

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Museum Remodeling: The topic of this year's annual meeting

The museum is proceeding with its remodeling plans. After some false starts and changes in directions we have decided on an overall plan that will be implemented in stages as funds become available. We have been working with the firm Funktion which is based in Wausau. They have worked on several historic restorations around the state and together we have worked out a plan to move forward.

Originally we had planned to replace the poor lighting system and the ceiling on the main floor. Redoing the heating/air conditioning ductwork was included as well as lighting changes throughout the building. The goal of making the building handicap accessible has been on our radar for a very long time and we hoped to do it with the remodeling.

With Funktion's knowledge and help we developed an overall plan but the cost was too high to implement all at once. So we have broken down the plan into stages, insuring that nothing we do initially will hinder implementation of future improvements. We have begun fundraising for stage 1 and will proceed as funds become available.

Phase one highlights include redoing the lighting and ceiling on the main floor and providing a handicap accessible ramp into the building's main floor. Toilet facilities will be added to the main floor making the main floor, which contains much of the displays and archives, available to those who are handicapped.

At our annual meeting the planners from Funktion will present the overall scheme for remodeling the museum and what will take place during the various stages. This will likely be a multi-year project and insure that the museum will be better able to display its collection of artifacts and make the building accessible to a larger part of the population.

The annual meeting will take place on Sunday November 5 from 1pm to 4 pm at TimberHaven in Polar. There will be a dinner followed by a brief business meeting and the presentation of the remodeling plans. Details of the annual meeting are inside.

Museum Board Elections

Each November three of the museum's nine member board have their terms expire. This year Dean Blazek, Glenn Bugni, and Lisa Haefs have expiring terms. All three have agreed to continue for another term and this slate of candidates is recommended by the

current board for election at our annual meeting. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor at the meeting.

CURATOR:
Mary Kay Morrissey Wolf

DIRECTORS:
Dean Blazek
Fran Brown
Nancy Bugni
Glenn Bugni
Carol Feller Gottard
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Gary Whitman
Diane Zuelke

THANK YOU

Items Donated:

Richard Brock:	Indian artifacts, books
Dave & Judy DeVore:	Scrapbook of WWI soldiers
Brook & Dane Hanson:	Railroad station lamp, Elcho letter sweater (in memory of Peter & Wallace Rasmussen)
Nancy Keller:	Wicker doll carriage
Donna Osness:	Nazi flag
Harry Mills:	Yearbook, postcards, dental journal of Dr. Mills
Jim Posselt:	John Schroepfer violin
Angela Schwartz:	Margaret Studio platter
Suzanne Sell:	Child's wooden desk
Terry Straavaldsen & Ellen Dudley:	Indian woven baby basket
Judy Turney:	Photos of Polar, prom dance cards, doll clothes, child's clothes hamper, books, View Master holder
Joyce Zaverousky:	VFW Auxiliary items, religious books, music books & tapes

Memorial Donations:

In memory of: Lloyd Anstutz & Lillian Fronck from their family; from Steve & Julie Kakes; from Gail & David Franci

In memory of: Jim Darling from Jeanne Darling; Joe & Peg Jopek

In memory of: Margaret Hagerty from Cliff & Marion Hoffmeister; from Mrs. Bob (Helen) Morrissey; from Jim & Mary Draeger; from Moersch Rvocable Trust; from Jason & Kristin Walbourn; from William & Etta Belrose; from Rachel & Joseph Wedlund; from Mary Lou & Ronald Lamberton

In memory of: Lorraine Servi from Dave & Sherry Simms

Monetary Donations:

Braun Woodlands Foundation

Membership Renewals:

Jeannie Darling, Robert Harmon, Ed Kennedy, Ron Korn, Mary Zelinski

Life Member: Sharon Hanson

New Members: Elizabeth Kennedy-Reid, Nancy Pelzer, Deacon Pam Werth

Special Thanks: George Fleishman for repairs to railroad baggage wagon

We hosted tours for: Spring Valley School, Peace Childcare Learning Center, Boys & Girls Club, Resource Center

Summer Events Recap

Weather played a major role in our two traditional major summer events: the rummage sale and the railroad picnic. Our wetter than normal spring affected our rummage sale at the museum on June 3rd. With more rain in the forecast we were able to quickly rearrange the displays on the main



We managed to have almost enough food for all attendees

floor and used the space to present the sale items. It may not have been ideal but it worked. The sale was extended for a few days during the following week. We did earn a significant amount of money, which goes toward helping run the museum. We greatly appreciate all those who donated items for the sale and those who helped on the day of the event.

Our annual railroad picnic had better luck with the weather but not without some apprehension. The forecast that day predicted rain and dark clouds loomed all afternoon but we set everything up and hoped for the best. It turned out to be a grand evening. The rain held off and the sun came out by late afternoon- just in time. Brats and burgers were grilled by chef Mike Haefs with assistance from chef Steve Bradley. Music was provided by the B and C band. They set up in the museum entry facing the lawn instead of near the locomotive for fear that their electronics



The Antique Tractor Club brought an 1857 Studebaker wagon to the picnic.



Curator Mary Kay Wolf rings up a sale

would get drenched if the rains materialized. But the sound carried well and the music was enjoyed by the large crowd. About 200 people attended the picnic. What started out as a day of worry about weather ended in a glorious celebration of Antigo's railroad heritage and an opportunity to thank all those who support the museum's mission of preserving our local history.



Testing some items before deciding at the rummage sale

National History Day

With the start of the school year comes the announcement of the National History Day program. It is a yearlong academic program that helps students learn about historical issues, ideas, people, and events. Each year there is a theme, which this year is "Conflict and Compromise in History".

There are two major divisions: junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades

9-12). Students may participate as individuals or in groups of two to five. There are five contest categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website.

A number of examples of Conflict and Compromise in History can be found in northern Wisconsin: white settlement and the Native American population, logging and farming interests and environmental

protection, approaches to education, attitudes to wars to give a few examples. The museum is an excellent resource for students who wish to participate in this program and for teachers who wish to assist students in research. Students and teachers are encouraged to contact the museum for help and further details on how the program works.

Charles Dallman

In planning museum remodeling we've been examining the building structure. The question arises of how the building was built. It was funded by Andrew Carnegie whose grants helped many communities throughout the United States and Canada build libraries. The plans were drawn up by Madison architect and professor of Civil Engineering Alan Conover. But funding and plans are the first steps of the process. The building still has to be constructed. Antigo's library was built by the Antigo construction company of Charles Dallman. Charles Dallman

was born in 1857 in Winchester WI, where he grew up. In 1882 he moved to Antigo with his wife. This was in the very early days of Antigo, at about the time it was incorporated as a city. Fifth Avenue, Antigo's main east/west street, was still heavily wooded. Through his work as a contractor, architect, and builder Charles Dallman had a major impact on the growth of the city. By the time of his death in 1921 he had put up more buildings than any other contractor in Antigo to date. Two of his larger and better known buildings were city hall (where the

current library now stands) and the Carnegie Library (now the museum).



Carnegie Library under construction 1903.

Wisconsin Council for Local History

The Langlade County Historical Society is one of almost 400 members of the Wisconsin Council for Local History (WCLH). This association consists of local, county and specialized historical societies and private historic preservation groups. The WCLH promotes the work of local historical societies in Wisconsin and advises the Wisconsin Historical Society on improving its services to local affiliates.

One way the WCLH assists small museums like ours is through its mini-grant program. Grants go to help with archival preservation and cataloging. This year the WCLH and the Wisconsin Historical Foundation have agreed to provide permanent, enhanced funding for the program through the establishment of an Endowment Fund. The immediate goal is to raise \$200,000 in order to sustain the mini-grant program at its

current level. The hope is to eventually expand the number and scope of grants that can be funded. Strengthening any of Wisconsin's small museums improves the visibility and effectiveness of all of the almost 400 small museums statewide, including ours.

Please consider making a gift to maintain this program. Details will be forthcoming.

John Smith's Triumph

Fall in a rural county such as Langlade is usually associated with harvest. In Langlade County potatoes are a major crop. Of the several varieties of potato, one which was very popular about 100 years ago had its origins in Langlade County.

John W. Smith who farmed in Kent brought the world of potato growers to his farm. John Smith, his wife Mary and children came to the U.S. from England in 1892 and settled in Illinois for several years. There he practiced his trade as a tailor. But in 1900 he decided to try his luck at farming and brought



his family to Kent in Langlade County. There he worked his 280 acre farm raising cattle, corn, hay, and potatoes. It was his potatoes that brought him fame. He patiently worked to breed a variety that would produce a good yield and be disease resistant. In doing so he came up with his Triumph variety. In contrast to modern high tech methods, Smith bred his potatoes the old fashion way- he carefully and systematically grew the plants, selected the good ones for future growth and eliminated the faulty

ones. This “tuber-index” method was used before planting season to determine what would be used to grow his cash crop.

In 1917, after 17 years of carefully selecting what to use in his fields, his potatoes won second place in a state potato show. The following year he was one of three Wisconsin potato growers selected by the government for an agricultural demonstration in the southern U.S.

John W. Smith's Triumph variety, known to many Wisconsin potato growers who used his variety as seed potatoes, also was soon known to growers in southern U.S.

states. Orders began coming in from as far away as the Bahamas and many agricultural research stations. In 1919 it was suggested that his seed potatoes not be allowed to leave the state and be used only to benefit Wisconsin growers. He continued to win awards at state fairs and in 1920 was recognized for his



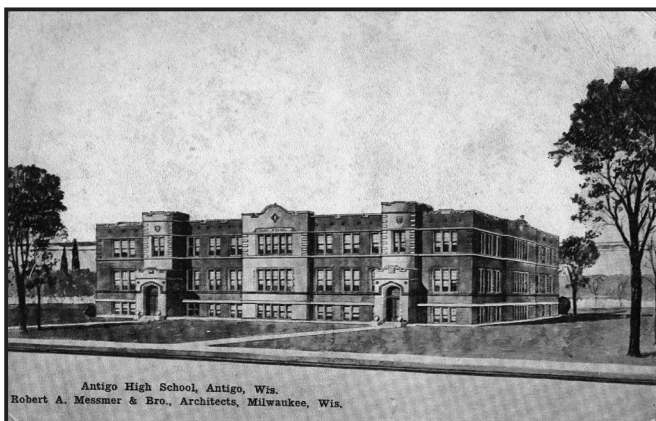
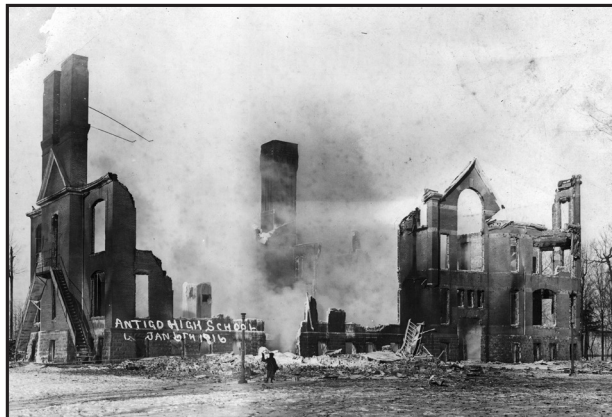
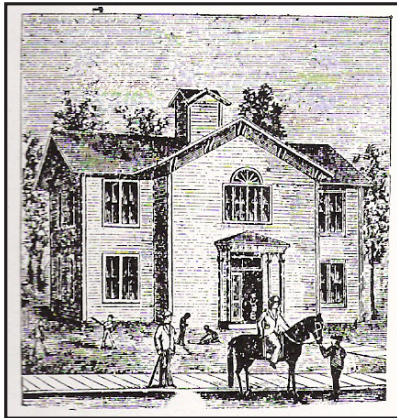
potato breeding by the University of Wisconsin with a certificate identifying “the eminent services of John William Smith as a leading potato grower whose pioneer work in developing a new strain of Triumph seed stock is considered one of the greatest achievements in the industry.” His Triumphs continued to be a major variety into the 1950s when it was replaced by other varieties.

John W. Smith, an Englishman and tailor who farmed in rural Langlade County, had a major impact on potato cultivation in the first half of the 20th century.



Antigo High School

Antigo's first high school (upper left) was established in 1883 and stood where the museum is now. A new high school was soon built at the southwest corner of Clermont and Sixth (upper right). On a cold winter night the school was destroyed in a fire (middle row). Classes for the remainder of the year were held in various places while a new school was built on the same site (bottom row). Today that site is that of the middle school.



ADDRESS:

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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

We will serve refreshments at the Music concert Sat. Oct 28
Annual Meeting: Sunday November, 5th, 1-4 pm at TimberHaven ,
W6962 State Hwy 64, Bryant, WI (details inside).

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

A letter A from a jacket with two smaller As on it. From the 1930s into the 1950s the Antigo football team was known as the Antigo Ants

