

Museum Notes

for the week of September 21 - 27, 2025

by Kristen Parrott, curator

Remember that the annual Pork Chop Dinner is this Saturday, September 27. The menu is a pork chop, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, and a cookie, all for \$15. The dinner will begin at 4PM and run until 7PM or until the food is sold out, whichever comes first. This will be a drive-through, carry-out dinner, served from the Vernon County Museum and History Center's parking lot located at the corner of S. Main St. and E. South St. in Viroqua. Please enter the parking lot from the E. South St. side.

Funds raised at the dinner will help the Vernon County Historical Society to fulfill its mission of preserving and promoting Vernon County history for the education and enjoyment of all. Come eat for a good cause!

Our next free public history program will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 2PM, at the History Center. Wisconsin railroad researcher Arlyn Colby will present a program about his new book, *The Coon Valley Line: The History of the La Crosse and Southeastern Railroad*. This railroad ran from La Crosse southeast to Stoddard, Chaseburg, Coon Valley, Westby, and Viroqua. Built in 1905, it was sold to the Milwaukee Road in 1933, which continued to operate portions of the line for some years.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Programs are held in the first-floor, wheelchair-accessible conference room. Copies of Arlyn's book will be available for sale (\$30 each) at the talk. Note that this is a day-time program.

Installation of the heating and air-conditioning units at the History Center has begun! The units are mini-split heat pumps, which are ductless two-way air-conditioning systems that can both heat and cool. Two are being installed on 3rd floor, and six on 2nd floor. These indoor air-handling units are connected to an outdoor compressor via refrigerant line sets. Ethos Green Power Cooperative is doing this work for us. We look forward to having heat in the exhibit halls this winter, and cool air next summer!

Our utility bills will obviously rise once we are heating and cooling the upper floors of the building. Please consider donating to our HVAC fund, which you can do from our website, <https://vernoncountyhistory.org/>, or by contacting us at 608-637-7396, or by mailing us at P.O. Box 444, Viroqua, WI, 54665.