

Museum Notes

for the week of October 4 – 10, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

Thank you to everyone who came to our guided walk at the Vernon County Cemetery! We had a great turn-out on a grey and drizzly day. We did record the speakers, and we will be posting the recording on our YouTube channel soon. You can also watch videos of other recent events there, such as the program about the Wisconsin State School, and the class about military genealogy.

If you would like to learn more about the Vernon County Cemetery, and the County Home that it was attached to, come to the Vernon County Museum and History Center to see what we have. An exhibit on the first floor of the museum provides a good overview of the county home, with a history of each institution and aerial photographs that show all the associated buildings and land.

Also be sure to look through the materials in our archives. We have a file box containing information about the county institutions, originally called the alms house and the asylum, including photographs and annual reports. And we have created a notebook that focuses more on the people who lived or worked at the institutions, where we collect census and obituary data.

We spent about six months doing research for this cemetery walk, and the result is several new resources, including various lists of the asylum and poor farm staff with job titles and dates of service. As always, this is a “work in progress” that will be updated as we gain new information, so be sure to let us know about your own stories.

October is American Archives Month, and a great time to focus on the records, postcards, maps, newspaper articles, etc., that help us to create programs like the cemetery walk. The history center has a wonderful archives that is especially robust in the areas of Vernon County communities, organizations, and people. It covers a wide variety of topics, from agriculture to ethnic history to military history to transportation, all with a focus on Vernon County.

Fall hours continue this month and next at the museum and history center. Throughout October and November, we are open Monday through Friday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment.