

## Museum Notes

for the week of November 23 – 29, 2025

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The Vernon County Museum and History Center is now on its winter hours of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment. Note that we will be closed on Thursday, November 27, for Thanksgiving.

Plans for our annual Holiday History Tour are taking shape! This year's tour will feature five historic buildings in and around Viroqua. The tour will be held on Sunday, December 14, from 12:30 to 4PM. Start at the Vernon County Museum and History Center to enjoy holiday treats, tour the exhibits (now in heated comfort!), and purchase tickets. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12 (children under 5 are free).

Other stops on the tour include two schoolhouses, both the Colonel May School on Hwy. 56 west of Viroqua, and the Foreaker School at 606 W. Broadway. The Colonel May Schoolhouse was built in 1922, and has just been renovated into a short-term rental. The Foreaker was built in 1888, and will be filled with holiday decorations made by local schoolchildren.

The final two stops are the historic St. Mary's Church, located next to the Foreaker School, and the Sherry-Butt House at 795 N. Main St. The church will feature live holiday music all afternoon, with different musicians playing each half-hour from 1 to 3PM. It will also be the site of our popular hot chocolate bar! And the house, built in 1870, will be decorated for the season and open for tours.

Remember that the Vernon County Historical Society's annual sweepstakes drawing will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 4PM, at the History Center. Suggested donation for tickets is \$5 each, and the prizes are all cash, from \$50 to \$300.

Next year we will commemorate 250 years since the start of our nation. July 4, 2026, will mark 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and the creation of the United States of America. We continue to create new exhibits at the museum for the 250<sup>th</sup>, and the latest is called "Fashion of '76". This clothing exhibit is found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the museum. It features dresses worn by women during the U.S. bicentennial of 1976, and explores ideas behind these clothing styles. More exhibits for the U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> are in development and will be appearing soon!