

Museum Notes

for the week of January 4 – 10, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

Happy New Year! The Vernon County Historical Society looks forward to a year of growth and positive change. As always, we will have a full calendar of events, classes, programs, and more, throughout the year.

Our public history programs are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, for six months of the year starting in February. These programs are still being arranged, and we will begin advertising them soon.

The monthly genealogy class is held on the second Thursday of the month for most months of the year, also starting in February. The topics for each class are currently being lined up.

2026 will be a big year for all history-lovers because of the commemoration of the 250th birthday of the United States. The official celebration will be held on July 4 all across the country, but we will be examining themes related to the 250th all year. These themes include “We the People”, “Unfinished Revolutions”, “Power of Place”, “American Experiment”, and “Doing History”. Our commemoration will include exhibits, programs, and events, including the Strawberry Shortcake Social on July 4 at the historic Sherry-Butt House.

One of our challenges for 2026 will be to raise more money for operational costs. A sizable portion of the Vernon County Historical Society’s annual income comes from Vernon County, which has supported us since the 1950’s. We are very grateful for that support. The amount of our county support has been cut by 25% for 2026, so we will need to find additional ways to raise money on top of all of our current fees, sales, fundraisers, etc.

In the new year, we look forward to discovering all of the improvements generated by now having heat and air-conditioning on the upper floors of the museum building, from staff being able to work on exhibits year-round to school groups being able to come visit in the dead of winter. Installing an HVAC system upstairs was the major accomplishment of 2025, and we hope that it will benefit the whole community.

Join us in 2026 for a year of fun and learning!