

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Annual Meeting 2021

On November 18 the Llanglade County Historical Society held its annual meeting, in person this year, but not as in the past. Due to continuing Covid-19 concerns, the event was kept low-key, with no formal presentation. About 30 members met at the museum, enjoyed snacks catered by the Dixie Lunch/Fifth Avenue Restaurant, toured the recently remodeled facility, and viewed a slide show of the recent changes. Repairing the south portico and main entrance of the original building remains for the spring.

The other social part of the evening was the unveiling of a plaque acknowledging donors to the

Let's Make History fund that made it all possible.

The only official business was the election of three officers whose terms had expired: Nancy Bugni, Joe Hermolin, and Diane Zuelzke. All three were reelected without opposition. At the following regular board meeting, the following officers were appointed: Joe Hermolin as president, Lisa Haefs as vice-president, Patricia Kennedy as treasurer, Mary Kay Wolf as secretary. We look forward to being able to serve the community more productively in the future with our renovated facility and, hopefully, a healthier environment.



Mary Kay Wolf unveils the plaque honoring donors to the Let's Make History fund. It will hang in the new addition.

A light dinner at the annual meeting was prepared by the Dixie Lunch/Fifth Ave. Restaurant

Members socialized, toured the remodeled building, and viewed a slide show of the changes of the past 15 months.



Museum/Welcome Center

In October the museum, and its new partner, the Welcome Center, hosted an open house for the general public to view the remodeled building. The Welcome Center is supported by the Economic Development Corporation of Llanglade County and provides information on events and sites in Antigo and Llanglade County. Guests toured the building (some even tried

the elevator) to view remodeling changes made. One highlight was the designation of Antigo as an Ice Age Trail Community. The Ice Age Trail follows the front of the most recent glaciation through the state. It is an important feature of Llanglade County's landscape and part of what makes us "The County of Trails".

CURATOR:
Mary Kay Wolf

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
President: Joe Hermolin
Vice-president: Lisa Haefs
Treasurer: Patricia Kennedy
Secretary: Mary Kay Wolf

OTHER DIRECTORS:
Dean Blazek
Fran Brown
Nancy Bugni
Glenn Bugni
Carol Feller Gottard
Chris Haedike
Diane Zuelzke

THANK YOU

Items Donated:

- Marjorie Beck:** A ranch-style doll house
- Renate Bromberg:** Christmas tree for building exterior
- Dennis & Kris Fincher:** Wood framed love seat
- James Kuhr:** Military gas mask
- Karen Morgan:** Photographs
- Thomas Nelson:** Album of photos of Summit Lake

Monetary Donations:

- Darin Fischer of Fischer Maintenance
James Kraft Hardy & Diane Dei Rossi
Pat Ratzlaff
Walter Rugland
Jim & Kathy Wing
Genealogical Society
Myers Family Foundation
Optimist Club of Antigo
(to host Santa at the museum)

To Let's Make History Fund:

- Antigo Junior Woman's Club
John Barker
Cindy Kuhls
Gerald & Dorothy Volm Foundation
Waldvogel Sealcoating
Krueger & Steinfest in memory of Monte Krueger

Memorial Donations:

- In memory of James "Ken" Peters from Mary Peters
- In memory of Wade Neufeld from the Vanguard Charitable Foundation

Member Renewals:

- Jerome & Vicky Marx

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Madison Museum

We are not the only organization that has had some false starts in museum planning. Our remodeling project was revised from how it was originally envisioned and it turns out that the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) has also done some rethinking for their new museum in Madison.

The original plan was for a new museum a few blocks from its current Madison location, near the Capitol. The revised plan is to build on the current site, with an expanded footprint from 42,000 square feet to 100,000 square feet.

Architectural and exhibit design planning is being finalized and demolition of the current museum and adjacent buildings may begin as early as 2024. The new museum may reopen by 2026.

During the next 4-5 years the WHS plans to expand its work with the more than 400 affiliated local historical societies throughout the state (including ours), and establish exhibits of local interests to travel the state and then be displayed in Madison's new museum. The WHS has worked with local historical societies since it was formed in 1846, two years before Wisconsin became a state. The WHS, beginning in 1898, was working with and assisting local museums as part of its mission. It has served as a model nation-wide of how a major museum should work with local affiliates. The upcoming years will offer an opportunity for the WHS and its affiliates to develop new ways of working together to better fulfill its and affiliates' missions.

Santa Returns to the Museum

Last year Santa took a year off from visiting the museum due to our remodeling and Covid-19. But this year he returned, checking out who was naughty or nice. Being quite old, Santa was cautious about Covid-19 so he wore a face shield and asked visitors to mask up. Also, the museum did not set out cookies and punch for children. Still, with more limited hours, over 800 people visited Santa over a period of 5 days. Santa held court in front of the newly renovated fireplace in the Welcome Center.

Even after taking a year off, some children still refer to the museum as "the house where Santa lives." He promised to return next year.



Deleglise Monument Finds a New Home

Francis Deleglise is generally considered to be the founder of Antigo. Based in Appleton, the Civil War veteran trained as a surveyor and explored the Northwoods as a timber cruiser. He saw the growth potential for this area and, together with some friends, built a cabin on the banks of Spring Brook in 1878 and brought his family, a wife and six children, here in 1879. In 1916 that cabin, Antigo's first home, was preserved and moved to the grounds of the then the library (now the museum).

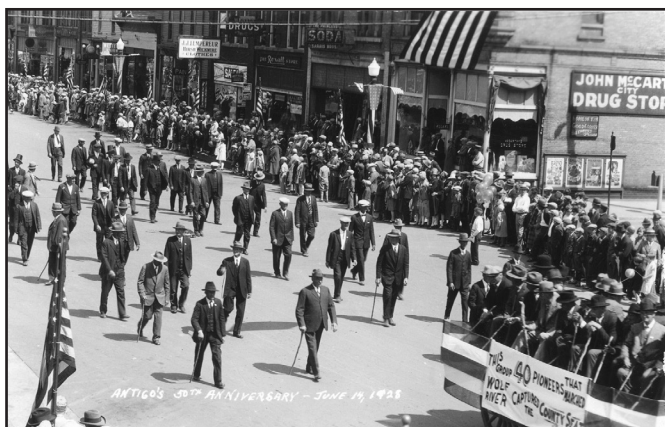
and encouraged businesses to relocate here. He was responsible for bringing the railroad to Antigo in the 1880s, played a major role in having Antigo become the county seat when the county was formed in 1883, and served in the state legislature. Two of his daughters were instrumental in the establishment of the Langlade County Historical Society in the 1920s.

In 1928, Antigo celebrated the 50th anniversary of the construction of the cabin and the arrival

of the Deleglise family. Together with a large celebratory parade along Fifth Avenue, a monument to Francis Deleglise was erected on the grounds of what was then the Langlade County Teachers' College (now the Boys and Girls Club). Now that monument has found a new home on the museum grounds. Recently it was moved across the street and placed next to the log cabin that was the start of what would become the city of Antigo.

Deleglise originally named his fledgling city Springbrook but that was later changed to Antigo, using the middle word of an Ojibwe phrase, Nequi Antigo Seebeh, meaning "Where the river flows past the evergreens."

Francis Deleglise had significance beyond being Antigo's first white settler. He promoted the city by publishing and distributing a booklet on the virtues of the area



The Deleglise monument, erected in 1929, at its new location.

Parade in 1928 as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Antigo's founding. The float of seated marching men is of the surviving men who, in 1883, walked to the Wolf River to vote to make Antigo the county seat.

Ackley's Home and Trading Post

When Francis Deleglise brought his family to what would become Antigo, he did not enter an empty land. Ojibwe had long lived and hunted in the area. In fact, the name "Antigo" is derived from an Ojibwe phrase. Nor was Deleglise even the first white settler. A few years earlier, Willard Ackley came to what would eventually become Langlade County from New York State by way of Wausau. He established a home and trading post at the fork of the east and west branches of the Eau Claire River (near the site of Riverview Golf Course). The path between the Deleglise home at its original location near what is now the Fourth Avenue dam and Ackley's home and trading post would become Fifth Avenue.

Ackley married a Chippewa woman Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay (Maid of the Forest), the daughter of Chief Mee-Gee-See (Great Eagle), whom he had

met on frequent visits to a trading post at Post Lake. She brought her father to Ackley's homestead. Chief Mee-Gee-See lived with his son-in-law until his death in 1860 and was buried on the property.

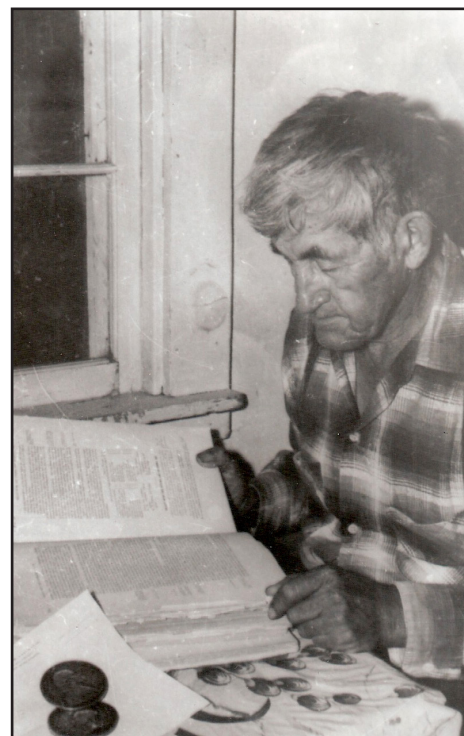
In the mid 1800s the Ojibwe signed a series of treaties establishing their reservations throughout the Northwoods. Two copies of the treaty of 1854 establishing the territory assigned to the Sokaogan Chippewa were signed. However, one copy was lost when the ship carrying the papers to Washington sank in Lake Superior and the other copy disappeared. The Sokaogan had no official record of their settlement. They became known as "The Lost Tribe" and were an impoverished, nomadic group roaming in Langlade and Forest Counties and traveling as far as Peshtigo to hunt. In late summer, they often camped in an area on Enterprise Lake to harvest blueberries.

Willard and Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay's sons Charles and Dewitt became leaders in the Lost Tribe's attempts to gain official status. But not until 1937, when Willard Ackley's and Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay's grandson Willard Ackley was chief of the tribe, did new negotiations establish the Mole Lake Sokaogan Chippewa and their reservation near Crandon. At the time they numbered 304 members. The Works Progress Administration, a New Deal project, helped build housing for the group. The lost copy of the original paper work confirming the Lost Tribe's status was confirmed a few years later when workmen excavating around a garage at Mole Lake unearthed a heavy iron-bound chest with many old papers confirming the original story. The Lost Tribe finally had an established home after being "the Lost Tribe" for over 80 years.

Ackley marker:
In 1979 the Langlade County Historical Society installed a marker at the site where Willard Ackley established his homestead and lived with his wife, father-in-law, and two sons.



Chief Ackley:
Chief Willard Ackley of the Sokaogan, grandson of Willard Ackley, Langlade County's first white settler and his Ojibwe wife Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay, examine the documents and the medals establishing the rights of the Chippewa "Lost Tribe" to lands around Crandon. He worked tirelessly to have the treaty rights recognized.



Winter was a busy time in the logging camps. Farmers left their fields to harvest timber and logs were skidded along frozen paths to the river's edge or railroad sidings for transport in spring to mills.

Top Row: Initially, oxen hauled logs. Although they were more surefooted, they were eventually replaced by horses. Often competitions occurred in how much a team could haul as in this scene of hauling logs to an Antigo mill.

Middle Row: Life in the camp was primitive. A good cook was essential.

Bottom Row: With the introduction of the railroad and steam driven haulers it was possible to log areas further from rivers which were the original means of transport.



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

10 a.m. to 4 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

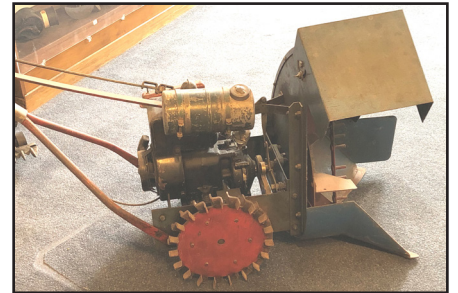
UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Center Hours (in addition to regular museum hours)

Lobby/ brochures: 24/7
Desk area: Mon. 10 am to 4 pm

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

Tis the season: With winter, comes snow and snow removal. This throwback snowblower in the museum's recently remodeled basement is not for the faint of heart but it's an improvement on the shovel.



404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409