

# LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## CURATOR:

Mary Kay Wolf

## DIRECTORS:

Dean Blazek	Joe Hermolin
Nancy Bugni	Jim Klapste
Glenn Bugni	Terri Torgerson
Judy Grimm	Diane Zuelzke
Lisa Haefs	

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## LCHS Upcoming Events

Though it may not be time to put away the snow shovels museum staff and volunteers are planning for spring and summer. Two major events in June have been scheduled. On Saturday June 1, the museum will hold a rummage sale of donated items. The sale coincides with the city-wide event and is a major fundraiser for the museum to help with operations. Donations will be accepted at the museum during regular hours or donators may call to make specific arrangements. We cannot accept large appliances or clothing.

On Wednesday June 19, we will host our annual Railroad Picnic. The tradition began as a celebration of the restoration of the



locomotive and has continued as a commemoration of the importance of the railroad to Antigo's history. Once again we will serve brats and burgers prepared by celebrity chefs Steve Bradley and Mike Haefs, as well as potato salad, ice cream and soft drinks for \$6.

## Antigo Visual Arts: Student Shows

One of the missions of Antigo Visual Arts has been to provide an opportunity for students to display their works. This winter two exhibits worked toward that goal. In January and February, high school and middle school students displayed the results of their classroom efforts in the AVA Gallery of the museum.

In February and March, the elementary students took their turn. From 100 to 150 people attended the high school/middle school show's opening reception as artists



brought parents and siblings to see their work. For some parents it was their first visit to the building since it had been converted from a library into the museum.



Photo left: A mother and student exhibitor drawing with pastels at the show

Photo right: Elsa McKenna examines the student pottery

# THANK YOU

## Item Donations:

- June Below: Photographs  
Jeannie Helm: Family memorabilia  
Robert Kakes: Flag, medals of Frank Franc form WWII  
James Klapste: 48 star flag, Chicago World's Fair souvenirs, household items  
Amanda Rosio: Blueprints  
Mitchell Zmuda: Logging tools  
Langlade Retired Educators: 1932 high school woman's gym suit

## Monetary Donations:

- Patricia Dellios: In honor of Dean Blazek Knitting Group  
Langlade County Genealogical Society  
Suick Foundation

## Monetary Donations in Memoriam:

- For Marion Osness from Dean & Polly Blazek

## Membership Renewal:

- Rod Barta  
Glenn & Nancy Bugni  
Dr. Robert & Dede Cromer  
Laurie Fellner  
Sheila Hall  
Sharron Hanson  
Sam Hardin (Lifetime)  
Cliff & Marion Hoffmeister  
Robert Hogan & Sylvia Dennison  
Mary Josvai  
Fred & Kathleen Kelm  
Bill & Charlotte Kraft  
Jeff & Cheryl Mark  
Jacob Meister  
Dave & Judy Peterson  
Jean Marilyn Preiss  
Sandy Robrecht  
Nick & Jeanette Salm  
Dick Strasser  
Red & Judy Turney  
William & Mary Zelinski  
Mitch & Sharon Zmuda

## New Members:

- Ronald Korn  
Jeffrey Thomas

## LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Volunteers at Museum

The museum depends on its volunteers. Some work on an irregular schedule behind the scenes on various projects and others are regularly at the desk greeting and orienting visitors to the museum.

Thursday's visitors will meet Cliff and Marion Hoffmeister. They both grew up in Langlade County and lived in Milwaukee for many years before retiring and moving back to this area. Both have been volunteers for many years and often pitch in with various tasks in addition to showing people around. Whenever there is a special event that requires baked goods we can count on Marion. Cliff, when it is quiet at the museum, will always find something that needs attention: tuning up the snow blower or mower (depending on the season), changing furnace filters or shoveling snow. Both were busy as winter approached putting up the Christmas decorations and eventually taking them down.

Laurie Fellner is another of the Thursday docent crew. She also grew up in this area, moved away and eventually came back. She now helps visitors, explains our



*Above: Cliff Hofmeister during one of our many late winter snow storms this year.*

*Below: Thursday volunteer Laurie Fellner arranges a display in the gift shop.*



displays and ensures that the space and displays are tidy and clean. We can also count on Laurie to provide baked goods for special events and for other museum volunteers.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

BECCA KAEGLI of

becca@oniondesign.me 715.610.5125

**ONION DESIGN**  
designing in layers

## 200 mile Journey in a Wheelbarrow

To most people the wheelbarrow is a utilitarian object. But for William Cross of Antigo, a machinist working for the railroad, and 13 others from 12 Wisconsin communities it was part of an endurance event and a means of earning badly needed extra dollars during the Great Depression. What was billed as “the world’s greatest wheelbarrow race” was another of the many endurance events of the Roaring Twenties and 1930s.

Wisconsin was not immune to the craze. In 1931 a race was held to commemorate the completion of Highway 26. The 10 stage race covered the 200 miles from Waupun to Eagle River. All contestants were required to push a wheelbarrow while covering the distance. On August 28 after speeches by Waupun’s mayor and other dignitaries, the runners/wheelbarrow pushers were off. Contestants who managed to get at least as far as Antigo were guaranteed \$5 per day. The first leg of the race, from Waupun to Rosendale, occurred during some heavy winds. Herbert Anklam was behind in the early part but surged to complete the 14-mile portion in two hours and 18 minutes, establishing a six minute lead over his nearest competitor. There was great celebration in Rosendale to see a hometown boy in first place.

Herbert Anklam’s tenure as leader was short lived. On the next day he dropped to third, as Marcus Dammeier of Tigerton led. Three contestants dropped out. By the fourth day, the road changed from



pavement to gravel, making for other challenges. Gravel was easier on the feet but made pushing a wheelbarrow more difficult. Despite a bout of flu, Dammeier maintained his lead of seven minutes over Erwin Wahlers of Birnamwood as they entered his hometown of Tigerton.

The sixth stage took the racers from Wittenberg to Antigo and a guaranteed payoff. Flu slowed Dammeier down and when Erwin Wahlers took the lead as the racers entered Birnamwood, another hometown boy was in the lead. They entered Antigo on South Superior Street, turned at Seventh Avenue onto Clermont and then went to the courthouse where they were greeted by George Polkinhorn and Henry Berner at a formal reception. After a meal, the contestants were guests of the Home Theater where they were introduced to the audience. Then a good night’s rest and it was on to the next stage.

At 9 am racers were on their way with Wahlers holding an almost one hour lead over previous leader Dammeier and almost two hours over Anklam who had won the first stage. After lunch in Kempster, they were off toward Elcho. Dammeier had dropped to fifth. Anklam

tied Wahlers for first place on the day’s event but Wahlers still held a comfortable overall lead. One contestant, Howard Tanner of Waupun, was struck from behind by an automobile carrying Illinois plates and limped across the finish line with a badly bruised leg.

The following stage, from Elcho to Monico, saw Dammeier withdraw. The stage from Monico to Three Lakes ended in a four way tie. Wahlers was in firm control of the overall lead. Tanner, who had sustained a fractured knee cap in his encounter with the automobile, did finish. On the final leg of the race from Three Lakes to Eagle River, Wahlers set a pace of 5.2 miles per hour to win first prize. Anklam, an early leader and in the top three, finished second with Paul Calum of Three Lakes taking third. Wahlers total time for the ten day, 200 mile event, was 41 hours and 38 minutes. Tanners, despite his fractured knee cap, did finish about 14 hours off the lead. William Cross of Antigo, never really in contention, finished about 12 hours behind Wahlers. Of the original 14 contestants, ten finished. Three dropped out in the early stages and Dammeier, an early leader, dropped out at Elcho, enough to earn him some money.



## History of your House

Just as some museum patrons are searching for their family histories, others would like to know the story behind their home or business.

Three major sources of information are good places to start. Sanborn maps were originally used for the purpose of fire insurance. In 1867 a surveyor named D.A. Sanborn established the Sanborn Map Company in New York City. Today Sanborn maps are important research tools. Thousands of Sanborn maps of hundreds of American cities and towns have been gathered in libraries and archives. Unfortunately, Sanborn did almost no mapping of rural areas. Each building on a Sanborn map was drawn to accurately show its true shape and composition. The museum has Sanborn maps of Antigo and Elcho from the early 20th century. The Wisconsin Historical Society has hundreds of Sanborn maps representing many Wisconsin cities and towns.

Another source is the city directory. Many cities had directories

that listed people at their home addresses and often included occupational information. These are not telephone directories, but a listing of who lived or worked at a particular address in the city. Most directories were arranged two ways: alphabetically by name and by street address. These entries can answer questions such as: Who lived at a specific address? Was the occupant the owner or a renter? What was their occupation? Was this a residence, a business, or both? Antigo has such directories covering several years.

Tax rolls and assessment lists are among the best sources for determining the age of a historic building. They are also useful for determining chain of ownership of a property and for plotting the development of an area or neighborhood. While the museum has some of the old tax rolls many have been moved to the Area Research Center, which for Langlade County is at UW-Stevens Point. Using tax rolls require some homework. The first thing



Thursday volunteer Marion Hoffmeister (left) shows a researcher a Sanborn map.

you need to know is the legal description of the parcel of interest. Next select a time frame for your research. The time frame you choose should be broad enough to include any remotely possible date of construction for your building. Tax rolls will tell not only who owned the property and the lot size, but also when major changes were made since that would be reflected in the assessment.

Much of this work requires an expertise beyond museum volunteers, but we can offer limited help. The Wisconsin Historical Society has more information on its web site.



Detail from one of the museum's bandolier bags featured on the *Recollection Wisconsin* web site.

## History on the internet

The museum has collaborated with Wisconsin Heritage Online to make some of our archives available over the internet.

Now Wisconsin Heritage Online has undergone major improvements and is named: The *Recollection Wisconsin*

program. It brings together more than 120,000 historical resources from across the state and provides new opportunities to discover and share community history.

What did Mineral Point's High Street look like in the 1870s? How did a Milwaukee magazine help lead the American craze for bicycling in the 1890s? Which stars performed at the Northernaire

# History on the internet (CONT'D FROM PAGE 4)

Resort in Three Lakes in the 1950s? The answers can be found on the newly redesigned web site of Recollection Wisconsin. [Recollectionwisconsin.org](http://Recollectionwisconsin.org) provides Wisconsin residents and audiences free access to history resources from the collections of libraries, archives, museums and historical societies across the state. Students, teachers, family history researchers and the general public can use the web site to explore more than 120,000 historic photographs, postcards, maps, letters, diaries, articles, books, artifacts, oral histories and other materials from dozens of Wisconsin communities. Since 2005 the program has offered training and guidelines for Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums and historical societies to share their collections online and has provided the technology to bring together these disparate digital collections in a single search portal. With the new web site, Recollection Wisconsin expands on its original mission to improve access to Wisconsin's cultural heritage by establishing a dedicated online space to foster understanding of and appreciation for community history.

New features visitors can find on [recollectionwisconsin.org](http://recollectionwisconsin.org) include:

- Share a story. Recollection Wisconsin has partnered with Wisconsin Life, an audio essay series on Wisconsin Public Radio that celebrates what makes Wisconsin unique, to collect and share stories contributed by visitors.

- Stories from Wisconsin collections. This ongoing series provides a closer look at small slices of state and local history, told through photographs and documents from participating organizations. Topics covered so far include deer hunting, grand hotels, home economics education, early bicycling culture and Welsh settlers in Wisconsin.
- Browse by category or on a map. A user-friendly browse interface enables visitors to explore collections by subject categories, such as cranberries, music or World War I, or by types of materials, such as plat maps or scrapbooks. Visitors can also use an interactive map to locate digital collections in or near their hometowns or other locations of interest.

To date the Langlade County Historical Society has uploaded our collection of Indian photographs, the Civil War letters of Antigo pioneer Francis Deleglise and photos of some of our artifacts. Work is in progress with the help of

volunteers Jim Klapste and Lloyd Godell to upload our railroad and logging photograph collection.

The Recollection Wisconsin program is sponsored by Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Financial support is provided by a grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation.



*Detail from a letter written by Francis Deleglise, in French, while training in Camp Randall. All of Deleglise's Civil War correspondence, transcriptions, and translations may be viewed at [Recollections Wisconsin](http://RecollectionsWisconsin.org).*

## Recollectionwisconsin.org

Recollectionwisconsin.org is a participatory site. Visitors are also invited to contribute their own memories, images, knowledge and comments through a variety of social features. These new features, which incorporate social media tools including Tumblr, Pinterest and Flickr, are central to the updated vision of the program: to create opportunities for audiences to discover personal connections to the past.

**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  
 Tues. to Sat.  
 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  
 Life Member: \$250

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday June 1:** Rummage sale at the museum grounds. Details on how to donate are on page 1

**Wednesday June 19:** Annual Railroad picnic. Details are on page 1

**Thursday July 11:** Museum pie sale at Music in the Park

**ITEMS FROM THE MUSEUM**



While the onset of prohibition led to the closing of both of Antigo's breweries it did not stop alcohol production. Moonshine manufacture was a lucrative business as described by Jon Schmidt in his book *The Phantom Still*.