

Museum Notes

for the week of February 1 – 7, 2026
by Kristen Parrott, curator

The monthly genealogy class will be meeting for the first time this year on Thursday, February 12, at 10AM, at the Vernon County museum and history center. Teacher Karen Sherry will show a webinar about free genealogical websites, with a discussion. Doing family history research from home, using the websites of large research institutions, is a great modern convenience, especially in the winter.

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

February is the month of presidents and valentines, and you can find small exhibits about both inside the conference room. Postcards about President Washington, President Lincoln, and other patriotic themes fill one display case, as part of our years-long focus on the U.S. 250th.

The other case features valentines of the past 100+ years, showing the shift from the flowery and romantic European cards of pre-World War I, to the simpler cards made in the U.S. in the mid-20th century, with bright colors and funny sayings. Vintage animal-themed valentines are also on display in the room.

Stop by the museum during our regular winter hours of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM, to see these and other exhibits. With the addition of our new heating system, you can now tour the whole museum in relative comfort during these cold winter days.

We offer two scavenger hunts to make the experience more interesting. One scavenger hunt is for children, with pictures of artifacts that they can search for throughout the building. A new scavenger hunt for adults and teenagers focusses on artistic details of everyday objects found in the exhibits.

The museum is also open by appointment if the regular hours aren't suitable for you, or if you'd like to arrange for a group tour. Call us at 608-637-7396 to schedule an appointment or guided tour.