

Museum Notes

for the week of August 30 – September 5, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The Vernon County Museum and History Center moves to its autumn hours this week. For the months of September, October, and November, we'll be open Monday through Friday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment. Call us at 608-637-7396 to make an appointment.

The historic Sherry-Butt House will be open for the Labor Day holiday weekend from Saturday, September 5, through Monday, September 7, from 1 to 5PM each day. After that the house will close for the season except for special events and tours by appointment. Be sure to stop by this gracious historic home while it's open for the summer. The house is located at 795 N. Main St. in Viroqua, next to the county fairgrounds. It was built in 1870, and was occupied by the Butt family and then the Sherry family for over 100 years.

Noted genealogist Blaine Hedberg of the Westby Area Historical Society will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the genealogy class. The class meets on Thursday, September 10, at 10AM, at the Vernon County History Center. Blaine worked at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison for 30 years, and now lives in Westby.

New students are always welcome at the class. Vernon County Historical Society members attend for free, and non-members are asked to pay \$5 per class session. Classes are held in the conference room on the first floor.

The sudden death of Dolly Parton last week reminded me that there is a Dolly Parton doll in the museum's collection, still in its original box. Local doll collector Amanda Johnson Schatzke donated this and many other dolls to the museum in 1992. Dolly is dressed in a red jumpsuit embellished with gold decorations, shiny like rhinestones. I've added her to the doll exhibit on the museum's second floor. Come visit her and all of the other dolls!