



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter Spring, 2010

Spring and Summer Plans at the Museum

Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors:

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

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On Saturday, June 5, we will once again sponsor a rummage sale fundraiser on the museum grounds. Donated items may be brought to the museum during regular museum hours up to the end of May. We cannot accept large appliances or clothing. The sale itself will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 5.

Our annual picnic in our Railroad Park is scheduled for Wednesday June 23. We will be serving brats, hamburgers, potato salad and soft drinks for a cost of \$5. The Pine Tones will again provide the music.

On September 25, we will be hosting an Antiques Collectibles Appraisal style event. Expert appraisers will be on hand to help the public assess their antiques.

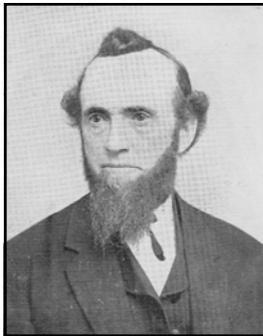
We are currently organizing details of this event and looking for capable experts in various areas. More details will be announced in the future.



Top: Curator Mary Kay Wolf making final adjustments at last year's sale.

Bottom: Part of the picnic crowd listening to the Pine Tones.

Squire Taylor: Founder of New (Langlade) County



Squire Taylor (1806-1902)

Squire Taylor is considered the founder of Langlade County. He was a lumber man who for many years operated in the area of the Wolf and Lily Rivers. Thanks to his efforts the state created "New" County in 1879, which was later renamed Langlade County after Charles de Langlade who fought in the French-Indian Wars.

Squire Taylor promoted New County in a pamphlet proclaiming that the county had "200,000 acres of the best farm lands" with a population of about

1,200. He wrote that no matter what business a man might pursue "New County is the Place to secure it."

He described the fine timber, productive farm land available for \$2.50 to \$3 an acre, and excellent fishing in the county's lakes and streams. He praised the county's central location, accessibility by rail, and facilities such as sawmills and a blacksmith shop.

At the time of his death in 1902, he was living in Antigo.

Mepps Lures: For Some, Antigo's World-Wide Fame

For some people, a sure sign of spring is the putting away of ice fishing gear and taking out of rods, reels, and lures.

A.L. "Todd" Sheldon was able to turn his love of fishing into a successful business known worldwide with the manufacture of Mepps lures.

Todd Sheldon was born in 1913 in Minnesota, came to Antigo with his family and graduated from Antigo High School in 1931. He was enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Elcho and had various jobs before opening Sheldon's Sport Shop on Superior Street in 1948.

It was while operating that shop that he developed the Mepps Spinner. The story goes that he was fishing in the Wolf River without much success when he tried a French spinner given him by Frank Velek, a GI who had served in France. The spinner worked

so well that Todd Sheldon started making and selling them out of his shop. Soon production increased and a new shop opened on Antigo's north side.

Todd Sheldon was inducted into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. Today the company, still family-owned and operated, conducts popular tours of its facilities. The lures have made Antigo known in Europe among anglers.

The Sheldon family has always been a benefit to the community with its charitable donations, including those to this museum.

Detail from a photograph by Arthur J. Kingsbury promoting tourism and resorts in northern Wisconsin



Grabowsky Brickyard

Many buildings in Antigo and the surrounding area were built using bricks made by a family operation. That family is still in the community, and the original home still occupied by descendants.

Ed Grabowsky was a member of the Kaiser's Palace Guard when he and his wife Laura came to Antigo in 1886. At the time Antigo was a small town with few, if any, brick buildings in spite of a clay soil in the area that was ideal for brick making. Ed Grabowsky began a brickyard, having learned the trade from his father. His business expanded and two relatives also began manufacturing bricks.

In the 1920's the brickyard produced close to 500,000 bricks annually with about half being used throughout the state and the rest locally.

The original family home at 926 Hogan (at First Avenue) was partially destroyed in a tornado in 1898 but was rebuilt and is still in the family. Three other homes at the intersection of First Ave. and Hogan Street were built for other family members using Grabowsky bricks.



*Top: The family home after it was damaged by the tornado in 1898
Bottom: The home, rebuilt, today*

Museum: Red Turney and the Work Crew

Our new roof is the most visible sign of the constant work required to maintain our facilities but much more is going on, mostly by volunteers. Last winter a crew of Red Turney, Ken Bolle, Jerry Geiger, Cliff Hoffmeister, and Jeff Marx remodeled much of our basement. This project began when some ceiling tiles came down. Previously display and storage areas on the first and second floor were targeted for improvements.

Further work in the basement had to be postponed during this past winter; but once the snow is gone and the museum grounds are dry, we will begin anew to generate more storage space in the basement.

Remodeling of the basement will allow us to store items and rotate our displays more efficiently.



Cliff Hoffmeister (left) and Red Turney (right) erecting shelves on the main floor to display some of our Indian beadwork.

Thank You to the Following People:

Items Donated:

Steve Bradley: Book listing servicemen who died overseas and return of their remains, railroad pictures, newspaper prop from "Flags of Our Fathers" movie

Sheila Jeffrey: Post card, vase showing the library (donated in memory of Irene Griesse)

Helen and Ed Morrissey:

Landbook of Francis Deleglise
Dale Oatman: Items from WWI and WWII

Carol Pecore: Photo of Foster Jewell from WWI

Sandy Robrecht: Booklets, Souvenir from Dixie Lunch

George Rock: The Log Cabin story by Randall Rohe

Rebecca Templeton: Souvenir plate of Antigo

Linda West: Railroad time records

Monetary Donations:

Jay Blazek (In honor of his parents Dean and Polly Blazek)

Lee and Ludene Dewan
Juliet Galarowicz estate
Mrs. Casimir Winski

New Members:

Jerry Geiger
Mitchell and Sharon Zmuda

Member Renewals:

Elvera Frisch
Jeff and Cheryl Marx
Jacob Meister
Robert Ourada
Helen Peters

Special Tours included:

Junior Girl Scout Troop 7048 of Elcho
Boy Scout Pack 245 of Birnamwood

We always need help with volunteers at the front desk and with labor and materials.

At the moment we are specifically looking to buy mannequins to display some of our military uniforms and other clothing items.

Donations of time and labor or cash for specific projects are welcome. Contact Mary Kay Wolf for more information.

Gift Shop Help:

Is there anyone interested in organizing, planning and managing our gift shop? The museum seeks a volunteer, preferably with retail experience, willing to help us organize our gift shop.

Contact Mary Kay Wolf at 627-4464

404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409
Phone: (715) 627-4464
Email: lchs@dwave.net
web site:
www.langladehistory.com
Museum Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday:
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Items from the Museum:

Medical and dental care have greatly improved since earlier days. This dental X-ray machine looks like part of a grade B science fiction movie set.
It either frightens or amuses many visitors.

Upcoming Events

Saturday June 5, 8 a.m.: Membership-sponsored rummage sale on the museum grounds.

Wednesday, June 23, 6 p.m.: Annual Railroad Picnic at the museum's Railroad Park with food and music by the Pine Tones.



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404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409