



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter *Winter 2009*

Museum Events: Native American Beadwork

Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

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Inside:

Page 2: Helping the Deleglise family settle here, Crocker Chair Company
Page 3: The Antigo Daily Journal, Thank you
Page 4: Items from the museum, Upcoming events

Recently the museum received a generous donation of examples of Native American beadwork from the collection of Dick Brock, originally from Antigo. The collection contains examples of different items such as belts, bandolier bags, moccasins, children's toys, and more.

We are now working with a local anthropologist, Dr. Jeanne Connors, and members of the Menominee and Chippewa to organize, catalog, and document this fine collection of Native American crafts and exhibit it.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, Native Americans of the Great Lakes region began using beads and cloth acquired from Anglo-Americans to create bandolier bags. They were made by women for their fathers, brothers, or husbands for ceremonial occasions. Elaborate patterns signified personal status and tribal identity. Often cosmological concepts were incorporated into the patterns.



Left: One of the bandolier bags donated to the museum by Dick Brock
Right: Detail from a photograph by A.J. Kingsbury taken in 1909 of a Lac du Flambeau Chippewa wearing a bandolier bag

The Grange Movement

The Grange Movement began just after the Civil War as a national organization for farmers. At first its goals were educational and social, but it became a major political force in agrarian reform. They helped establish cooperative grain elevators, mills, and stores. Their political influence was strongest in the Midwest where they helped pass important legislation.

By the end of the 19th century, their goals were part of

other parties and the Grange reverted primarily to being a social organization.

The Grange began in Langlade County in 1912 and by 1916 was the state leader in the movement. In 1914 John Cleary in Peck Township added a lean-to on his house to establish a co-op store. By 1919 there was a co-op store in Antigo as well.

From a peak of 14 Granges in 1916, there was only one, in Elcho, by 1975.

In later years the Grange was mostly involved in social activities. They organized basketball teams and dance bands. The Ackley Grange band consisted of 12 musicians and played at other Grange halls. Halls were also meeting places.



This building in Elcho was the last of the Grange Halls in Langlade County

Local Chippewa Helped the Deleglise Family Settle Here

Langlade County was inhabited by many different Indian groups prior to the arrival of white settlers. Major groups included the Sioux, Chippewa, and Menominee; but Sacs, Algonquin and Iroquois were also here.

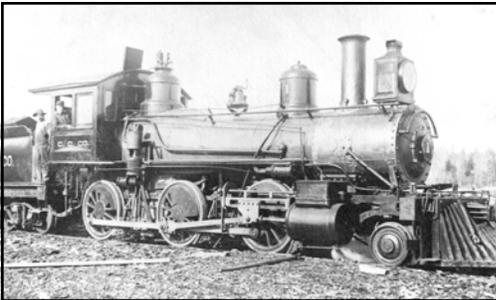
Langlade County's first white settler was William Ackley who arrived in 1852 to set up a trading post just west of what became Antigo. He married a Chippewa woman. The help that Mrs. Ackley provided the

Deleglise family is recalled in memoirs of two of the daughters of Francis and Mary Deleglise. When Francis Deleglise first explored the area as a timber cruiser, he would arrive with two or three months supplies that he would leave with Ackley while he surveyed the area. He was always welcome and Mrs. Ackley cared for him when he was sick. For months at a time, his only communication with his family was by letters delivered to him in the woods by

Mrs. Ackley or some other Indian messenger.

The first member of the Deleglise family to settle here was a daughter, Mrs. Mary Deresch. It was Mrs. Ackley who taught Mary how to tan deer skins, to make moccasins, and how to bead them. It was also from Mrs. Ackley that Mary learned what roots were good and their uses.

Crocker Chair Company



The area around Elton, often referred to as "Crocker Hills" is a reminder of what was once a major local industry. Logging operations in the area were done by the Crocker Chair Company, which had several camps. It also operated a sawmill in Elton and a large chair manufacturing company in Antigo.

Most of the factories were situated around Kellogg's Pond, now Antigo Lake; but some were in other parts of Antigo.

The Crocker Chair Company occupied 10 acres between Seventh and Ninth Avenues on either side of Springbrook.



The chair factory in Antigo was only one of several factories producing wood products in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There were also a broom handle company, a screen door company, and a veneer company.

One interesting feature of the Crocker Chair Company is that it operated its own small railroad line from 1907 to 1922. It brought logs from the various logging camps to the Elton sawmill and connected to the Chicago Northwestern to bring logs into Antigo to be used in chair manufacturing.

Top: Engine of the Crocker Chair Co. line.
The engine label is "C.C. Co."
Bottom: The chair company in Antigo

The Antigo Daily Journal

Antigo is unusual in being one of only a few Wisconsin cities with a family owned daily newspaper. The Antigo Daily Journal is important in providing local news and promoting the community.

Antigo's first newspaper, the New County Republican, was founded in 1880 by George Radcliffe who came to Antigo from Clintonville.

From 1880 to 1919 Antigo had several weeklies including two in German.

The Berner brothers, Frank and Henry, grew up in Antigo and were in the newspaper business in their teens. In 1890 they purchased the Antigo Journal, then a weekly. They were joined in 1902 by another brother Otto.

On September 18, 1905 they published the first edition as a daily. It was 4 pages. Fred Berner was its editor for the first 35 years of its existence.

The newspaper is still in the family today.

The Antigo Daily Journal continues supporting the community including the Historical Society. Recently they, together with Dr. John and Elsa McKenna have subsidized the Society's printing of a book that describes some of Antigo's historic landmarks. The book is now available at the museum.



The Antigo Daily Journal offices (undated)

Thank You

Marie Bahr: Children's clothes, plat books

Shirley Boudry: sleigh, jewel box

Richard Brock: Collection of Native American beadwork

Walter Campell: 1904 registry of the HooHoo Hotel

Susan Caplinger: Postcards of Antigo

William Dahlke: WWII U.S. Army overcoat

Bob Duerwachter: Logging tools, photo of Elcho depot

Eugene & Celia Grams: drum, tambourine

John Hanus: Movie projector

Iolene Holland: Organ, household items

Adrian Kennedy: Lumber camp coffee pot, misc. items

Janet Larsen: Liver sausage machine

Jane Lynett: Antigo High School yearbooks

Barb McDougal: C&NW passes

Harry Mills: Antigo Island Club items

Ed Morrissey: WWII photo of him aboard ship

Kathryn Neidl: C&NW passes

Dick Olk: Antigo High School yearbooks

Dawn Ofsthun: Toys

Paul and Sandrs Radmer: 1915 Plat book

Craig Resch, Jessica Kerner: Railroad timetables

Jim Roesner: Presidential Inauguration buttons, books

Robert Svaton: Knitting machine, 1909 Sanborn map, Antigo Junior High newsletters

Kathy Sveda: Chair

Otto Tieg: Furniture

Vera Tveten: Yearbooks, clothes, medical book

Phyllis Veselek: Commemorative plate, book

Ivol Warner: Dolls, doll clothes, clothes

John Warner: WWII Navy clothes

Sharon Wiedmaier: Odd Fellows & Rebekkan Lodge items

David Zingg: 1924 Tourist promotional booklet

Cash Donations:

Jim Aulik

Sue Baginski for a projector

Dean Blazek for a projector

Richard Brock to document & display his Native American artifacts collection

Joe Hermolin for a projector

John & Elsa McKenna to publish a book on Antigo's landmarks

City of Antigo for a walking tour brochure

Langlade Genealogical Society

Neff Switch Horizons 4H

Women of Faith

Membership Renewals:

Jim & Jeanne Darling

Ludene DeWan

Lillian Fronck

Fred & Kathleen Kelm

Jacqueline Reynolds

Christine Schimmels-Spote

James Thomas (life member)

Helen Tuska

Betty Zittel

New Member:

Susan A. Johnson

Special Thanks: **Ross Fischer** for scanning part of our photo collection

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web site: www.langladehistory.com
Museum Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday:
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 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

Items from the Museum: Scrip Money

The Great Depression created major problems in banking and credit. To bypass the federal system, hundreds of local institutions issued “scrip” money that was used in the area. This one was issued by the First National Bank of Antigo and donated to the museum by Dean Blazek.

Upcoming Events

Book about Antigo’s Landmarks: The museum has published a 40 page booklet describing Antigo’s landmarks. It should be available for purchase at the museum in early January. The cost is \$5.

Frank Vavruska Art Exhibit: During January we will host an exhibit of paintings by Frank Vavruska, an Antigo artist who did much of his best known work in Mexico and New York City.



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404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409