

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Langlade History on YouTube

When the Langlade County Historical Society (LCHS) began almost 100 years ago, its stated mission was “to preserve, advance, and disseminate...knowledge in the history of Langlade County.” Those LCHS founders could not possibly envision that dissemination of knowledge would include the internet. In order to do so we enlisted a group of tech savvy teenagers.

4-H Tech Changemakers (TCM) are 4-H youth leaders in grades 8th to 12th. A nation-wide program program; it has four sponsors: Microsoft, Land o Lakes, Tractor Supply Company, and Verizon. One project the local TCM undertook, led by Tonya McKenna Trabant, was to help the museum launch a YouTube channel containing videos describing the county’s history.

program where we help the community with technology problems and questions,”. Laura Rydberg added “Because of the pandemic, unfortunately, we were unable to get out into the community ... so Joe was very kind to offer to partner with us, so we could work on the videos and still help the community but in different ways,” Isa Prado, an exchange student from Brazil emphasized the importance of this project. When she first planned to spend a semester in Antigo, she searched for information to tell friends and family where she was going but found little information other than dry statistics.



The group helping the museum included (left to right) Logan Wilhelm, Isadora Prado, Laura Rydberg, Simon Joyce Whipp, Evie Trabant McKenna, 4H TCM leader Tonya McKenna Trabant, Kaeden Wincentsen. Not shown Gretchen Lucht.

On Thursday May 12, the museum hosted a launch party to inaugurate the YouTube channel. At the launch, Changemaker Logan Wilhelm explained “Tech Change-makers is a youth

More videos are being planned but, for now, the students are off for the summer. We hope to be able to continue the program in the fall. To access the videos, go to www.Youtube.com and search for Langlade County Historical Society.

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

Calling all Bakers:

On Monday Aug. 15 we will be serving refreshments at Music in the Park. We are asking members who prepare pies to stop into the museum and get 6 individual plastic containers for your pies. Then bring them to the park by 4:00 pm. bring them to the concert by 4:30 pm.

On Monday Sept. 12 we will be serving refreshments at the first Civic Music concert at the high school. We are asking bakers to bring bars and cookies but no pies.

THANK YOU

Items Donated:

Gloria Moore: Quilt made by Town of Summit Homemakers

Monetary Donations:

Sheldon Foundation
Remington Foundation

Memorial Donations:

In memory of Craig Marx from P. R. Gunderson

In memory of Wade Neufeld from the Vanguard Charitable Foundation

Member Renewals:

Teresa Sprecher
Paul & Anne Payant-Duffek
Lifetime membership

LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Special Volunteer

Keeping the museum open and preserving and displaying the history of Langlade County requires many volunteers, with a variety of skills- some with mechanical skills, some with administrative or computer skills, and some with social skills and a knowledge of local history. The Langlade County Historical Society has been fortunate that, in its existence of close to 100 years, we've had many dedicated volunteers. One of the most active has been around for about as long as the Historical Society itself. Elvira Frisch recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

The museum's collection of artifacts, photos, and documents has been displayed at several sites throughout Antigo over the years. Originally on the second floor of the Carnegie Library (now the museum), the museum outgrew that space and moved into the convent of St. John's that previously housed the nuns that taught at the school. When that space ceased to be available, the collection was again moved to a vacant office on Seventh Avenue.

In 1997, with a new library being built, the Carnegie building became vacant and the Historical Society

again relocated - back to its original home but now occupying the entire building. Elvira was right there to help, as she had been at the previous two locations. First in setting things up and then as a regular at the reception desk every Wednesday morning, greeting visitors with a smile and a wealth of information. Her encyclopedic knowledge of the people and businesses of Antigo have been a valuable resource and an inspiration to all. Although she has been retired from her job at the reception desk for a few years, she paid a visit last summer to inaugurate the new elevator, installed as part of a major remodeling effort. At that time, she was able to view her wedding dress displayed on the second floor. At 100 years old, Elvira is entitled to take it easy but, if she is interested, there will always be a space for her at the front desk.



During the spring of 2021, Elvira inaugurated the new elevator with a visit to the second floor where her wedding dress is on display. She is shown here with the masked curator, Mary Kay Wolf.

When the historical society moved the museum into the former Carnegie Library, Elvira Frisch was right there as part of the moving crew. It was front page news at the Antigo Daily Journal.

Welcome to Clio

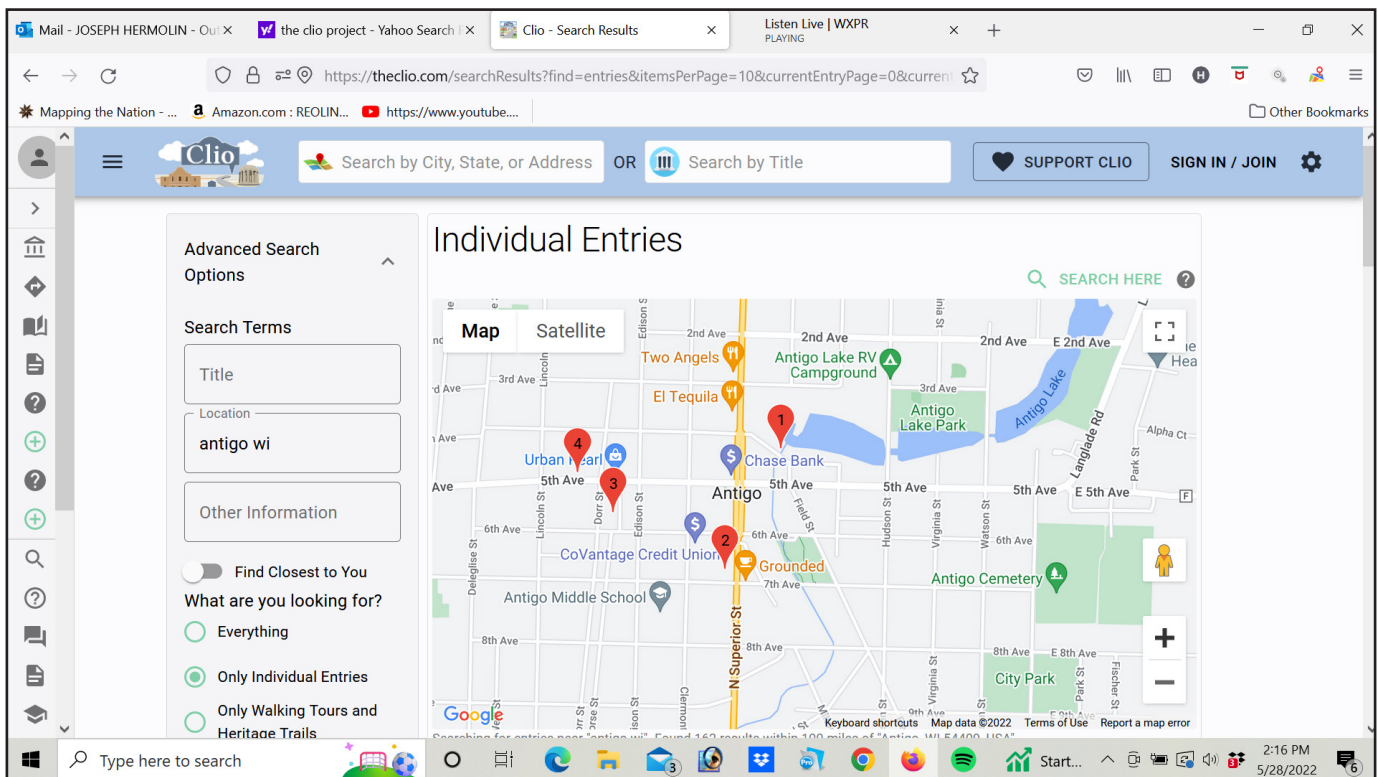
In today's fast-paced world, it takes a great effort and some expertise to keep up with new ways to tell our story (see page 1). Recently, we have found one more way to promote our history: the website and app Clio. With the help of tech savvy volunteer Michael J. Clay, we have been able to highlight the story of some of Antigo's downtown historic sites.

Clio is a website and mobile application that guides the public to thousands of historical and cultural sites throughout the United States. Named after the ancient muse of history, Clio uses GPS to reach the public where they stand and guide them to museums and historical and cultural sites. Each entry includes concise information, embedded media, and links to primary sources and to relevant books and articles. Clio also offers maps and navigation, as well as useful information for visitors to museums, libraries, and historical sites.

To use Clio, download the app on your smartphone (it's free) or visit the site www.theclio.com on your computer. Into the search by City, State, or Address box (upper left) type Antigo WI. A map of the area will appear which may be enlarged using the + sign (lower right). Red numbered pins indicate sites with stores which may be read or listened to, old views and references for further reading. The site for the museum also has a tour of highlights of the interior. A walking tour of downtown is in the works.



Volunteer Michael J. Clay researches historic sites in Antigo and enters text and photos onto the Clio site.



Kentucks in Langlade County

Many settlers in northern Wisconsin came here to escape hard times or political turmoil in Europe and to get a fresh start. However, one significant group did not come from that far away. They came from Kentucky.



Ollie Jacobs (seated in wheelchair) and her daughter Pearl Jacobs Borusky in front of the Jacobs family home in Bryant. The photo is from ca. 1940s.

In the late 19th and early 20th century many lumber companies, having clear-cut much of the forests, sought to take what little profit they could still gain from their land by selling it to people with the promise

that it was prime farm land. It wasn't. But the people in Kentucky had no way of knowing this and aggressive marketing convinced many to move to Langlade and Forest County. By 1905 when the migration slowed, about 200 Kentucky families were

living in northern Wisconsin. Crandon and Elton became major centers. The "Kentucks" as they were called kept to themselves as they eked out a tough farming existence. They maintained their own folk traditions and dialects for generations, well into the 21st century, defying the leveling trends that radio and television created.

Asher Treat, as a student in Antigo High School in the 1920s, befriended the Jacobs family, Kentucks living

in Bryant. He wrote about their life style and musical traditions for the *Journal of American Folklore* in 1939. "The farm house there was of logs covered with tar paper. There was a large single room, with a loft above which served as a bedroom... The large room was the kitchen, dining room, and general headquarters." Treat described the flurry of activity while he sat out of the way and took dictation of the songs sung by the matriarch, Ollie Jacobs. In the 1940s with the development of more portable recording equipment, folklore historians from the University of Wisconsin recorded Pearl Jacobs Borusky, Ollie's daughter, singing the same traditional songs. They were identical to those Asher Treat notated decades earlier, attesting to the accuracy of Asher Treat's notation and the continuity of Kentuck traditions.

Once the term "Kentuck" was used pejoratively but it has come to be used by subsequent generations with a sense of pride in their rich heritage.

Annual Cemetery Tour

Learn about some important and colorful people from Langlade County's past by joining the second annual Langlade County Cemetery Tour, sponsored by our historical society and Antigo Community Theater. Once again, we will be at the Queen of Peace and City Cemeteries. We will take a leisurely, guided walk, in small groups, lasting about 60 minutes with stops at six gravesites where actors will relate

the stories of prominent citizens. Along the way, there will be surprise "pop-ups" of other interesting citizens.

The dates are Saturday Sept. 17 and Sunday Sept. 18 between 1:00 and 3:00 pm with guided tours leaving from the Aspirus St. Josephs Building (parking lot H) every 15 minutes.

Tickets available at the event or, in advance, at the museum. Fees are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, under 12 free. In case of rain, the tour will be moved to the museum and Deleglise cabin.

Langlade County is known for growing potatoes. But Wisconsin is still America's Dairyland and dairy farming is important to the agricultural economy of the county. From small family creameries to Kraft Cheese to the Milk Coop, Langlade County cows have been part of our history.

Top row: The Moose Lake Creamery was one of several family operations. Phlox Butter was a product of a local creamery.

Middle Row: right The Antigo Milk Products Coop was a major purchaser of milk from local farms. (Their office is now the school administration building.)

left: Unloading milk cans at Kraft Cheese (now Sartori).

Bottom Row: Powdered milk was a major product of the Antigo Milk Products Coop. The Coop, through Hy-Land Lakes Dairy provided home delivery of milk.



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

Mon. Aug. 15: The museum will be serving refreshments at the Music in the Park concert featuring the MLC Band (see page 1)

Mon. Sept.12: The museum will be serving refreshments at the Civic Music Concert (see page 1)

Sat. Sept 17 & Sun. Sept 18 Cemetery Tour (with Antigo Community Theater) between 1:00 and 3:00pm. (see page 4)

ITEM FROM THE MUSEUM:

In the 1940s & 50s semi-pro baseball was very popular. The Antigo Candies were a powerhouse in Wisconsin's Northern Division. A jersey and their 1949 championship are shown here. They were also champions in 1950.



404 Superior Street
 Antigo WI, 54409