

Unresolved mystery may be tied to Ackley log cabin

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Historical Society

In the summer of 2010 during what started as a routine construction project east of Antigo some human remains were uncovered.

At first recent criminal activity was suspected but that was ruled out and a team of archeologists from the Wisconsin Historical Society was called in to investigate. It was quickly concluded that the burial site was not recent and probably dated to the 19th century. This was based on various items found at the site, including trade silver and other glass jewelry, glass beads, and silk ribbons. The remains were that of an adult woman and possibly another individual. The artifacts suggested the remains were that of a Native American but tribal affiliation could not be established with certainty.

The Wisconsin Historical Society archeologists set out to gather what evidence they could and determine who this woman might have been. The placement of skeletal remains and the artifacts provide no clues. Customs varied from tribe to tribe and at different times and situations. While the state archeologists cannot establish tribal identity with certainty some knowledge of the history of the area may help in making a pretty good guess as to whose remains these might be.

The site was at the East Branch of the Eau Claire River close to where Willard (or William) Leroy Ackley had established his homestead in 1853. When Ackley settled in this area, coming from his

native New York State by way of Wausau, he was the first white settler in what would become Langlade County. But he did not come into an empty wilderness.

Prior to white settlement many American Indian nations inhabited Wisconsin with the Menominee dominating northern Wisconsin. In the 15th or 16th century Ojibwe (or Chippewa) settled in the area. Their legend tells of how they came from the east in search of a site where "the food grows on water." When they discovered wild rice, harvested by Menominee, they decided they were in their new home.

From an initial settlement on Madeline Island they spread throughout northern Wisconsin. By 1768 the Eau Claire River had become a triple boundary between Menominee, Ojibwe, and Ho-Chunk nations but there were still other tribes in the region. The Potawatami had a settlement at Post Lake. There they operated a trading post in the 19th century. Locations along the Wolf River and the Lake Superior Trail, which included Post Lake, saw a lot of traffic from various tribes.

Another significant group was the Lakota Sioux. In 1806, after defeating the Lakota at the Battle of Mole Lake, the Ojibwe became the dominant force in northern Wisconsin. It was one of the largest and last Indian battles in the Midwest and was waged over who would control the wild rice beds.

In the region of Ackley's settlement, at the fork of the east and west branches of the Eau Claire, no one tribe was dominant but mostly the Ojibwe held sway. Ackley established a trading post and dealt with many Native American tribes passing through the area.

By Willard Ackley's time in the 1850s many of the Ojibwe had signed treaties and were living on reservations. But one group was in limbo. A "Lost Tribe" of Chippewa had separated itself from the main groups. Their chief, Mee-Gee-See (Great Eagle), did not attend a treaty council in 1854 on Madeline Island intended to define boundaries and establish treaty rights.

The following year the Indian commissioner agreed to grant the group 20 square miles of land in the Summit, Pelican, and Pickerel Lake area, drawing up a map of



Chief Willard Ackley of the Sokaogan, grandson of Willard Ackley who settled in Langlade County in the 1850s, examining the documents and the medals establishing the rights of the Chippewa "Lost Tribe" to lands around Crandon. He worked tirelessly to have the treaty rights recognized.

the area. One copy of the agreement was to go to Washington for government files but was lost when the boat it was on sank in the Great Lakes. Another copy, in the Ojibwe's possession, was lost when it was used to secure a loan and the trader who took it became ill, sold it to another trader who died. This band, the Sokaogan, was based primarily around Post Lake. But with no evidence of their claim to official status or territory they were a nomadic group and became known as "The Lost Tribe."

Chief Mee-Gee-See (Great Eagle) had a daughter Madwa-jin-no-quay (Maid of the Forest)

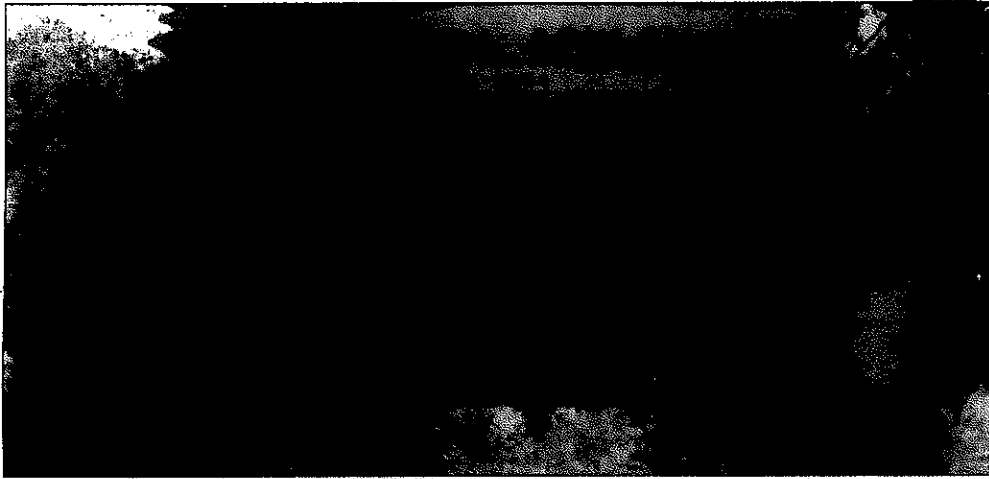
who married Willard Ackley. He had met her on his frequent visits to the Post Lake trading post. She brought her father to Ackley's homestead. At the time the Sokaogan (or Post Lake) Chippewa had no permanent settlement and were an impoverished nomadic group, spending time roaming mostly through Langlade and Forest County, and travelling as far as the Peshtigo River in winter to hunt.

According to Willard Ackley's son Charles, Chief Mee-Gee-See or Great Eagle lived with his son-in-law until his death in 1860 and was buried on the property near

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In 1979 the Langlade County Historical Society installed a marker in the region where Willard Ackley established his homestead and lived with his wife, father-in-law, and two sons.

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Our History

the fork of the East and West Branches of the Eau Claire River. The exact location is unknown and it is possible that Chief Mee-Gee-See's grave site was relocated during construction of Highway 64 west of Antigo in the 1920s. Willard and Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay's sons Charles and Dewitt became leading figures in the Lost Tribe but without documentation the tribe had no official status.

This was not corrected until 1937 when new negotiations established the Mole Lake Sokaogan Chippewa and their reservation near Crandon. This was negotiated by Willard Ackley's and Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay's grandson Willard Ackley who was chief of the tribe. The Works Progress Administration, a New Deal project, helped build housing for the group.

The original paper work confirming the "Lost Tribe's" status was confirmed a few years later when workmen excavating around a garage at Mole Lake unearthed a heavy iron-bound chest with many old papers confirming the original story as told by the Mole Lake Chippewa.

With all the circumstantial evidence linking the Ackley homestead to the Sokaogan Chippewa it would be a good bet that the skeletal remains of the American Indian woman found in 2010 might be that of Willard Ackley's wife and daughter of Chief Mee-Gee-See (Great Eagle), Madwa-ji-wan-no-quay (Maid of the Forest).

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Hessedal

How to keep your ice cream fresh:

1. Don't allow your ice cream to soften and re-freeze repeatedly. That's how those unpleasant ice crystals form.

2. Store it in the main part of your freezer, never on the door — the temperature fluctuates too widely there.

3. Keep the lid tightly closed, and never put ice cream near uncovered foods, as odors can penetrate easily.

Chocolate Super Pops

2 ripe avocados, pitted and peeled

1 medium-large ripe banana
2 tablespoons + 1 teaspoon cocoa powder

1 1/2 tablespoons honey
3/4 cup milk (or nondairy substitute — unsweetened almond milk works great too)

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

The homestead at the Eau Claire River, west of Antigo, is significant not only for being the home of Langlade County's first white settler but also for being a central part of the Sokaogan Chippewa history, probably containing the burial site of the chief who negotiated the tribe's getting its land at Mole Lake and also likely containing the burial site of his daughter, an Indian Princess, Maid of the Forest, and matriarch of a line of men who are important to this day to the Sokaogan Mole Lake Chippewa.

ticular, you might be concerned about how to payoff your student loan debt.

Fortunately, there are many repayment plans that make it easier to payoff student loans. Check to see whether you qualify for income-sensitive repayment options or Income-Based Repayment.

If you're not eligible for these, you may be able to refinance or consolidate your loans to make the repayment schedule easier on your budget. Explore all your options to find out what works best for you.

Beware of new borrowing — You're doing your best to pay off your existing debt, but you might find that you need to borrow more (for example, for graduate school or a car). Think carefully before you borrow. Weigh your pre-existing debt against your need to borrow more and determine whether this is a wise decision at this particular point in your life.

Take advantage of technology — Access to technology at a young age is one major advantage that benefits millennials, compared with their parents and grandparents when they were starting out. These days, there's virtually an app or a program for everything, and that includes financial basics. Do your homework and find out which ones could be the most helpful to you. Do you need alerts to remind you to pay bills on time? Do you need help organizing your finances? Are you looking for a program that allows you to examine your bank, credit card, investment and loan account activities all at once?

Although apps are one way to get started, consider working with a financial professional for a more personalized strategy. Think of your financial advisor the same way a pro athlete views their coach. You're the star of this show but your coach can keep you on track and performing at your best. The stakes in the financial game of life can be high, give yourself every advantage that's available to you.

1. Put all the ingredients into a food processor or blender.

2. Mix until smooth. Scrape the sides, and mix again if needed.

3. Pour the mixture into the Popsicle molds, and freeze until solid (about 4 hours).

4. Enjoy!

Information adapted from weightwatchers.com and the recipe is adapted from momables.com.

Continued

Koss

cause your credit score to suffer. In turn, this could make it more difficult and expensive to borrow money later.

Deal with your existing debt — At this stage in your life, you're probably dealing with debt and wondering how to manage it. A 2015 Pew Research study revealed that 86 percent of millennials have debt. (Source: "The Complex Story of American Debt," July 2015) In par-

Bula

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