

## Museum Notes

for the week of November 9 – 15, 2025

by Kristen Parrott, curator

This week we are observing Veterans Day. The Vernon County Museum and History Center has a large collection of military items donated by veterans and their families. This includes diaries, letters, souvenirs, photographs, uniforms, written reminiscences, and various kinds of equipment.

Part of the exhibit hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is reserved for military displays. One of our current military exhibits is “Women in the Military”, featuring uniforms from Kit Florence, Cyndy Hubbard, Edna Partridge, Emily Yttri, and Paula Thorson. Note that this exhibit is scheduled to come down soon. Other military displays include “Captain Joshua Sanford: A Flying Tiger from Hillsboro”, which explores Sanford’s World War II experiences and Ho-Chunk heritage, and an exhibit about the Black Hawk War of 1832, featuring quotes from Black Hawk’s autobiography.

Our gift shop has for sale several new and used books on military subjects. We have used copies of the *Vernon County War History*, about World War I, and *The Badax Tigers: From Shiloh to the Surrender with the 18<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers*, edited by Thomas Nanzig, and *Letters Home to Sarah: The Civil War Letters of Guy C. Taylor, 36<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers*, edited by Kevin and Patsy Alderson.

New books include *Ole Goes to War: Men from Norway Who Fought in America’s Civil War*, by Jerry Rosholt, and *I Will Uphold the Flag: The Life of Colonel Reuben May, 1815-1902*, and *Vernon County Goes to War: the Civil War diary of John W. Greenman*. We also carry two Civil War books for children illustrated by local artist Ken Stark, *Marching to Appomattox* and *Seeing the Elephant*. Stop in to the history center during our regular hours of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM, to check out all of the titles in the gift shop.

The project to install heating and air-conditioning on the upper floors of the museum continues. The units have been installed at strategic points throughout the building, and have been connected to the outdoor compressors. Now the final tasks of getting the system up and running are being worked on. We will also need to build a small shelter over the compressors to protect them from snow sliding off the building’s tile roof. Every year in late winter, when the outdoor temperature rises just enough, snow slides off the roof in a series of mighty whumps that are very dramatic! We do look forward to having heat throughout the building this winter.