

# Newsletter

## August 2024



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Adlai Stevenson  
About Age 30  
When Living in  
Metamora in 1865

**EARLY METAMORA LAWYERS.** "Metamora was the seat of Woodford County, and so continued until the fall of 1896 when the county seat was moved to Eureka. Woodford County then formed a part of the 23rd judicial circuit consisting of Woodford, Marshall, and Putnam counties. In those days each circuit had a judge and a state's attorney. Judge Samuel L Richmond, of Lacon, was the Circuit Judge and Adlai E. Stevenson, of Metamora, was the state's attorney.

"Judge Richmond was a very able judge, a man of integrity, but greatly given to drink, which was no special sin in those days. In 1865 the year of the bar of Woodford County consisted of John Clark, Charles Chitty, George Christian, Robert Cassell, Adlai Stevenson, Welcome Brown, and Cyrus Siles, all of Metamora; Colonel B.D. Meek and J. Albert Briggs were located at Eureka; at Minonk were Newell and Davidson, at El Paso were Randall, Harper, Sayan and Joseph Cassell, son of Robert Cassell, of Metamora Adlai Stevenson was a candidate for re-election as States Attorney in 1868, but was defeated by Smith Garrett, of Lacon.

"After his term of office expired, he moved to Bloomington and formed a partnership with James Ewing (his cousin), the firm being known as Stevenson and Ewing.

"Mr. Stevenson was a gentleman of polished manners, with a distinguished bearing and a winning personality. He possessed exceedingly fine social qualities, was a fine storyteller and a politician par excellence. He was twice elected to the Congress from Bloomington district and was afterwards first assistant postmaster general, and still later Vice President of the United States. I am informed that Samuel H Treat was the first judge to hold Court in Metamora. He was distinguished and afterwards became a United States judge. David Davis, of Bloomington, who was later United States senator from Illinois, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States."

*Story furnished by W.L. Ellwood, a veteran attorney of Woodford County and Metamora to the Pantagraph June 23, 1921*

do all in their power to elect them.

**OUR HOME REBELS.**

**What a Prominent Rebel Has to Say of the Draft.**

[From the Henry, Ill., Courier, Extra.]

The following is a copy, word for word, letter for letter, spelling and all, written by the Secretary of the last Putnam County Democratic Convention to the present Democratic City Clerk, of the City of Henry, and ex-School Commissioner of Marshall county, both McGleichen men, both "unswerving in the future as in the past," both heartily extending their SYMPATHY to the soldiers of OUR army. It speaks for itself. It needs no commentary. We dare any one to deny it was written:

"MAGNOLIA, Sept. 20, 1864.

W. W. HEATH.

Dr. Sir.

I see the draft was announced to go off in the 4th, 8th, 10th and 12th Dist. yesterday. There was a Brother to see me from Woodford last night—they are going to resist draft in Counties below. They wished me to notify Lodge at your Place that a meeting of the order will be held at Metamora Friday next. Please see some of the Bretheren and write me what you think concerning this action, &c. I shal go to Metamora.

T. ALEXANDER."

There was significant resistance to the draft during the Civil War. Metamora doctor Zach Whitmire (James' brother) was in charge of issuing exemptions. Many young men requested an exemption for less than valid reasons.

**Tribute to Lincoln.**

Hon. Henry R. Rathbone included in his address one of the strongest tributes to Abraham Lincoln ever heard in Metamora. It was declared to be particularly appropriate for just across the street from the public square is the old Woodford county court house where Lincoln, Stevenson, Judge David Davis, and Robert G. Ingersoll have often met. Mr. Rathbone's grandfather was Hon. Ira Harris United States senator from New York state during the Civil war and one of President Lincoln's staunchest supporters. His father and mother were also intimate friends of President and Mrs. Lincoln and, while engaged to be married, were in the box at Ford's theater at the time of Lincoln's assassination. His father an army officer, was severely wounded by Booth when he endeavored to protect the president. This story was told in a forceful manner with many a glowing tribute to Lincoln and to the American flag.

**READ THIS!!!**

Son of the Officer Injured by Booth Gives Tribute to Lincoln During Old Settlers, August 23, 1923

**Woodford County Convention.**

[Correspondence of the Press and Tribune.]

The Woodford Co. Republican convention assembled at Metamora, at the Court House Sept. 29th at 2 o'clock P. M. The convention was called to order by Dr. James Whitmire, Chairman of Central Committee, when Allen Hart of Palestine was chosen chairman, and E. D. Davison of Minonk was chosen Sec. On motion, H. M. Robinson of Montgomery and W. T. Hereford Esq. of El Paso were chosen tellers. The convention then proceeded to ballot for Clerk of Circuit Court. Upon the third ballot George Cannier was declared unanimously chosen. The convention then proceeded to ballot for sheriff. Lewis Hall was nominated on the first ballot. The ballots were then taken for Coroner. Dr. John G. Zeller, upon third ballot, was declared unanimously chosen. The convention then proceeded to appoint Central Committee. H. L. S. Haskill and Edward Kipp

Metamora, A. M. Myers of Ohio, James Baine of Czizovia and Samuel Work of Minonk were chosen by acclamation.

Resolved, that the proceedings of this convention be published in the Peoria Transcript, Lacon Gazette and Chicago Press and Tribune. Three rousing cheers were then given for Lincoln and the Union, three for our State ticket, and three for our County. On motion the convention then adjourned.

ALLEN HART, President.

E. D. DAVISON, Secretary.

1860 Pantagraph

Dr. Whitmire, James Baine, and Samuel Werk conspired through the 1840's-1860's to help runaway slaves move through Illinois to safety in Canada

**DEDICATE METAMORA CHURCH SUNDAY**



NEW CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCH

Metamora, May 20.—(Special.)—reka college delivered the address. Miss Margaret Bernice Schurman of Pekin dedicated the organ and in the afternoon gave a recital. Rev. J. D. Calhoun is pastor of the church. The beautiful building was erected at a cost of \$16,000.

May 21, 1923, Pantagraph

**BRUTAL DEED.**—We learn from a gentleman who writes from Metamora, that a most cruel and criminal, not to say brutal, deed was committed near that place on Friday night last. Some persons unknown entered the yard of Mr. Peter Engle, who lives about a half a mile west of Metamora, and with some sharp instrument cut nine of his cows so severely that the intestines of some of them protruded, and three of them have already died. The remainder will hardly survive.—*Peoria Union.*

**BRUTAL DEED TO THE ENGEL CATTLE**



The corbels and fascia get a new coat of paint and restoration.

Built in the late 1830s or early 1840s by Dr. George Lemon, Adlai Stevenson and wife Letitia lived there until they moved to Bloomington in 1868 The old girl – the house, not Letitia -has held up pretty well!



**Contact Us**

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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