



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2011

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Mary Kay Wolf
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Local Artists to Display Works at the Museum

The museum is collaborating with a new group, Antigo Visual Arts or AVA. The AVA grew out of a need in the community for artists to display and sell their work. Several area artists are accomplished in their various fields and display their work throughout northern Wisconsin. The AVA believes that an active visual arts association contributes to the overall quality of life of a community.

The Historical Society is working with the AVA in two ways. First, it will provide a display area. Curator Mary Kay Wolf and volunteers have rearranged displays to make space available. Second, the museum will provide fiscal

sponsorship. Donations and grants to the AVA will be administered by the Historical Society through a separate account.

The museum hopes the art will attract visitors, local artists will be able to show and sell their works, and the public will have an exciting, new attraction. The museum will also benefit financially since a percentage of art sales will go to the Langlade County Historical Society.

The AVA is a separate organization with its own board and fundraising responsibilities. It will manage the gallery space and oversee juried

Celebrating Antigo as a Railroad Town

From its founding in 1879 to the end of the railroad steam era, Antigo has been a railroad town. When Francis Deleglise first settled here, Eland was the end of the line for the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad (MLSW). When expansion to Summit Lake was planned, Deleglise convinced officials to go through Antigo. When the Chicago Northwestern took over the MLSW, it made Antigo division headquarters, making it an important rail hub.

In 2005 the Langlade County Historical Society bought and restored a steam engine to

commemorate the importance of the railroad in the community's history. In 2007 the Deleglise cabin was moved to the south side of the museum and a park was established next to the locomotive. The entire project was made possible by many volunteer hours and by generous donations from individuals and local corporations.

The museum celebrated completion of the project with a picnic that has become an annual event. This year the tradition continues on Wednesday, June 22. Once again there will be brats, burgers, potato salad, soft drinks, and ice cream for

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shows. The AVA has already done some fundraising but more is needed.

An opening should occur in late spring or early summer. For more information visit the AVA's web site: www.antigovisualarts.org, contact them by email at antigovisualarts@hotmail.com or phone the museum.

\$5 and music by the Pine Tones. We hope people will celebrate not only our history but visit the AVA's new gallery space in the museum.



Sarah Repp-Young and her daughter Claire enjoying themselves at a previous railroad picnic.

Some of the Museum's Archives Are Now Online

Part of the museum's archives are now available online.

Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO) and the museum began collaborating to post copies of the photographs of local photographer A.J. Kingsbury on the internet. The first phase of the project involved scanning, cataloging and researching the photographs of local Indians. These photographs and their descriptions have now been uploaded.

While further research on the Indian pictures continues, work has begun on another part of our photo collection. Jim Klapste will scan, catalog, and research the museum's collection of photographs dealing with railroads and logging. This collection includes, but is not limited to, photographs of A.J. Kingsbury.

The WHO project is not just confined to photographs. This being the sesquicentennial of the

onset of the American Civil War, there is considerable interest in letters in the museum's archives written by Francis Deleglise describing his experiences as a soldier in the Iron Brigade. Deleglise trained at Camp Randall and fought at Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Antietam, and Gettysburg. At Gettysburg he incurred wounds that sidelined him for the rest of the war. Nineteen letters at the museum, translations, and transcriptions (some are in French) are being prepared for posting online.

A separate but related project is the Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database. Its aim is to feature furniture, utilitarian stoneware and earthenware, metal and glass items, pottery, porcelain, quilts, needlework, and weavings from around the state. A number of items in the museum are of general interest, including a chair from the Crocker Chair Company, furniture and a crucifix from the Deleglise

cabin, Indian beadwork items, hair work items (sculptures crafted from locks of hair), an embroidered pillowcase sham made for a CCC recruit by his sister and more.

The Indian photographs and the decorative arts objects may be viewed by going to www.wisconsinheritage.org and entering Kingsbury or Langlade County in the search box.



Arthur J. Kingsbury posing in a gag photo in front of his Antigo store. His photos which he used to print post cards have attracted wide interest.

Those he took of the Indians in the area may be viewed online by going to www.wisconsinheritage.org

Francis Deleglise and His Civil War Experiences

Francis Deleglise was in Appleton at the outbreak of the Civil War. He saw action in several major battles and was wounded at Antietam but returned to the battlefield. At Gettysburg he was more seriously wounded, ending his fighting. He was in New York City during rehab and noted: "The streets are paved, which is a rarity in America. The magnificent farms are destroyed in order to make place for wooden buildings; then these structures, which are still as good as new, are destroyed to make place for stores built of brick and covered with sheets of iron to preserve

them against fire... Then these brick buildings, although also in good condition, are also destroyed to make room for edifices of granite, white marble, or iron."

After the war, a bullet still in his side, he required a further year of recuperation in Madison where, he notes in his diary: "Doctor Culbertson took the ball out after having been 11 months 6 days and 20 hours in my side."

While in Madison, he wrote his wife: "I expected or rather was confident to receive my full back

monthly pay but contrary to my expectation.. I was paid but for the month of May and June (\$36). I send you \$10 within and I will send you \$20 more." He described how, although the food is generally good, he had no appetite for it.

Deleglise also corresponded with his father, planning to purchase land with his military pension. He returned home to found the town of Leopolis on land he arranged to buy while in Madison. Later he would leave Leopolis and move on to establish the city of Antigo.

America's Summer Pastime: Local Baseball Teams



Spring is a time when hope springs eternal. This is true for many different activities. At the start of the baseball season, even diehard fans of the Chicago Cubs believe their team may finally make it to the World Series.



Before television broadcast of baseball, fans were more likely to go out to their local ball park, buy some peanuts and Cracker Jacks, and “Root Root Root for the Home Team!”

Shown here are some of our area's local teams in photographs from the museum archives. On the left from top to bottom are teams from Ringle, Polar, Elcho, and Phlox from the early 20th century. Below is a team photo of the Antigo Candies, a well-known, local semi-pro team that played for many years.

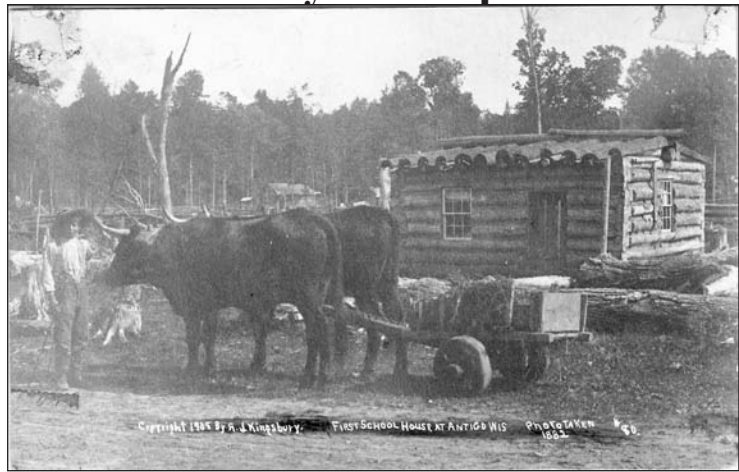


Also shown are uniform jerseys of the Bryant Spuds and Antigo Candies donated to the museum by Dick Strasser.

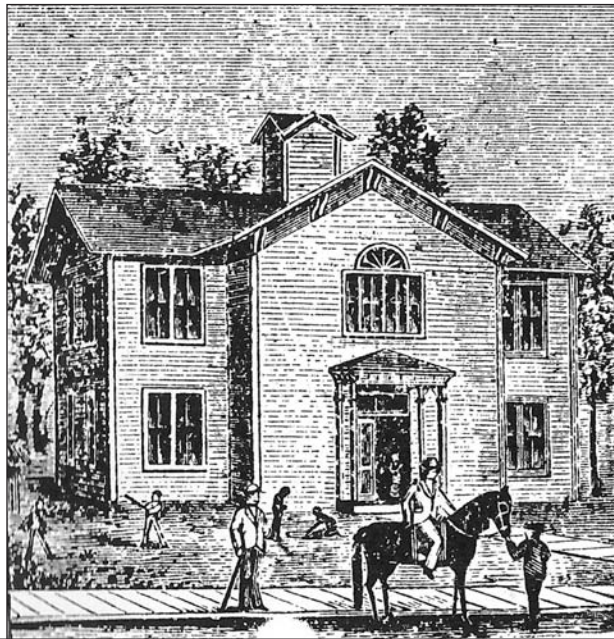


Early Schools Were Important to Community Development

Langlade County and Antigo have recognized the importance of education since the early white settlements. Langlade County's first school, a small log cabin, was erected in 1873 in eastern Langlade County, less than six months after the first permanent settlers in the area. The first teacher was likely Addie Wescott who had to arrange for a blackboard to be brought in from Shawano for her class of five. Two other schools, in Hollister and Lily, soon followed.



Antigo's first school was a log cabin. It was originally built by Joseph Krause who intended it as a home but decided to move to Kempster. The school opened in 1879, the same year that the Deleglise family came to Antigo. Its first teacher was Anna Sheriff. Another early teacher was Sophie Deleglise, a member of Antigo's founding family. The school had only 2 1/2 windows, a floor of odds and ends boards, and basswood benches. Typical of schools then, a small stove kept students and teachers warm in winter. Keeping the stove going was one of the teacher's duties.



Top: Antigo's first grade school was in a log cabin home built in 1879.

Bottom: Antigo's first high school was in a frame building which was built in 1883 and stood on the grounds of the current museum.

Antigo's first high school opened in 1883 with a class of 41. The first graduation class was in 1885 and consisted of one student, Agnes Donahue.

A promotional magazine called The Industrial West published in 1887 extolled the virtues Antigo and tried to attract people and businesses. Part of that promotion was to convince people that the schools were of high caliber. While admitting that much still needed

to be done, it only being eight years since the Deleglise cabin was built, the article states "There is a strong and liberal public sentiment behind it (the school system), which is willing to do everything necessary to make the schools efficient and to provide adequate accommodations." In 1883 Antigo had one school building of four rooms. A year later two additional rooms were added. By 1887 there were 11 school rooms, including a three room high school and the system employed 11 teachers. The

article continues: "The (school) board employs the best teachers that can be had. The high character of the common schools in Antigo has done a great deal to stimulate emigration to the city. City superintendant Strong says that many people settle in Antigo because of the excellence of the schools."

Thus, civic leaders promoting the area saw the importance of a good school system in community development.

Keeping the Museum Open

The board of directors of the Langlade County Historical Society is responsible for investing endowment funds of the society to further its goal of preserving our local history. The society maintains the museum and its archives, the 440 locomotive and the Deleglise cabin.

The society receives very few funds from public sources and relies on donors contributions. We have been running this year at -\$2,000 per month and need to increase our fundraising in order to

continue operating the museum.

Those wishing to help may do so with donations of cash, stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, or real estate and property. Memorial gifts offer a lasting legacy of a loved one. Trusts may be established to benefit you during your lifetime and the Historical Society eventually. For further information about how to arrange a contribution please contact Mary Kay Wolf or any board member.

The museum is seeking a volunteer to help organize our gift shop, preferably someone with retail experience. If you can help, please call the museum at 715-627-4464.

Thank You:

Everyone who contributed to our refreshments sold during the Civic Music Concert. Donations totaled about \$250.

Anonymous: Yearbooks from the Langlade County Teachers' College

Al Berger: Plat maps, WWI leg-gings

Judith Black: Part of a confessional from St. Wencel's

Mary Burt: Shadow box containing hair work

Kay Doran: Vulcan souvenir bowling pins, Margaret Studio plate

Phil Fleischman: X-Ray tube from our shoe store machine

Judy Grimm: Dictionary

Margaret Koehn: 1863 & 1865 Chicago Tribune newspapers

Larry & Bev Labelle: Antigo High School class pictures from 1920

Helen Morrissey: Indian artifacts
John Strebe: Ad from the "Antigo Cafe"

Monetary Donations:

Braun Woodland Foundation
Knitters' Group
Langlade County Genealogical Society
Helen Winski

New Members:

Laurie Fellner

Renewing Memberships:

Ted and Sue Baginski
Patricia Broukal
Arleen Bubon
Shirley Harder
William Johnson
Edward and Geneva Kennedy
Jeff and Cheryl Marx
Tom and Joyce McGrath



The spring rummage sale is one of our fundraising events.

The museum will hold its annual fundraising rummage sale on its grounds. This year it will be on Saturday, June 4. Donated items may be brought to the museum during regular museum hours up to the end of May. We cannot accept large appliances or clothing. The sale will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 4.

Dr. John and Elsa McKenna
Don and Mary Mollet
Helen Peters
Jacquelyn Reynolds
Janet Reznichek
Nancy Reznichek
Louise Schleiss
Arleen Schmiege
Joe and Kathy Sveda
Red and Judy Turney
Helen Tuska
Richard and Norma Winter

Northern Building Maintenance

This past quarter we hosted special museum tours for:
Cub Scout Pack 643-Bears' Den
Cub Scout: Tiger Cubs

Address:

404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409
 Phone: (715) 627-4464
 Email: lchs@dwave.net
 web site: www.langladehistory.com

Museum Hours:

October 1 to May 1
 Thursday to Saturday

May 1 to Oct. 1
 Tuesday to Saturday

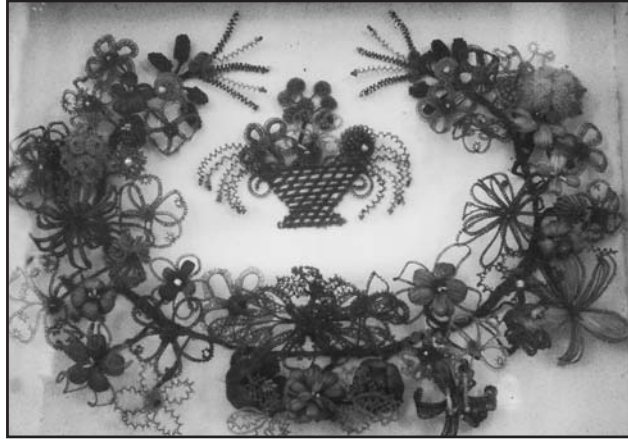
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Membership Dues

Individual, 1 year: \$25
 Individual, 3 years: \$50
 Family, 1 year: \$30
 Family, 3 years: \$70
 Junior (18 or younger), 1 year: \$3
 Business, 1 year: \$100
 Life Member: \$250

Upcoming Events:

Rummage Sale Fundraiser: Saturday, June 4, at the museum
Railroad Picnic: Wednesday, June 22, at the museum
AVA Art Gallery opening: To be announced, in the museum
Antiques Appraisal and Sale: Saturday, September 24, at the Antigo High School

**Items from the Museum:**

Hair work: A popular Victorian era craft was sculpting with human hair, often using material from close family members.
 This wreath measures about 24x12 inches.
 It was donated by Mary Burt.

Langlade County Historical Society
 404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409