

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Remodeling: Making Progress

Our remodeling project at the museum is proceeding on schedule. The addition is taking shape, to the approval of passers-by. When complete it will house an elevator with access to all three museum floors, with restrooms on all floors, making the building handicap accessible. The main entry, facing Superior Street, and the original lobby will remain intact. That part of this architectural gem and Antigo landmark will not change.

If weather continues to cooperate and we encounter no major construction obstacles, the addition could be completed by the end of summer. Then work will begin on phase 2: redesigning the interior. We are pleased that architect Rod Cox and general contractor JAS Construction have agreed to continue working with us in phase 2.

We are close to, but have not yet achieved, our fundraising goals for the entire project. Although these are difficult times and our fundraising efforts have been curtailed, we are still planning and moving forward with most of phase two. Detailed plans for redesigning the main floor include ceiling repairs, replacing and redesigning lighting, and redoing the heating and air conditioning. The addition, original lobby, area at the front desk and some display areas will be lit by pendant lights. Much of the display areas will be lit by track lighting, which should be a

vast improvement for viewing displays.

Curator Mary Kay Wolf is planning reallocation of space on both the main and second floors. Two new major space allocations are for a tourist information center on the first floor, where the Antigo Visual Arts Gallery was and the Antigo Visual Arts Gallery, featuring works of local artists, moving to the second floor. We also hope to have more space for rotating exhibits. A space for our archives and for researchers has not yet been allocated.

How quickly and completely we accomplish the redesign plans of the main and second floor will rely on continued fundraising. To learn more about the project and fundraising contact the museum by phone at 715-627-4464 or by email at lchs@dwave.net. We may not be immediately available but we will get back to you.

Although we are closed during remodeling, we are still there to answer questions. Unfortunately, most of our displays and archives are inaccessible during the remodeling. We look forward to being able to serve the community again soon.



During this past winter we fundraised, planned, and waited for spring. By the end of June, the addition was taking shape. (original façade on top, addition taking shape below) Once completed, work on the interior will begin in earnest.

CURATOR:
Mary Kay Morrissey Wolf

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

THANK YOU

Monetary Donations:

Michael and Pamela Brown

New Membership:

Lu Flemming

Life-Time Member:

Kay Doran

**To Let's Make History Project from
March 23 to June 23, 2020****Individuals:**

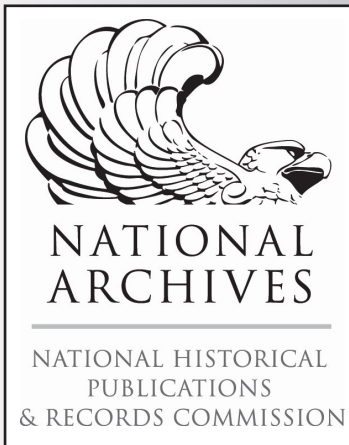
Dave and Judy Peterson

Roy and Karen Thomas

Businesses & Organizations:

City Gas

We greatly appreciate the support we receive in these uncertain times due to coronavirus and economically uncertain times. We have received many encouraging comments on the progress of our remodeling project and look forward to being fully functional again.



A grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission will enable small, local historical societies & museums to work together to digitize, manage, and provide access to archives.

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preparing for Digital Readiness

The Langlade County Historical Society has been partnering with Recollection Wisconsin (RW), an organization administered by Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) and managed by WiLS, Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Milwaukee Public Library and Marquette University. Recollection Wisconsin brings together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums and historical societies and shares them with the world in partnership with the [Digital Public Library of America](http://www.digitalpubliclibraryofamerica.org/).

To date our photographs of regional Native Americans, logging and railroad operations, the CCC camp in Elcho, World War I soldiers of the region's 107th Trench Mortar Battery Company, views of Antigo, as well as documents such as Francis Deleglise's letters home while serving in the Civil War and the diary of Civil War soldier Rueben Sweet's participation in Sherman's March to the Sea have all been made available through our partnership with Recollection Wisconsin. Links to these individual collections are posted on our web site <http://langladehistory.com/News.html> Scroll down to the bottom of that page to find the links.

Sharing archives with those who cannot visit the sites where they are housed is a goal many of us hope to achieve. Last summer thanks to a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a committee including representatives from some local historical societies

(including ours), the WHS, and WiLS was formed to look into how to expand participation between local societies and Recollection Wisconsin. The committee met three times and its discussions informed the writing of a further, more comprehensive, grant request to NHPRC entitled Building a Statewide Digital Readiness Community of Practice. (A community of practice is defined as "a group of people who share a common concern, set of problems, or passion about a topic and deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.") That grant request has been fully funded and will support a partnership among WiLS, WHS, and local museums state-wide to support digital capabilities and skills in small and under-resourced local historical societies and historic preservation organizations across the state. A panel of 11 representatives from local historical societies (including ours) and libraries along with four staff members has been formed to implement the goals of the grant. Although scheduling is on hold at the moment due to the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic we can look forward in 2021 to workshops, a Digital History Fair, consultations, and other resources that will provide the knowledge, tools, resources, and infrastructure to digitize, manage, and provide online public access to archives and historical records. Specific plans are currently being discussed in virtual meetings. By working together in establishing best practices, training, and shared access to some equipment we hope to make more material available to educators, students, genealogists, and anyone interested in our history.

Federal Writers' Project: The Guide

President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated many projects during his New Deal in order to combat the high unemployment caused by the Great Depression. In Langlade County we still benefit from many of these projects that improved the infrastructure.

Of the New Deal projects, the arts were not forgotten. Works by visual artists, photographers, musicians, and playwrights were all subsidized. The Federal Writers' Project resulted in the American Guide Series. This series of books, part travel guide and part almanac, offered a snapshot of life in all 48 states and Alaska in the 1930s and early 1940s.

The volume devoted to Wisconsin, included a road trip guide through the state, including a drive from Crandon to Fond du Lac along Highway 55. It portrays Hwy 55 as "twist(ing) through an almost unpeopled country, the cutover wasteland of northern Wisconsin and the heavy forest of the Menominee Indian Reservation." Near Crandon lies "a rough and stony country where high boulder-strewn uplands sink suddenly into swamps and ponds. In the low forest of popple, birch, and balsam along the roadside, wild animals occasionally are seen: a deer or rabbit moving swiftly through the brush, porcupines dozing in the forks of high trees, more rarely a black bear nosing clumsily through the cutover. Farming in this land is spare and unproductive. In some fields, stones are as thick as a crop of potatoes newly dug; the farmsteads themselves are low long huts with sloping lean-tos where pigs, chickens, and perhaps a cow are sheltered during the bitter winter. ... Farther south there is a slow transition; gradually the wilderness recedes and farms and pastures appear. In its southern section State 55 traverses a rich land devoted to farming and grazing."

The guide describes the area where, for centuries, the Menominee, whose name means beneficent seed, harvested wild rice and where at that time the Chippewa of Mole Lake continue to harvest wild rice in the same manner, using the rice not only for themselves but also selling it to tourists.

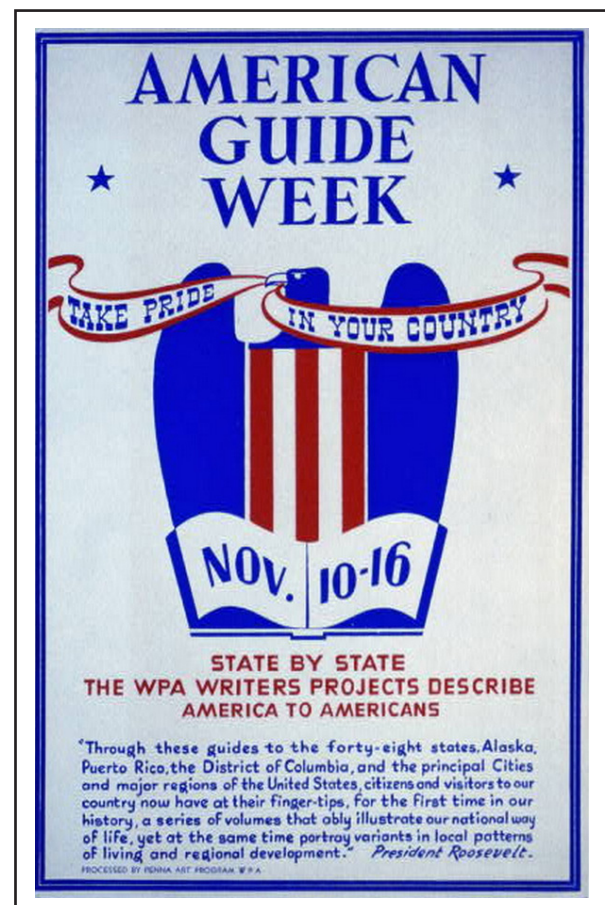
The Wolf River once carried logs to mills in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac. Tight spots on the river were made navigable by dams. Towns of Lily and Langlade that once witnessed the log drives are mentioned.

The guide notes the exceptional forests of the Menominee, left intact during the most destructive era of logging

because the Menominee practiced sustainable logging. Their forests are depicted: "Here is a wild forest. White pine, maple, birch, oak, and hemlock trees block out the sun; branches and dead leaves lie rotting in the gloom of the forest floor. Flowers rare to Wisconsin grow in the dampness: Indian pipe, false beech drops, delicate touch-me-nots, trilliums, and trailing arbutus, first flower in spring."

Most of the 2,300 Menominee had adopted white man's life styles, working in sawmills or cultivating small farms. But a group of about 100 remained isolated, living traditionally by fishing, hunting, and making maple syrup. Each spring they held a night-long "Mitawin" ceremony recalling their origins and acknowledging those who have died in the past year.

This short description of just one part of Wisconsin is just a part of the larger American Guide Series (which is available online). It was an effort by the FDR administration to not only provide employment for writers but also to help instill a sense of pride in United States citizens in the richness and diversity of America.



Women Get The Vote

August 20, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in national elections. Wisconsin had seen previous attempts to grant women suffrage but they failed. The closest came in 1912 when an amendment to the state constitution passed the legislature but was defeated in a referendum when a major anti-suffrage campaign was waged by the brewing and tavern lobby, fearful of the temperance stance adopted by many in the suffrage movement. Suffragists were disappointed but not deterred and work continued.

Finally, on May 21, 1919, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment to the constitution granting women the vote. Two weeks later the Senate approved it. To make it official it needed at least three-fourths of the states to ratify it.

The Wisconsin State Legislature, in session at the time, worked quickly. On June 10, 1919 it ratified the amendment by votes of 54 to 2 in the assembly and 23 to 1 in the senate. Michigan and Illinois also ratified the amendment on the same day and all three states sought to become the first state to make it official. When the Wisconsin legislation passed the amendment at 11:00 am State Senator David G. James was immediately sent on a train to Washington D.C. He did not even stop to pack a bag. David James was an active supporter of the rights of women and his daughter Ada James had been very active in the suffrage movement. David James got to Washington D.C. and officially

filed Wisconsin's ratification with the State Department, making Wisconsin the first state to officially ratify the 19th Amendment. As he was leaving the State Department, an Illinois delegate walked in, a few minutes too late to be the first. Illinois had actually ratified the amendment before Wisconsin but due to a technical error it had to go back again to the state legislature. So, in some way, both states can claim to be the first to ratify the 19th amendment.

On August 20, 1920 women were finally granted the right to vote in national elections. It is estimated that 300,000 women in Wisconsin became enfranchised.

The Antigo Daily Journal reported on August 26 that residents of Antigo would be able to hear the first political speech by a woman in Antigo and one of the first in the state. Miss Moriarty of Ohio spoke at the Armory (Opera House) on behalf of the state Republican party. The Antigo Daily Journal reported: "Although Miss Moriarty comes here at the insistence of the ladies, the men are welcome to attend this speech. And they might as well get used to it, for, from now on, the political speaker must address his (sic) remarks to the ladies as well as the men."

DANGER!

**Woman's Suffrage Would Double
the Irresponsible Vote**


**It is a MENACE to the Home, Men's
Employment and to All Business**

OFFICIAL
Official Referendum Ballot

If you desire to vote for any question, make a cross (X) or other mark in the square after the word "yes," underneath each question; if you desire to vote against any question, make a cross or other mark in the square after the word "no" underneath each question.

Shall Chapter 227 of the laws of 1911 entitled "an act extending the right of suffrage to women" be adopted?

Yes No



The above is an exact reproduction of the separate ballot printed on pink paper which will be handed to you in your voting place on November 5. Be sure and put your cross (X) in the square after the word "no" as shown here, and be sure and vote this pink ballot.

Printed and Sold by
PROGRESS PUBLISHING CO.
WATKINS, WIS.

Who Are The Anti-Suffragists?

The following constructive state organizations have endorsed WOMAN SUFFRAGE:

- State Teachers Association.
- Federation of Labor.
- Federation of Women's Clubs.
- Ladies of the Maccabees.
- Grange.
- Farmers' Society of Equity.
- Ministerial Association.
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The only state organizations to adopt resolutions against woman's enfranchisement are:

German-American Alliance (which in Wisconsin represents the brewery interests); State Retail Liquor Dealers (saloon-keepers).

Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association, Waukesha, Wis.

Ads for and against the 1912 hard fought referendum to grant women the vote in Wisconsin

Langlade County Fair

This year's Langlade County Fair will be reduced in scope due to Covid-19 but nothing could compare to the fairs in 1911 and 1912. In 1911 officials hired John Schwister of Wausau to fly his "Minnesota Badger" (he was from Wisconsin but went to college in Minnesota) over the grandstand at the fair. Over 10,000 people attended the two events. It was the first time in Wisconsin that someone was paid to fly a plane. A year later officials hired barnstorming pilot Lincoln Beachy to fly over the fairgrounds and perform stunts. That event drew 12,000 spectators. Later that fall for a state referendum to grant women the right to vote, Beachy flew over towns along the Wolf River dropping pamphlets urging men to vote "Yes". (The referendum lost but eight years later the 19th amendment granted women the vote nation-wide.)

FLYING MACHINE
 AT THE ANTIGO FAIR
SEPTEMBER 19-22.

The Langlade County Agricultural Society has contracted with John Schwister, the Wausau bird man, to give two flights at the Antigo Fair on THURSDAY and FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st and 22nd, 1911.

Mr. Schwister has a splendid large, high class machine of his own design and construction, with which he has been making private flights daily all summer, sometimes carrying passengers. The secretary of the Langlade County Fair was one of these passengers on a recent flight, so that the association knows what it is getting.

Remember, two flights, Thursday and Friday from the Fair Grounds.

There will be many other special attractions: A County Base Ball Tournament, forenoon; a Real Indian Village; a complete Dairy Barn Exhibit, a show in itself; the usual horse races; motorcycle races, bicycle races, relay horse races, Indian pony races, and other interesting contests. Particularly in the base ball tournament and the motorcycle races and the farmer's race there is much rivalry, and exciting contests will result.

From far and near people are coming to the LANGLADE COUNTY FAIR, the last and best fair of the season.

BUY A SEASON TICKET AND SEE IT ALL!
 Come in the morning and stay all Day. Come prepared to have a good time, all the time.

*From top to bottom:
 Antigo Daily Journal ad announcing Schwister's appearance, Schwister and his Minnesota Badger, Two views of crowds viewing Lincoln Beach's plane*



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

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

This item from the museum is actually part of the museum. The window on the new addition was originally part of the building's north face and repositioned into the new addition. The original building, completed in 1905, was designed by Madison architect Alan Conover in a Neo-Georgian or Neo-Colonial style, very popular in the decades following the centennial of the Declaration of Independence because it was reminiscent of the styles of the mansions of some of America's founding fathers.



404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409