



Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter

Fall, 2010

Curator: Mary Kay Wolf

Board of Directors
 Sue Baginski
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 Patrick Blood
 Glenn Bugni
 Nancy Bugni
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 Joe Hermolin
 Red Turney

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Annual Meeting: November 4, 2010

The Langlade County Historical Society will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday November 4 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. There will be cocktails and dinner, then a business meeting and guest speaker.

A report on the past year, plans for the upcoming year and election of three board members will all be part of the business meeting.

The guest speaker will be Dr. John E. McKenna. He will describe the history of medical practice in Langlade County from the late 19th

century to the present.

Details for the meeting are in an insert. One need not attend the dinner to participate in the meeting or hear the presentation.



Early Hospital on Fifth Avenue at Elm Street with nursing staff

Board Positions: Anyone interested in being considered for a position on the board and wishing more information should contact Joe Hermolin at the museum. Board terms are for three years. Elections will take place at the annual meeting on November 4.

Regional Meeting: Going Forward with Our Photo Collection

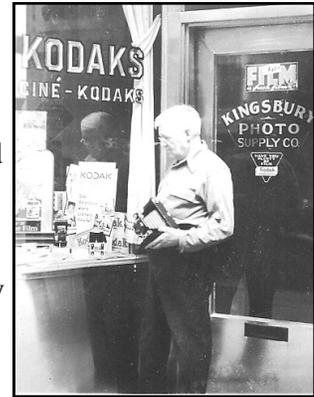
Recently the Langlade County Historical Society hosted the annual regional meeting of the Northwoods Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Council for Local History.

About 35 representatives from local museums in northern Wisconsin discussed their own historical societies, what works and doesn't work, and heard a presentation by Janet Seymour of the Wisconsin Historical Society on improving membership drives.

Joe Hermolin of the Langlade County Historical Society and Emily Pfothenauer of Wisconsin Heritage Online described their collaboration to catalog the museum's Kingsbury's Indian photographs and make them available online.

The Kingsbury photos and what he documented were of great interest. While the Indian photo project is far from complete, we are looking forward to working on other parts of our photo archives.

Antigo and Langlade County were settled largely thanks to the railroads that expanded into Northern Wisconsin in the late 19th century. It seems appropriate that the railroad photos should be the next section to be scanned, catalogued, and made available.



Arthur J. Kingsbury at his storefront.

Antigo's Thriving Lumber Industry

A map of Antigo, printed in 1893, shows that Antigo was already a good-sized city of 5,000. The railroad depot was already there but railroading was not yet a major employer while the lumber industry was.

Four lumber mills were distributed around Kellogg's Pond. There were The Kellogg's Lumber Co., Wisconsin Handle and Manufacturing (broom handles and barrel staves), Antigo Screen Door Co., the Antigo Lumber Company and the Frost Veneer Seating Co., and the Antigo Lumber Company.

In addition, the Crocker Chair Co. and Weed's Mill were just south of the city limits at Tenth Avenue and the Kingsbury and Henshaw Lumber Company was on Field Street (J.J. Kingsbury's son was A.J. Kingsbury who became the noted photographer.)

Antigo's first saw mill was established in 1879, the year Francis Deleglise and his family moved into their cabin. Deleglise convinced two brothers, Lois and Joseph Novotny to move to Antigo from Wausau where they were operating a sawmill.

Deleglise gave the Novotny brothers permission to build a dam with a 7 foot head and overflow on Spring Brook to create a pond. The mill averaged 30,000 board feet per day. When T.D. Kellogg bought out the Novotny brothers in 1883, the pond became known as Kellogg's Pond. It was later re-named Antigo Lake.



The Antigo Lumber Company mill on Kellogg's Pond in about 1890

Francis Deleglise in Civil War battles

Next year, 2011, marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, a defining moment in American history. Although Langlade County was not yet established, some men Union soldiers later settled here. One was the "Father of Antigo," Francis Deleglise who was married in Appleton when he volunteered to join the Iron Brigade.

In a letter to an uncle in Switzerland, he described his participation in the battle of Bull Run. Written in French and translated by Margaret Hagerty, it described the political situation leading up to the war. After a gap of several weeks, he picks up with a description of the battle of Bull Run:

"We repulsed the enemy..the first and third day of the battle.. In this battle I lost half of my Comrades.. Our brigade advanced in a line to the right and left of the road through a gorge, which ascended the mountain and was covered with mud and rock to a height of about 800 feet. For three hours we opened this route. Our regiment lost 88 out of 300 men. The enemy was quiet; and, according to what I saw, three times as many dead as ours showed.. There is nothing more surprising than to see more than 200 men escaping from such gunfire. The next day there was not a tree that had not been burned.. All the trees of one foot in diameter had from 3 to 12 balls up to a height of 6 feet."



Francis Deleglise fought in Bragg's Rifles, the Iron Brigade under the banner shown above. The Brigade's battles are listed on the banner.

In the same letter he went on to describe how the Iron Brigade went on to fight at Sharpsburg where he was wounded.

This account will be continued in a future newsletter.

Ormsby: Logging and the Railroad

Logging and the railroad have always been linked in Langlade County. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the settlement of Ormsby in the Town of Peck. 100 men on the payroll. Ormsby had eight homes, a boarding house, blacksmith shop, cook-house, three barns, a general store, and a school.

Before Ormsby was established, log drives down the west branch of the Eau Claire River were possible because of a series of dams. About 1900 Kimberly-Clark began buying pulpwood in the Ormsby area and set up a lumber camp. Later the Northern Woodland Company was established. Through a series of reorganizations, it eventually became the Union Lime Company primarily interested in kiln wood but also marketing other wood products.

By 1896 the company had about 100 men on the payroll. Ormsby had eight homes, a boarding house, blacksmith shop, cook-house, three barns, a general store, and a school.

The Ormsby Line of the railroad was only about 4 miles long and but lasted longer than most spur lines running from 1900 to 1941. It connected Ormsby to the Chicago and Northwestern line at Deerbrook bringing supplies to and wood products away from town.

Ormsby had quite a social life for a small town, including dances at the boarding house; but occasionally young people used a railroad hand car on the railroad to attend dances in Kempster and Deerbrook.



The Ormsby boarding house at it was in 1908. Today the building still stands and is a family farm house.

The spur line did more than carry people, logs, wood products, and supplies in and out of Ormsby. During prohibition rail cars carrying “feed” (corn, corn meal, and sugar) were parked on the Ormsby line. The consignees took the “feed” to some unknown destinations for use in stills. The final products were shipped out by truck.

Thank You

Russell Ball, Sr. : Kraft Cheese commemorative plate

Dean Blazek: Railroad Express sign

Virginia Feller: Books

Barbara Finkler: Dolls, toys,

Tony & Danni Grochowski:

Hand operated ice auger

Ed Hagerty: Book Men of the Gambier Bay (He was on it.)

Francis Igl: Photo of Kraft plant, story of the radar base

Clarence King Jr.: Framed list of WWI vets from Upham

Joan Labbus: Photo album & oriental fans

Jerome Lund: Grade school pictures from 1945-1949

Didi McKenna: Dress form mannequin

Tom & Barbara Miller: WWII coat worn in 10th Mountain ski unit

Ruth Olsen: Photo of CCC camp crew in Elcho

Wayne Osness: Leonard Osness’ fire chief hat

Donna Prasalowicz: WWII memorabilia, DAR manual, postcards

Louise Schleis: Antigo High School sweater, 1930’s

Arleen Schmiege: 1913 Langlade County plat map

Gail Schulz & Sandra Williams: Memorial of Pvt. Harry Ottman

Dorothy Stickney: Manicure nail oil heater

Bernice Stuiber: Photo of WWI soldiers of Langlade County

Judy Turney: Photos of LCTC graduates, Polar Band

Walter Wiacek: Old cameras

Joe Zabransky: Railroad pamphlets

WISH LIST: The museum could use a dehumidifier for the basement.

New Members:

James Hardy & Diane Dei Rossi, Dave & Judy Peterson, Karen Trembath, Joyce Zaverousky

Monetary Donations:

Ed & Margaret Hagerty

In Honor of Robert Kommers:

Leah Antoniewicz, Dean & Polly Blazek, Tim & Terrie Brandt, Joshua Brettingen, Mr. & Mrs. R. Clavette, Mr & Mrs. Bill Cousineau, Devota Cromer, Kathryn Friedl, Mr. & Mrs. R. Kohl, Mrs. Ludene Kommers, James & Ingeborg Kress, Mr. & Mrs. T. Novak, Mr. & Mrs. R. Peldo, Mr. & Mrs. W. Rammer, Mr. & Mrs. R. Sell, Glen & Susan Yajko

In Honor of James Opichka:

Nancy & Ron Blood

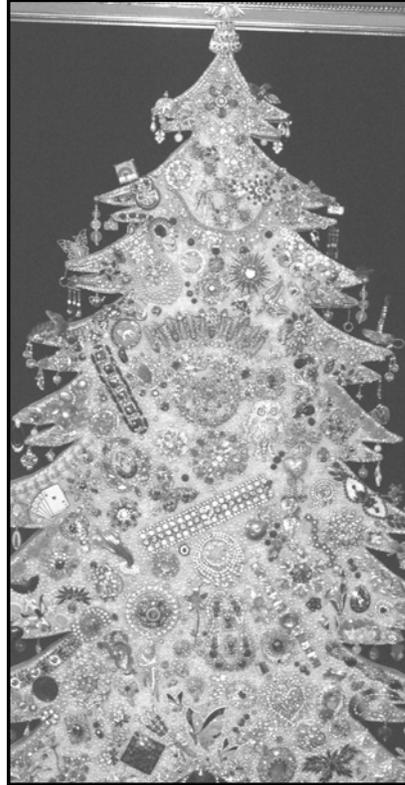
404 Superior St., Antigo, WI 54409
Phone: (715) 627-4464
Email: lchs@dwave.net
web site: www.langladehistory.com
Museum Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday:
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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:

This Styrofoam Christmas tree, about 4 feet tall, and decorated with costume jewelry, was made by Juliet Galarowicz and donated by her daughter.



Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting:
Thursday November 4

Dinner and a Presentation on the history of medicine in Langlade County (see insert)

Friday October 29:
Antigo Civic Music Series:

Intermission refreshments will be provided by the museum. Volunteers and donations of baked goods are needed. Call the museum for details.

Langlade County Historical Society
404 Superior Street
Antigo WI, 54409