

Spring 2014

## LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### Spring has Sprung

We all deserve a break from winter and at the museum we are thinking about our usual summer activities.

Our annual rummage sale at the museum will take place on Saturday June 7 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., the same day as the city-wide event. This is a major fundraiser for the museum and helps fund daily operations. We hope people with items they no longer use but are in good shape will donate them for our sale. Museum items will not be for sale. Donations may be dropped off at the museum during regular business hours or donors may call to make specific arrangements. We cannot accept

large appliances or clothing.

Another museum summer tradition is our annual railroad picnic. This year the picnic will be on Wednesday July 16 beginning at 5 pm. Once again we will be serving brats and burgers, potato salad, ice cream, and soft drinks for \$6.

Museum staff and volunteers will also be serving pie and ice cream at "Music in the Park" on Monday evening, July 28 at 5:30 p.m. Come join us there.

Although May 1st is not officially summer, that is when we begin our summer hours. We will be open

from Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. The Deeglise cabin and locomotive will be open for viewing upon request at the museum desk.



Above: Claire Repp being interviewed by a local TV reporter at last year's railroad picnic.

Below left: Logging trade tools and logging photos on display at the Farmers Market.

### Outside the Museum Walls

In addition to running the museum we also bring programs out to the community: for example presentations at Evergreen and Pine Meadows residences. Last fall a presentation on Antigo's landmarks at Pine Meadows was followed by a bus tour of the city for residents.

We also have displays at public events throughout the summer. Watch for us occasionally at the Antigo Farmers Market on Saturday mornings and other events.

For those who do history at a computer we have been working to

meet your needs as well. Through Recollection Wisconsin much of our collection is online. In 2012 the Recollection Wisconsin website's Langlade County sections averaged about 250 visits per month. In 2013 that number jumped to about 900 visitors per month.



#### CURATOR:

Mary Kay Wolf

#### DIRECTORS:

Dean Blazek  
Fran Brown  
Nancy Bugni  
Glenn Bugni  
Judy Grimm  
Lisa Haefs  
Joe Hermolin  
Dave Zingg  
Diane Zuelzke

**Items donated:**

Pam Augustyn:	Painting
Jim Bressette:	Scrapbook of news clippings
Rosemary & Jack Filbrandt:	Falkenhagen painting
Katherine & Peter Neidl:	Silver souvenir spoons of Antigo High School
David Reardon:	Old postcards
Randall Rohe:	Photos of Pelican & Enterprise Lakes
Sue & Dale Zierden:	Souvenir soap dish from Hessel Hardware 1890s

**Memorial Donations:**

In memory of Bob Neuworth, Daniel Murray from Jim & Connie Hubatch

In memory of Dominic Warner from Vanguard Charitable Foundation

**Monetary Donations:**

Sheldon Foundation

Patricia & Louis Dellios from Dean Blazek

**Membership Renewals:**

Dr. & Mrs. Cromer  
Lee & Perk Dinsmore  
Roger & Kay Doran  
Sheila Hall  
Shirley Harder  
Mary Josvai  
Ed & Geneva Kennedy  
William & Charlotte Kraft  
Cheryl & Jeff Marx  
Jacob Meister  
Don & Marry Mollet  
Dave & Judy Peterson  
Dorothy Rasmussen  
Sandy Robrecht  
Joe & Kathy Sveda  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Winter  
Diane Zuelzke

**Lifetime Member:**

Dr. John & Elsa McKenna

**New Members:**

Anne, Paul & Joshua McKenna

# A Pioneer Teacher

A woman of note with ties to northern Wisconsin is the subject of a recent biography intended for younger readers and published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. The book describes the life of a pioneer educator Electa Quinney. The following summary is provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society:

“Electa Quinney loved to learn. Growing up in the early 1800s in New York, she went to some of the best boarding schools. There she learned how to read, write, and solve tough math problems. She even learned how to do needlework. Electa decided early on that she wanted to become a teacher so she could pass her knowledge on to others.

But life wasn't simple. Electa was a Stockbridge Indian, and her tribe

was being pressured to move. So in 1828, Electa and others in her tribe moved to Wisconsin. Almost as soon as she arrived, Electa began teaching in a log building that also served as the local church. Electa became Wisconsin's very first public school teacher, educating the children of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians as well as the sons and daughters of nearby white settlers and missionaries.

Electa's life provides a detailed window onto pioneer Wisconsin and discusses the challenges and issues faced by American Indians in the nineteenth century. Her legacy as Wisconsin's first public school teacher makes her an inspiration to students of today.”

A copy of the book will be in the museum.

# The Stockbridge Indians

When the Stockbridge Indians were forced to Wisconsin they were joined by a number of dispossessed Munsee Indians. In 1843 they were offered a choice of U.S. citizenship or tribal status. In 1856 they were forced to move again, from the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago to near Bowler. In 1871 some of their timber was harvested by white lumber barons and sold for \$179,000. A lengthy legal battle ensued over what share of the profits should go to the Stockbridge-Munsee and how to distribute it. In 1892 John C. Adams, a Stockbridge Indian agent and attorney who campaigned

for Indian rights, testified before Congress that all Indians, citizens or tribal members, deserved a share. His argument prevailed.

J.C. Adams was a friend of Antigo resident Walter Dawley. About 1898 he visited Dawley and left behind a trunkful of documents. Dawley tried unsuccessfully to locate Adams and then donated the material to the Langlade County Historical Society. The Society, in turn, sent the material to the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison. Some of those documents were from John Quinney, Electa Quinney's son and shed some light on her life.

# March: Women's History Month



Right (top to bottom): Emma Leonard, Helen Benishek, Dr. Elizabeth Steffen, Bernice Stewart

Top: Meda Mates

In March the nation celebrates Women's History month and so it is appropriate that we consider, albeit a bit late, some of the women from Langlade County who made significant contributions in a variety of fields.

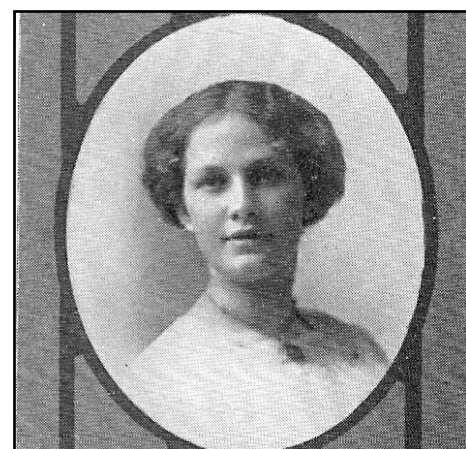
**Meda Mates** was an airplane pilot in the late 1930s and early 1940s when women aviators were a rarity and Langlade County had no airport. Together with her husband Fred they were known as the "Flying Mates". They were instrumental in establishing the Langlade County airport. Fred Mates was the airport's first manager.

**Emma Leonard's** husband Dan was elected sheriff of Langlade County in 1922. Emma was expected to help run the jail and tend to prisoners. When Dan died in office in 1924 Governor John Blaine appointed his widow to the position of sheriff; making her the first woman sheriff in Wisconsin.

**Helen Benishek** graduated from Antigo High School in 1914. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison she studied landscape architecture. She was one of a few women in what was then a new profession and may well be the first woman landscape architect in Wisconsin. She returned to Antigo where one of her landmark projects was planning and designing Antigo's City Park. Her plan is still in place today.

**Dr. Elizabeth Steffen** was the daughter of Dr. Lyman Steffen, a pioneer Antigo physician. Elizabeth, like her father, combined medical practice with community service. When she graduated from medical school in 1944 few women were in that profession. She practiced in Racine and helped found Family Planning Association of Racine (a forerunner to Planned Parenthood), and was a strong supporter of health care for the disadvantaged. She also did tours on the ship Hope which travelled to underdeveloped countries tending to medical needs of the local population.

**Bernice Stewart**, as a child, followed her father, a timber cruiser, as he visited lumber camps. Upon graduation from Antigo High School in 1911 she went to University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in English. Her major professor was a Shakespeare scholar but encouraged her to write about her experiences. Her research on the folk tales about Paul Bunyan, which she heard as a child, was one of the first academic studies of local folklore.



# Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Baseball is America's pastime. Not too long ago fans were drawn to local teams and leagues where people would "root, root, root, for the home team" which consisted of players they knew personally. Televising major league games and other changes have made baseball a major business and

altered how we view games. Here are some photographs of old time local teams when baseball was still a "pastime".



Photos (above clockwise):

Bacon's Beer Barons: The 1946 team from Bacon's Bar in Antigo

A game in progress in Elcho in the early 20th century

An Antigo team in 1901

An unknown local team, unknown date

The 1948 Bryant Spuds

An Antigo team travelling to a road game in Mattoon



## Antigo's Very Own Kentucky Derby Winner

Even people who don't regularly follow horse racing are aware of the Kentucky Derby, the first event in thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown and held the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Kentucky. It is a long way from Antigo to the winner's circle at Churchill Downs but someone has made it there often. D. Wayne Lucas has trained four Kentucky Derby winners as well as five Preakness Stakes and four Belmont Stakes winners, the other races in the Triple Crown. His work with thoroughbreds and quarter horses has earned him election to the U.S. Racing Hall of Fame and the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. He is horse racing's top all time earner.

Lucas was born in Antigo in 1935 and grew up on a nearby farm. He had his farm chores and also a paper route, delivering by horseback on his white pony, Queenie. That pony also carried him in his explorations of the countryside and the nearby Menominee reservation. And he also raced his horse at the Antigo County Fairgrounds. At the age of nine he was already buying and selling horses at auction at the Langlade County Fair.

His sports interests became his career - not with horse racing but basketball. He coached high school and then was assistant coach at University of Wisconsin while working on a master's

degree in Madison. While there he invented and patented a sneaker that Converse developed and marketed. He returned to coaching high school in LaCrosse. All the while he continued trading and training horses. In 1967 he decided to devote himself to horses. He was a successful trainer of quarter horses and soon dominated the sport. In search of new challenges he switched to thoroughbreds in 1978 and by 1983 was the leading money-winning trainer in the U.S.

Several items related to Lucas' career in horse training have recently been donated to the museum by family members. Some are on display and others available for viewing on request.

## AVA Gallery Show: Out of Africa

From April 3rd to June 6th the AVA Gallery in the museum is hosting an exhibit of photographs by Dave Staszak entitled "Photography on Safari in Southern Africa"; covering a recent photographic adventure to southern Africa - Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Dave Staszak describes his work as a photographer: "I have been

making photographs ever since my parents purchased a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye for me while I was in elementary school. I have always enjoyed capturing the moment and carry at least one camera wherever I go."

Dave Staszak retired in 2006, after 35 years as a university professor/administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. His training was as a biologist, so his photography gravitates toward animals and plants. He taught basic digital photography for the LIFE (Learning Is Forever) program at Stevens Point.

His work has been exhibited at the Riverfront Arts Center, the Lincoln Center, the Portage County Library,

**AVA**  
ANTIGO VISUAL ARTS  
AVA is a Langlade County United Way affiliate

**Photography on Safari  
in Southern Africa**  
April 3 through June 6

**The amazing animal photography  
of Dave Staszak**  
Artist reception Friday, April 4th 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
AVA Gallery • Historical Museum • 404 Superior • Antigo  
Museum hours through April 30: Thursday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm  
Museum hours May 1 through June 6: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm



the Ruth Gilfry Center in Stevens Point, the New Visions Gallery in Marshfield and the Alexander House in Port Edwards. The exhibit will be open during regular museum hours.

**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  
 Tuesday to Saturday  
 10 a.m. to 4 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**

**June 7:** Rummage sale at the museum  
**July 16:** Railroad picnic at the museum  
**July 28:** Music in the Park at City Park  
**All of June:** The Wisconsin Historical Society's travelling exhibit in Wausau

**ITEMS FROM THE MUSEUM**

Pete Rasmussen began working as a Chicago & Northwestern station agent at Summit Lake in 1905. He sold tickets, handled freight, and operated the telegraph. During World War II he was the "poster boy" for C&NW displays throughout the country. The copy for these displays read, in part: "Rasmussen knows that right now his work is more important than ever before in his railroad career. For uniformed men are on the move and war materials must be kept rolling."



404 Superior Street  
 Antigo WI, 54409