

# LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Annual Meeting

The Langlade County Historical Society holds its annual meetings in November and one would think that early November would be a safe bet with regards to weather-but not so in Wisconsin. Sunday, November 4th saw the first snowfall of the season- a wet slushy mix creating icy and treacherous roads. Our meeting, held at Timberhaven

in Polar, suffered somewhat in attendance as a result.

It was too bad because the venue was comfortable and afforded a good opportunity for members who attended to socialize and get updated on what is happening at the museum. Dean Blazek was the featured speaker and he presented a lively, informative, and entertaining description of downtown Antigo, using photographs from the museum's archives. It was inspired by a project of Antigo

Middle School students coordinated by teachers Ashley Darr and Mary Umland. The students made use of Blazek's knowledge of Antigo's history to prepare a booklet entitled Take a Walk Back in Time in Downtown Antigo. The presentation at our annual meeting and audience feedback inspired Blazek to consider meeting again with the teachers to expand and revise the booklet and repeat the presentation. Watch for a sequel to the historic walk.

## Santa at the Museum

Once again, as Christmas approaches, Santa holds court at the museum. This year he paid a visit for 10 days and listened to children's requests while parents, grandparents, and other interested parties listened in and took photos.

Wolf acting as Santa's elves and providing cookies and punch for all. The Antigo Daily Journal arranges for Santa himself to be present and C.A.R. generally provides toys and books for all children who visit. This year they were assisted by patrons at the Three Jokers Lounge.

by 334 adults visited the museum during Santa's visits.

This is a team effort with museum volunteers and curator Mary Kay

In total 355 children, accompanied



## Elections and Appointment of Officers

Each year three members of the 9 member board have their terms expire. This year the terms of Nancy Bugni, Joe Hermolin, and Diane Zuelzke were up. All agreed to serve another term and were placed in nomination. In addition there was a vacancy on the board due to the resignation of Gary Whitman. His knowledge, sensitivity to history, and work efforts were noted at the meeting and are sorely missed. The current board recommended that

Chris Haedtke be elected to fill the remainder of that term. There were no other nominations and the slate of Nancy Bugni, Chris Haedtke, Joe Hermolin, and Diane Zuelzke were elected unanimously.

At a subsequent board meeting officers were appointed: Joe Hermolin President, Lisa Haefs Vice-president, Mary Kay Wolf Secretary and Chris Haedtke Treasurer.

**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

## Items Donated:

- Tom Bauknecht: Photo of Camp Douglas, 1917
- Paul Becket: History of Moose Lake (which he authored)
- Rose Fleischman: Photo album of G. Wagner, WWII veteran
- Bill Rebernick: Woven bag made by Rose Kierzek Rebernick in AHS class in 1925
- Claire Schneider: War medals

## Memorial Donations:

- In memory of: Elaine Schimmels from John & Christine Schimmels

## Monetary Donations:

- Patricia Dellios for Dean Blazek  
James & Kathleen Wing  
Langlade County Genealogical Society

## Membership Renewals:

- Fran Brown, DeDe Cromer, Roger & Kay Doran, Robert Duerwachter, Judy Grimm, Chris Haedike, Sheila Hall, Joe Hermolin, Sally Jansen, William Johnson, Susan Johnson, Mary Josvai, Ed & Geneva Kennedy, William & Charlotte Kraft, Ron & Judy Korn, Jacob Meister, Don & Mary Mollet, Nancy Pelzer, Dave & Judy Peterson, Reid family, Jacquelyn Reynolds, Sandy Robrecht, Nick & Jeanette Salm, Sam & Carol Steffan, Dick Strasser, Bill & Helen Williams, Diane Zuelzke

## Let's Make History Building Donors:

- Anonymous, Barbara Arnold, Dennis & Jean Bardelmeier, Patricia Barta, Re. Charles Hoffman, Patricia & Richard Kennedy, David & Judy Peterson, James Posselt, Joan Shimeck, Mary Schroeder

## LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# What Makes Wisconsin Wisconsin?

Planning for a new state-of-the-art historical museum in Madison continues and officials are looking for you (and others interested in history) to help in the planning. The museum will be one of the country's finest and is being developed by nationally recognized planners.

A major portion of the new museum, both in terms of financial support and space (approximately 5,000 square feet) will be devoted to local history. Our Antigo museum is one of over 400 local museums affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society and one of three in Langlade County (in addition to White Lake and Elcho). Planners of the new Madison facility want to hear from local communities on what they feel "Makes Wisconsin Wisconsin?" They will use information gathered to prepare exhibits for display in Madison which would then be installed in the local contributing museums.

To better plan, the Wisconsin Historical Society is embarking on a listening tour throughout the state, visiting 19 sites of local historical societies and 12 American Indian Nations. Some meetings have already taken place and our area's turn will occur in the spring of 2019, likely in Wausau. We are requesting our community to do their

homework and think about "What makes Wisconsin Wisconsin?", particularly what does this area contribute to defining our state. Is it our logging history, the impact of Kentucks, Kraft Cheese and other aspects of the dairy industry, Antigo Silt Loam and potatoes, our recreational facilities, or something else?

We will update the schedule as it becomes known but until then let us know what you think through a phone call, email, letter, or drop in during museum hours. Better yet, come to the meeting to contribute there and see what others have to say.



One of the first listening sessions was held in Superior.

# Museum Remodeling

After some false starts, and input from museum visitors, members, and the general public we are well on the way to advance with a detailed remodeling plan for the building. What started as a careful Historic Structures Report in 2003, followed by several *ad hoc* vital repairs and a preliminary remodeling plan which met with some negative feedback, we have developed a workable plan with an excellent advisory team. Original plans began with interior remodeling but evolved, after input, into a priority for improving accessibility first. Working now with Wausau based architect Rod Cox, who has designed Hoffman Hall at St. John Catholic Church in Antigo, and local builders we are looking to erect an addition to the north façade of the building that will house an elevator and restrooms with access to all three floors. The style will be consistent with the architecture of the Carnegie Library which houses the museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The plan removes an objection to the earlier plan to build a ramp entrance into the main entry. This would have adversely affected the appearance of the east facing main façade and had a number of practical problems.

Additional improvements, as funds allow, will include energy efficient lighting appropriate for museum

## Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

Let's Make History  
c/o Langlade County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 215  
Antigo, 54409

displays, and repairing and improving the ceiling and heating/air conditioning duct work. Another goal, if funding allows, is to restore the space on the second floor for use as an auditorium. With the building becoming accessible to all we can again host events and programs in the space as it was originally intended.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Let's Make History, c/o Langlade County Historical Society, P.O. Box 215, Antigo, 54409. Handouts on the project are available at the museum's front desk and on our web site. A brochure is in development. To learn more or arrange a presentation on the project, contact Joe Hermolin at the museum, 715 627-4464, or Lisa Haefs at 715 499-2974 or Nancy Bugni, at 715 610-4464.



Left: Current north face of the museum

Right: Architect's sketch of proposed addition. The addition would include an elevator and new restrooms.

# Prohibition Begins (Again)

In 2019 we celebrate (but not drink to) the centenary of the passing of the 18th amendment which initiated prohibition. It was ratified in 1919 and enacted in 1920. But it was not Antigo's first attempt at temperance. Francis Deleglise, Antigo's founder, was opposed to alcohol and worked hard to keep it out of the city he established. As a village Antigo was under Deleglise's control and was officially dry. But a drink was often available to those who knew their way around the rules and the right places to go. Once incorporated as a city in 1885 new rules applied and the first legal sales of alcohol under municipal license occurred. That did not last long. In April 1886 a referendum resulted in a victory for the anti-liquor forces. Once again things changed quickly. A second referendum in 1887 reversed the alcohol ban and alcohol again became available in Antigo. Alcohol sales continued until 1920 when Prohibition took effect.

Deleglise did what he could to limit the availability of alcohol. In 1883 when the first locomotive entered Antigo's depot it was celebrated with sandwiches and lemonade -nothing stronger. But within 3 years of Deleglise's death in 1892 two breweries were established: Citizens Brewery (in the 500 block of Superior Street, near where BB Jacks is now) and Antigo Brewery at Ninth Avenue and Edison Street.

Both Antigo breweries did well until Prohibition initiated a period of bootleggers, speakeasies, and bathtub gin. The two Antigo breweries tried to make a go of it with soft drinks



and "near beer". But it didn't work and both enterprises went out of business. The Citizen's Brewery building is no longer extant but the Antigo Brewery structure had an interesting afterlife. In the 1920s Kraft Cheese, based in the Chicago area, looking to expand operations, chose Antigo as the site for a new plant. They took over the building

at Ninth Ave. and Edison and repurposed it for cheese production. Today with major modifications, the same building operates as Sartori Cheese. It was a natural transition. What could be more appropriate for Wisconsin than beer and cheese. If you add in brats you have what some Badger State residents consider the three basic food groups.



Antigo Brewery and Citizens Brewery both closed with the onset of Prohibition in 1920.

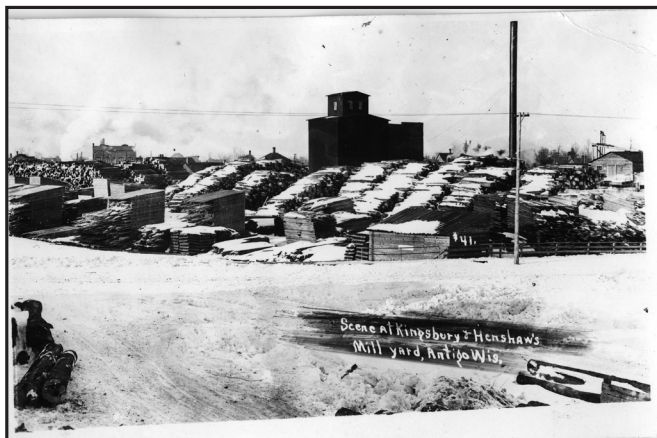
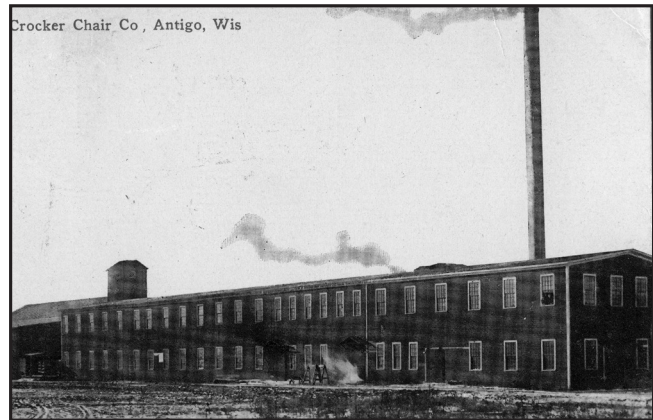
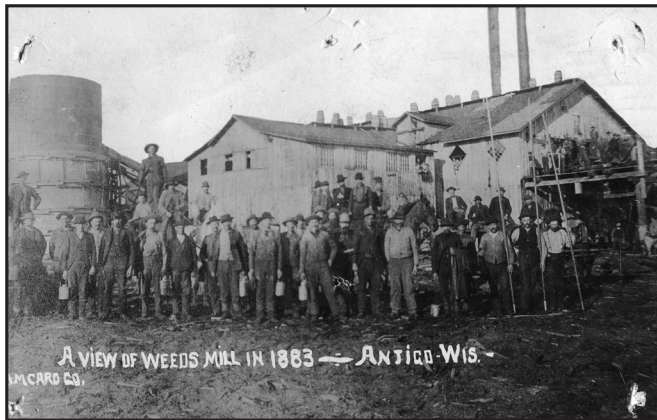
# Logging and Wood Products

Logging and wood products brought settlers to the region. Here are some of Antigo's wood industries:

Top row: Weed's Mill in 1883 (left), Crocker Chair Company (right)

Middle row: Kingsbury & Henshaw Mill (left), Antigo Lumber Company (right)

Bottom row: Heinemann Lumber Company (left), Veneer mill after being destroyed in a fire (right)



**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 Craftsman or Mission Style rocker was used by Judge John Parsons in his office. Parsons was the judge during the transition from Langlade County's first court house to its second (and current) court house built in 1905. He was also the first president of the Langlade County Historical Society when it was formed in the 1920s.



404 Superior Street  
 Antigo WI, 54409