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com, Rick Lotz, 648-2010, lots@mtco.com, Adam Bockler adam.bockler@gmail.com