



# Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter Summer, 2010

## Antigo Hosts the Regional Meeting

**Curator:** Mary Kay Wolf  
**Board of Directors**  
Sue Baginski  
Dean Blazek  
Patrick Blood  
Glenn Bugni  
Nancy Bugni  
Steve Bradley  
Lisa Haefs  
Joe Hermolin  
Red Turney

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On Saturday, August 28, the museum will host the Northwoods regional meeting organized by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Council for Local History.

The daylong meeting brings together people from local historical societies to discuss current projects and issues. The day will include a workshop on effective membership programs and a description of the museum's collaboration with Wisconsin Heritage Online as we scan, catalog, and learn the history behind the photos of American Indians created in the early 20th century.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the Antigo Public Library. A \$15 registration fee includes beverages and snacks in the morning and a light lunch. There will be museum tours in the afternoon.

Anyone may attend; you needn't be a board member. Contact the museum for more information and registration forms.



*A.J. Kingsbury poses with Lac de Flambeau Ojibwas. Learning the history behind his photos has become a major project at the museum and will be described at the meeting on August 28.*

## C&NW in Antigo Celebration Picnic



*The Pine Tones provided music at last year's railroad park picnic. They will perform again at this year's picnic on June 23.*

Antigo was just a small cluster of homes and stores until the railroad expanded northward from Eland in 1880. The Chicago and Northwestern made Antigo headquarters its northern division in 1907 and from then, for the next half century, Antigo was a "railroad town."

In 2005 the museum commemorated the importance of the railroad in Antigo's history by buying and restoring a steam locomotive.

In 2007 we established a small park adjacent to the engine and began a tradition of holding a summer picnic at the museum featuring music, food, and, on request, museum tours and a chance to blow the train whistle.

This year's picnic will be on Wednesday June 23, starting at 5 p.m. The cost is \$5 and includes burgers, brats, beans, potato salad, soft drinks, ice cream, and music by the Pine Tones.

## The Volunteer Garden Crew

Maintaining the museum requires major efforts of many volunteers who fill many different roles. When the museum established the Railroad Park in 2007, it was helped by the efforts of Master Gardeners Trudy Bula, Toni Thomas, and friends. Toni continues to practice her gardening skills at the museum, landscaping

maintaining the plants in the Railroad Park.

Other volunteers who work at keeping the grounds attractive include Red and Judy Turney.

*The garden crew consists of (left to right) Trudy Bula, Mary Mollet (who also volunteers at the desk), Toni Thomas, Mary Herman and Connie Schmeiser.*



We always need help with volunteers at the desk and with labor and materials. This summer we plan to repaint the caboose and could use some help on a weekend afternoon [August 7 and 14] to help prep the caboose for the paint.

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

Donations of time, labor, or cash for specific projects are always welcome. Contact Mary Kay Wolf at the museum 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

## North Elementary Field Trip

When 4th and 5th graders at North Elementary read The Little House on the Prairie, they decided to visit the museum and the Deeglise cabin for an up-close, personal look at pioneer life.

The cabin, built in 1879, was occupied in the spring of 1880. The memoirs of one daughter recount the five-day trip by wagon from Appleton and how the cabin, not yet complete, had only curtains to shield them from spring snowstorms. An addition to the cabin served as Francis Deeglise's office as

he changed careers from that of a timber cruiser to a real estate developer.

The class was amazed to see how the family of eight lived in such close quarters, with no indoor plumbing, simple furniture, and primitive household items. For a time the Deeglise children had no playmates outside the family, "except for squirrels and chipmunks" in the words of one daughter.

The museum is fortunate to have the cabin and so many family documents describing Francis' participation in



*Students wonder at old laundry methods as they study a wash tub and mangle in the Deeglise cabin.*

various Civil War battles, his business life in Antigo, his role in the growth of Antigo, and the social life of his children and grandchildren.

## Arthur J. Kingsbury

Arthur Kingsbury was an early photographer based in Antigo. He specialized in real picture post cards.

He was born in 1876 and came to Antigo with his family where his father operated a lumber mill. After graduating from Antigo High School, college in Michigan, and several years of travel, he and his wife returned to Antigo in about 1904.

In 1906 he opened the Kingsbury Photo Store. He was an early producer of "real picture post cards" rather than a studio photographer.

Working when northern

Wisconsin was developing commercially, he not only documented changes, but his work helped promote tourism.

When he retired in 1953, his store was taken over by Henry Ehlers. Sadly, a fire in 1967 destroyed many of Kingsbury's negatives and glass plates. Those that survived, along with a collection of some of his post card images, are in the museum.

The museum is engaged in a project to scan, catalog, and gain some context for the photographs. The work is being done with Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO), which is dedicated to making Wisconsin's



*A young A. J. Kingsbury setting off on a photo shoot in northern Wisconsin.*

heritage available on the Web. The WHO program is a collaboration of Wisconsin Library Services, The Wisconsin Historical Society, the Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Public Museum, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division of Libraries, Technology and Community Learning.

## Thank You

### Items Donated

**Chuck and Rachelle Arndt:** marbles in memory of Walter Hoffmeister

**Dean Blazek:** C&NW items

**Betty Bradley:** Items relating to John Bradley and Iwo Jima

**Walter Campbell ,Jr.** C&NW items

**Joan Cline:** Photo of Bacon's Beer Barons baseball team

**Ed Drab:** Antigo maps

**Olga Getts:** Record player

**Tom Hartman:** Train whistle

**Sunday Hasse:** Photo album, railroad memorabilia in memory of Colin and Dolly Koelzer

**Donald Klabunde:** Antigo Rendering Works opener

**Clarence and Esther Kubeny:** hand mixer, WWII flight suit in memory of Gene Kubeny

**Dr. John McKenna:** Books by Dora Dessauereau

**Carol Pecore:** 1927 Plat book

**Jim Roesner:** Booklets on the 50th Presidential inaugural

**Grace Schmitt:** Washboard, milk bottle

**Francis Schneider:** Indian doll, in memory of Francis Duchac Kelly

**Robert Svaton:** Sharpening tool

**Dumaine "Red" Turney:** Sauerkraut stomper

**Phyllis Vesalek:** Antigo Centennial quilt

**Lila Zabransky:** Cut out model of the caboose

**Fire Department:** MSA mask and tank

### Money Donations:

**Lee and Perk Dinsmore**

**Helen Winski**

**Knitters Club:** (Peg Brandt, Allie Brehm, Renate Bromberg, Judy Cole, Mary Alice Keen, Barbel Kohm)

**CoVantage Credit Union  
Sheldon Foundation**

### New Members

Otto and Jeanne Tiegs

**Special Thanks** to members who donated items and their time for our rummage sale. It was a very successful fundraiser.



*Sue Baginski finalizes a sale at the recent rummage sale.*

We recently hosted school tours from 2nd and 4th grade North Elementary and two 3rd grade classes from West Elementary

404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409  
Phone: (715) 627-4464  
Email: lchs@dwave.net  
web site: www.langladehistory.com

Museum Hours:  
Tuesdays to Saturdays:  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
[summer hours]

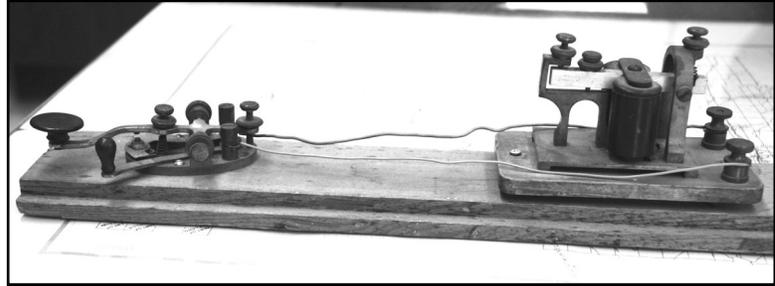
**New Membership Dues**

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

**Upcoming Events**

**Railroad Park Picnic:** Wednesday, June 23, 5 p.m. at the museum.

**Northwoods Historical Society's Regional Meeting:** Saturday, August 28, 9 a.m. at the Antigo Public Library



**Items from the Museum:** Before satellite communication and Face Book, the telegraph was used for rapid communication. This key set was used by the C&NW railroad in Antigo to keep in touch with other stations.

Langlade County Historical Society  
404 Superior Street  
Antigo WI, 54409