

Museum Notes

for the week of January 11 – 17, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The Vernon County Historical Society is pleased to announce that a new employee, Bridget Van Beckum, has just joined our staff. She minored in history at St. Norbert College in De Pere, and worked for several years at history museums in Appleton. Bridget is taking on the role of assistant curator, as long-time assistant curator Carol Krogan prepares to retire at the end of February. Stop by soon to welcome Bridget!

A couple of new exhibits opened at the Vernon County Museum and History Center just before the holidays. A new exhibit about rock formations in Vernon County is located on the museum's first floor, across from our U.S. 250th introductory display. One of the themes we are focusing on during the U.S. 250th is the "Power of Place", and this rock exhibit explores that idea. The display looks at local rock formations, such as Monument Rock near Liberty Pole, and also features some regional rock samples, including a stromatolite that formed near Newton over 1 billion years ago.

In the temporary exhibit room on the second floor, another new display for the U.S. 250th is now on view. Reproductions of old maps of the land now called Wisconsin line one wall, starting with a 1778 map. Several pieces from the Helen Huschka glass collection fill cases around the room, including three pieces depicting George Washington.

Also from the Huschka collection are two porcelain plates produced for the U.S. bicentennial by a French porcelain company. These two plates feature images from the life of the Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette was a wealthy Frenchman who, inspired by the pursuit of liberty, joined the American forces in 1776 to fight against England. He arrived in the U.S. at age 19, and led American and French troops into battle several times during the American Revolution, becoming one of George Washington's most trusted generals.

The exhibit halls are warm and comfortable on a cold winter's day, and you are welcome to come take a self-guided tour, or call us at 608-637-7396 to arrange for a guided tour for a group. Winter hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment.