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Museum Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday:
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2008

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Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors

Sue Baginski
Dean Blazek
Patrick Blood
Glenn Bugni
Nancy Bugni
Lisa Haefs
Joe Hermolin
Joe Sveda
Red Turney

Museum Events: History on Local TV

The Historical Society is now collaborating with Antigo High School to bring local history to the community in a new way.

The high school has a Media Productions class that is open to all students taught by Glenn Bugni with technical advisor Ben Wilhelm. Students produce a news show that is shown on Cable Channel 3 (formerly Channel 2).

Among the various programs is a series devoted to local history. Students Mike McNeil, Greg Pizl and Jake Weber have been conducting interviews for Cable 3 TV. They are assisted by a film and sound crew of other students and work in a state-of-the-art studio at the high school.

This is not yet The History Channel but it is a good start.

To date the students have prepared and aired programs on the museum itself with Joe Hermolin, the restoration of the 440 steam locomotive with Glenn Bugni, and a talk on the barns of Langlade County by Dean Blazek presented at the annual meeting of the Langlade County Historical Society. A fourth program on the story of the Deleglise family and how they came to settle in Antigo has been filmed but not yet aired. Future programs are being planned.

These programs will soon be made available for viewing at the museum.



Jake Weber at the Cable 3 News Desk. Jake is one of the students doing programs on local history along with Mike McNeil and Greg Pizl.

Displays at Local Events and Annual Meeting



The display at Kretz Lumber Days featuring old photos, tools, and a display of CCC camp in Elcho.

This past September the museum once again had a display at Kretz's Lumber Days. In addition to tools and photographs of lumbering in the past, we featured material on the CCC camp at Otter Lake near Elcho and its role in forestry in the 1930's.

Our annual meeting in November was attended by over 90 people who heard a concise and interesting talk by Dean Blazek on local barns. It featured his pen and ink drawings. One of these drawings was donated by Dean Blazek and given as a door prize.

Elections were held to fill board positions of Sue Baginski, Patrick Blood, and Red Turney, whose terms had expired. These three persons were reelected at the recommendation of the board.

A. J. Kingsbury: A Noted Local Photographer

Antigo was the home base of a prominent photographer who documented life in the northwoods in the early decades of the 20th century. Arthur J. Kingsbury was born in 1876, the son of John J. Kingsbury, owner of a saw and flour mill in Antigo.

A. J.'s first photo shop was in his parents' home on Superior St. In 1891 he became one of Eastman Kodak's first accounts. He moved to Fifth Avenue where for several decades he operated at several locations, never owning his own building. For a time

he also had a branch store in Minocqua.

A.J. Kingsbury was never a portrait photographer. Instead he took postcard views. These were quite marketable at a time when few people took their own pictures.

He would pack his car with cameras and 4x5 glass plates and drive around photographing. His scenes of Indians, logging operations, railroads, depots, and cityscapes are still highly prized. The Menominee and Chippewa were happy to pose for him

as it helped promote tourism and because he was generous in paying those who posed. His work documented life before the northwoods became a major tourist destination. At its peak the business printed half a million postcards annually.

In 1953 Kingsbury retired. H. A. Ehlers continued operating the business until 1987. A fire in 1967 damaged or destroyed many of the original glass plate negatives but several hundred survived.



A.J. Kingsbury on a photographing trip with his car loaded

The museum has many glass plate negatives and prints. We would like to scan and catalog these images. Volunteers for this project are welcome.

Langlade County's Early Residents: The Chippewa



Photographer A.J. Kingsbury with Chippewa friends and subjects

When Willard Ackley and later Francis Deleglise came to this area, they did not come to an area devoid of people. The Menominee and Chippewa Indians inhabited much of the land. The Chippewa came from further east, probably in the 15th century, in search of a place where, according to their myths, they should resettle in an ar-

ea where food grew on water. When they discovered wild rice they knew they were home. The Sokaogon (Mole Lake) group settled in the Summit, Pelican and Pickerel Lakes area. In 1806 they took part in the "Battle of Mole Lake": the last major conflict between the Chippewa and Sioux for control of the wild rice beds.

In 1854 treaties forced the

Chippewa into four reservations: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, and Red Cliff.

The treaties didn't establish a home for the Mole Lake band or they were lost. By the 1920's they were reduced to a destitute band, roaming through Langlade and Forest counties. In 1934 the Mole Lake Reservation was established.

The Daskam House / Hospital

This mansion on the northeast corner of Superior and First Street was built for Edward Daskam, a grandson of a Revolutionary War soldier and himself a Civil War veteran. He came to Antigo in 1881 and invested in real estate and other busi-

nesses. This home was built in 1897 at a cost of about \$5,000. It was an office, family home and the site of many elegant dance parties.

In 1911 the Daskam family returned to Michigan and the building was converted into a

hospital (Antigo's second) operated by brothers: Doctors M. J. and E. J. Donahue.

In 1933 with the opening of Langlade Memorial Hospital, the building ceased being a hospital and in 1935 was converted into apartments.



The Daskam mansion before Superior Street was paved.

Francis Deleglise Goes to Camp Randall

The museum has Francis Deleglise's letters describing his Civil War experiences. In 1861 he left his wife and three children in Appleton and enlisted in the Iron Brigade, "Bragg's Rifles" and reported to Camp Randall.

In a letter home he wrote (in French): "I arrived here...after a fine trip. We fell into rank and marched to

Camp Randall between two lines of guards...We were thus placed one file on each side of a table on which were a pint drinking cup, a tin plate, a knife, and fork for each man. We ate a light meal of bread and butter, fat meat, and cold coffee....A cannon salute wakens us at five o'clock in the morning. At 5:30 we have roll call and then drill until breakfast at 7

...bread, potatoes, and meat cut up and mixed together and coffee. From 9:30 to 11 we drill. Dinner at 12 consists of meat, soup, potatoes, bread, butter, bacon and water. From 3:30 to 4:30 we drill. At 5:30 we have a supper of bread, meat, butter, potatoes, coffee, and molasses or applesauce. ..at 9:30 all is quiet."



Flag of the Iron Brigade, Bragg's Rifles listing the battles in which they took part.

Wisconsin's County Forests: First in Langlade County



Eva Uhlemann and Kirsten Stengel on the ski trails at Jack Lake, part of the county's forest system.

The Ice Age Hiking Trail goes through the county forest at Jack Lake.

By the 1920's Wisconsin's forests had been reduced from 30 million acres to about 2 million due to lumbering and farm clearing.

In 1926 a referendum in Langlade County established Wisconsin's first county forest. There are now 125,000 acres in Langlade County and a total of 2.3 million

acres statewide in 27 protected county forests.

A historic marker at Jack Lake commemorates Langlade County's initiative in the preservation of forests for recreation, improvement of wildlife and water quality and establishing a stable basis for the forest products industry.

Thank You to the Following:

Donations:

- Joyce Benes:** 1910 Railroad map
- Beverly Bibeau:** Wooden guest book of Margaret Studios
- Beth Castaldi:** Book with prints
- Dee Dailey:** Medical equipment
- Mike Donahue, Sr.:** Sickles and a kraut cutter
- C. D. Duchac:** Framed certificate
- David Duchac:** Life Magazine
- Dale Erlandson:** WWII rifle
- Jeannette Fondow:** 1938 class memorabilia
- Carol Gelhausen:** Framed Photos
- Judy Grimm:** Kitchen items from 1930's
- Rose Vanden Huevel:** Bridal clothes

- Earl King:** Scrapbooks, LP's
- Helen Knolinski:** Household items
- Sarah Maxted:** Magazines and AHS yearbooks
- Julius Michels:** Antigo Brewery & Theisens bottles
- Harry Mills:** Receipts from Antigo's first dentist (Dr. Mills)
- Bill Rammer:** photos of his father and steam locomotive
- Janet Schabell:** Commemorative material of CCC camp 657 Elcho
- Kurt Schisel:** Korean war material
- Patrick Sieminski:** Lionel train set
- Kelley Steger:** Women's apparel and school desks
- Women's Club of Antigo:** Tribute to Members book
- City of Antigo:** Stain glass window from McMillion Hotel and

horseshoes from Aulik's Blacksmith Shop

Cash Contributions:

Wagner Shell
In memory of Merlyn Schulz
City of Antigo for the Railroad Park

Memberships

Business/Professional:
 Northern Building Maintenance
 Bill and Helen Williams

New Lifetime members:

John Hagerty
 Tom Krief
 Jacob Meister
 Toni Thomas
 Karen Traut

Member Renewals:

Arleen Bubon
 James Damos
 Ludene Dewan
 Allen Gresch
 Sam and Mary Hardin
 Mary Josvai
 Ed and Geneva Kennedy
 Cheryl and Jeff Marx
 Andrea Mevis
 Bernard Stats
 Jim Thomas

Items in Need:

World War II material
 Several AHS yearbooks (1939 to '42, 1944 to 54, and 57, 58)
 A functional refrigerator

New 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

The Langlade County Historical Society is organized to preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge in the history of Langlade County. We try to achieve these goals by maintaining the museum, the Deleglise cabin, a railroad caboos and locomotive on the grounds. In addition, we use our archives to prepare presentations for the public and assist researchers.

The Society is always looking for volunteers to greet visitors at the museum, to help organize and catalog our material, and to maintain our holdings. Anyone who can help on a regular basis or just from time to time is encouraged to call the museum. If you have an interest in helping preserve our past, we have a job for you.

The museum lobby has display cases of changing exhibits.

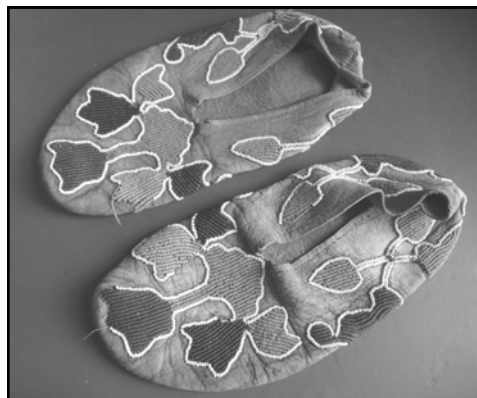
If anyone has ideas or items for future displays, please contact Mary Kay Wolf at the museum.

Items from the Museum:

Indian Moccasins

These moccasins were left in Neils Anderson's store by a local Chippewa man who was buying his first pair of manufactured shoes.

Anderson's store/hotel/post office was the second building in Antigo after the Deleglise cabin.



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