

Museum Notes

for the week of September 27 – October 3, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The first-ever Taste of Norway festival will be held this Saturday, October 3, from 1 to 4PM at the historic Country Coon Prairie Church. The beautiful old church building is located at S2706 Coon Prairie Road, just southeast of Westby. Six local organizations, including our own Vernon County Historical Society, are presenting an afternoon of authentic Norwegian food, music, and history.

In the dining hall downstairs, enjoy samples of sweet and savory Norwegian foods and drinks, and learn about the history of Norwegian immigration to Vernon County and how the culture has been preserved here. In the sanctuary upstairs, listen to musician Eden Ehm of Decorah telling stories and playing her traditional Hardanger fiddle.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This festival is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Continuing with the Norwegian theme, on Tuesday, October 6, at 7PM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center, Civil War reenactor Dave Glomstad of La Crescent will present a program about the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, sometimes called the Scandinavian, or Norwegian, Regiment. Many Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin joined this regiment.

Glomstad's presentation will focus on men from Bad Axe/Vernon County who were in the 15th. This Wisconsin regiment fought in Civil War battles along the Mississippi River, and in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee, and finally in Georgia in the far south.

Everyone is welcome to attend the presentation. Programs are held in the first-floor conference room, which is handicapped-accessible. Suggested donation of \$2.50 person.

Our October genealogy class will also explore the topic of immigrants. On Thursday, October 8, at 10AM, at the museum and history center, Karen Sherry will lead the class in an exploration of immigration records and how they can be useful in learning about your family history.

New students are always welcome to join the class. Vernon County Historical Society members attend for free, and non-members are asked to pay \$5 per session.