

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



June has been Busy

The museum kicked off summer with two major outdoor events, both were weather-dependent and the weather cooperated. In past years, we have scrambled at the last minute to move indoors due to rain and, once, tornado warnings. A rummage sale and picnic are major fundraisers, and we made

close to \$1,000. The generous donation of items for the sale helps fund our programs at the museum and in the community.

Our summer picnic tradition was initiated to celebrate the purchase and restoration of the 440 locomotive and creation of the adjacent park. This year we again recognized the importance of the railroad but added a new twist. The Northwoods Tractor Club displayed three antique tractors. We also acknowledged all the donors who contributed so generously to our Windows to the Past campaign. This fund is dedicated to preserving the museum building which is a Carnegie Library, built in 1905. Donors to the



Windows to Our Past campaign were acknowledged in a brochure which is available in the museum.

We are thinking about how to improve the picnic but we won't be able to improve on the weather we had this year.

Windows to our Past: Update

The Windows to our Past fundraising campaign continues beyond the original date of November 2012 and we are nearing our goal of \$75,000. The fund is dedicated to preserving the museum building. It relies on a study by Art Chadek, an architectural historian, who completed a Historic Structures Report in 2003, funded by the Jeffris Foundation.

the building. Once that is complete we will consider other building improvements.

How far we manage to get depends on continued support of the community. The support so far has been very encouraging. The building is an Antigo landmark that is worth the effort to preserve and maintain it as a public space.

Last year the top priority was repair of the lower level storm windows. We are now proceeding with other needed repairs and improvements. A major concern is tuck-pointing on

Jim Klapste Departs

A board member and the project coordinator for the Windows to Our Past campaign is moving away from the area and has resigned from the board. Jim's expertise as an architect will be greatly missed as will his overall input into the management of the museum.

CURATOR:

Mary Kay Wolf

DIRECTORS:

Dean Blazek	Joe Hermolin
Nancy Bugni	Jim Klapste
Glenn Bugni	Terri Torgerson
Judy Grimm	Diane Zuelzke
Lisa Haefs	

THANK YOU

Donations:

- Anonymous: Items related to H. Simmons, Antigo school superintendent 1916, 1917
- Karen Benishek: Photo albums, 1921AHS yearbook, obit information
- Marlene Chezlak: WWI memorabilia
- Dr. Robert Cromer: WWII Memoirs
- Robert Curran II: Railroad manuals
- Dee Daily: Old map of Langlade County
- Kristie Engels: Postcards
- Kevin & Emily Koszarek: 1888 ledger, citizenship paperwork for Joe Spychalla
- Barbara Leiterman: 8-volume history of Wisconsin owned by Judge Parsons
- Bill Mattek: 1931 calendar, 1918 AHS yearbook
- Jim Roesner: Political memorabilia
- Lucienne Stege: Women's apparel, doll
- Judy Turney: Fidelity Bank money bag, children's songbooks
- John Warner: Boy's outfits made by Ivor Warner, photograph

Monetary Donations:

- Braun Woodlands Foundation
Sheldon Foundation

Donations: In Memorium

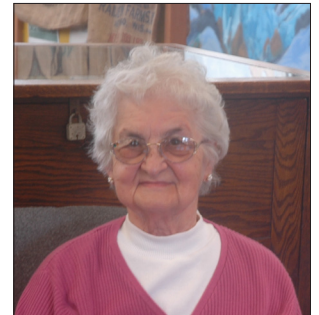
- Memory of Ed Hagerty: from Cliff & Marion Hofmeister
- Memory of Barbara Leiterman, John "Buzz" Kaiser, Don Kelly, Mary Kriha, Gladys Koszarek, Marion Osness: from Jim & Connie Hubatch
- Memory of Marion Osness, Bill Sheldon: from Dean & Polly Blazek
- Membership Renewals:
Jim & Jeanne Darling
Barbara Ziegenweide
Joyce Zaverousky
- New Members:
Karen Aulik-Now
Joseph Jordan
Sue Kramer
Monica Now

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Visit on Friday or Saturday

On Fridays visitors are greeted by Red and Judy Turney in the morning and Jeannie McMeekin in the afternoon. Red is often busy with handyman projects and Judy and Jeannie keep things orderly. All three are knowledgeable about Antigo and its residents and willing to help visitors. Jeannie McMeekin returns on Saturday to work with Helen Morrissey.



Above: Red and Judy Turney

Right: Helen Morrissey and Jeannie McMeekin

A Member of the Family

The Langlade County Historical Society is part of the state wide Wisconsin Council for Local History. Over 380 local museums are part of the Council which is divided into 10 regions. We are in the Northwoods region. The organization assists local historical societies and we have benefited greatly from their help.

Each year societies host regional meetings. The day-long program focuses on training, regional

roundtable discussions, and tours of local highlights. This year's Northwoods regional meeting is scheduled for August 16 at the Florence County Historical Society. Anyone may attend this meeting or other regional meetings. A complete list of meetings and workshops is available at www.wisconsinhistory.org.

The Council also holds an annual conference, the state's largest gathering of local history and historic

Museum Archives Continue Online

The museum's collection of about 450 logging and the railroad pictures is now available online through www.recollectionswisconsin.org. The photographs cover the late 19th to the late 20th century. Some photographs were taken by Arthur J. Kingsbury but many are by anonymous photographers. They are interesting by themselves and as an adjunct to the museum's collection of logging and railroad artifacts. Both collections illustrate important aspects of the economic development of the region.

The forests first brought settlers to northern Wisconsin in the decades after the Civil War. Initially pine was harvested near rivers and floated downstream to sawmills. Later the railroad opened new areas to logging. Skidding out logs was first done by teams of oxen, then horses, and later by machines. Often farmers found employment in lumber camps in winter. The photographs depict daily life and work in lumber camps, river drives,

and sawmills. Lumber continues to be a major part of the economy of Langlade County to this day.

The railroad opened many regions to logging and later to settlement and tourism. The first train into Antigo was the Milwaukee Lakeshore & Western (ML&W). It arrived in 1880. In 1883 the Chicago & Northwestern (C&NW) took over the ML&W and expanded rail service. In 1907 Antigo became headquarters of the C&NW northern division. The C&NW was a major employer until the 1950s when diesel began to replace steam engines.

Preserving our photographic archives is an important mission of the museum. Equally important is making these archives readily available to the public. Access to information and images continues to improve at a dizzying pace with advancing technology. Our museum's archives are swept into the flow along the information superhighway thanks to museum

volunteers and expertise from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

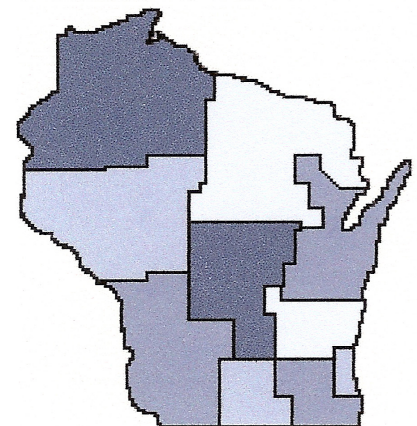
The next group of photographs to be made available will be those taken by William Wessa during World War I. In 1917 men from the Antigo area formed the 107th Trench Mortar Battery Company which saw action in Belgium and France. William Wessa was an Antigo studio photographer who enlisted and took along a small camera, thus documenting the company's training and battles.

The museum acknowledges the assistance of Ross Fischer, Jim Klapste, Jeff Robinson, and Jamie Spychalla for assistance in scanning and cataloging the logging and railroad photographs. As we continue we could always use more volunteers. The work was made possible by grants from the Wisconsin Council for Local History and the Alliant Energy Foundation for purchases of archival materials and a scanner.

preservation organizations. The two-day conference features sessions, workshops, networking events, tours, and special events. This year's conference will be held in Wisconsin Rapids on October 11 and 12.

Each year mini-grants are awarded to support collections care and management. Affiliated societies may apply for matching grants of up to \$700. Approximately 20-30 organizations receive funding each year. We gained one last year.

Another service of the council is the Field Services program which helps local affiliated historical societies in several ways, including assistance in forming new organizations, providing technical assistance through on-site visits and help by phone and email.



Wisconsin has a rich Food History

The Indians of the region had foods unknown to white settlers but soon adopted by them. The Ojibwe moved here from eastern states and Canada in search of a place where their mythology said they would find food that grew on water. When they saw the Menominee harvesting wild rice they knew that they were in their new home. Other standard foods that the Indians introduced to white settlers include maple syrup, squash, corn, and pole beans. But it is hard to find many of these items in some of the meals of earliest settlers.

Francis Deleglise described a typical day's dining while training at Camp Randall during the Civil War. Breakfast was bread, potatoes, hash, beef and gravy, boiled potatoes and coffee. Lunch consisted of soup, meat, potatoes,

bacon, bread, butter, and water. For supper there was meat, potatoes, bread, butter, molasses or apple sauce, and coffee. As repetitive as it sounds, he claimed he had never eaten better.

Decades later Deleglise was a timber cruiser and his diet had not changed much. A day in the lumber camps began with the cook awakening at 3 a.m. to prepare a breakfast of buckwheat pancakes, oatmeal, hash, potatoes, fried salt pork, beans, blackstrap molasses, fried cakes and black coffee. Lunch was served in the field. The cook and assistant went to the site with the food wagon. Lumberjacks feasted on pork and beans, huge amounts of bread, sugar fried cakes and molasses cookies. Dinner, back at the camp, entailed potatoes and gravy, fresh meat (depending on



Above photo: Dinner in camp in a photo by A.J. Kingsbury

the season), salted beef, pea soup, prunes or dried apples, fried cakes, rice pudding and tea or coffee. A good cook was a prized member of any logging camp.

Food traditions and choices have expanded with time, throughout the state. We no longer eat like lumberjacks, we have added some Indian foods to our cuisine and have added items from various immigrant groups.



Above Photo: Author, culinary historian, and foodie Terese Allen will be speaking in Antigo on September 10th.

Food Historian Comes to Antigo

The Flavor of Wisconsin: An Informal History of Food and Eating in the Badger State by Harva Hachten and Terese Allen is the source of much knowledge of food history. Terese Allen will speak at the Antigo Public Library on Tuesday September 10th at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Antigo Public Library Foundation.

Terese Allen shares the stories behind—and recipes for—such varied foodways as cream puffs, Hmong egg rolls and the Friday night fish fry. From Ojibwe wild rice to arugula pesto pasta, she

tracks the amazing cornucopia of what Wisconsinites have gathered, grown, produced, cooked and eaten.

She is food editor for Organic Valley and a columnist for Edible Madison and Edible Door County magazines. Terese is president and a founding member of the Culinary History Enthusiasts of Wisconsin (CHEW) and past president of REAP Food Group, a cutting-edge food and sustainability organization in southern Wisconsin. Visit her website at tereseallen.com.

Roll out the Barrel



The Hess Barrel Company in Madison supplied barrels throughout the state during the 62-year existence of the family business. It was started by Frank Hess, Sr. who learned the trade in

Bohemia as a lad of 14 years. He came to the U.S. at 20, and started his Madison business in 1904. Customers of Frank or his sons who took over may have been engaged in legal dealings. In rural Langlade County several barrels were seized and destroyed in sheriff's raids but many continued to serve their intended function.



Photo left: Barrels seized in a raid of moonshining operations in Langlade County.

Photo right: Frank Hess Sr. and sons at their Madison factory

Not your standard Comfort Inn

The saga of the lumber era in Langlade County would be incomplete without reference to stopping places along the Military Road and Lake Superior Trail, both of which ran along parts of the Wolf River. These trails connected Green Bay and Shawano to Lac Vieux Desert in the Michigan Upper Peninsula.

“Old Dutch” Frank built the first stopover in the early 1860s near Lily. It was taken over in 1867 by Henry Strauss who fled Germany after his involvement in the 1848 rebellion and sought isolation in the northwoods. In 1874 Christopher Hill and Horace Rice built a complex of three cabins just off the Menominee Reservation. It later became a popular destination for tourists interested in hunting and fishing. Another proprietor was George Gardner, a Stockbridge Indian, for whom the Gardner Dam

on the Wolf River was named. In 1872 Charles Lazerlere opened a stopping place at Langlade on the Wolf River, as did John Yates, whose place was about 1/3 mile down from Lazerlere's. Hi Polar, for whom the village of Polar is named, also built a stopover cabin with Louis Motzfeldt in the region. Fred Dodge built a stopping place near what is now Hollister in 1877. Some of these stopover proprietors also traded with the Indians as a means of earning a living.

When lumbermen and early settlers trudged along these routes, sometimes with livestock, they had many options for a safe if rugged layover. Especially on a cold winter's night these travelers would gather for an evening of merriment. These cabins and stopovers and their proprietors played a vital role in opening the resources of Langlade County to the outside world.

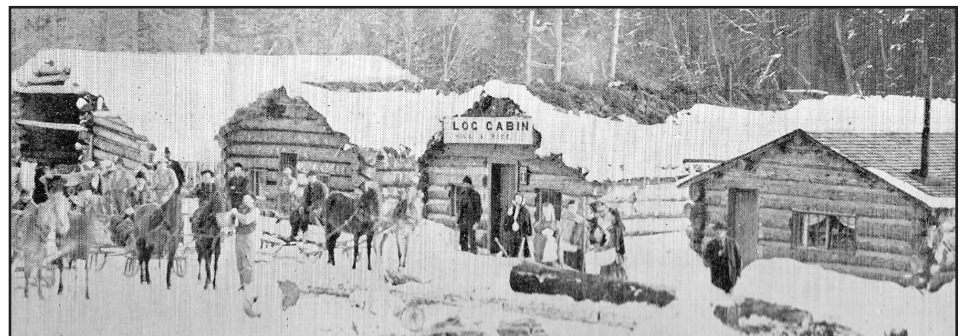


Photo left: Christopher Hill's cabins, erected in 1874, served as layovers to early settlers and, later, to tourists who came to hunt and fish.

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 October 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

Presentation: Terese Allen, foodie and food historian will be speaking at the Antigo Public Library on Tues. Sept. 10 at 6:30pm. The event is sponsored by the Antigo Public Library Foundation.

ITEMS FROM THE MUSEUM



Francis Deleglise, “the founder of Antigo,” worked tirelessly to keep Antigo dry. So it is ironic that on the centenary of the founding of Antigo in 1979, Point Beer commemorated the event by putting a picture of his home on its beer cans.

404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409