

Museum Notes

for the week of March 1-7, 2026
by Kristen Parrott, curator

The next meeting of the genealogy class will be Thursday, March 12, at 10AM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center. The topic for the day will be finding Wisconsin genealogical information. Teacher Karen Sherry will lead the class in learning more about how to research Wisconsin ancestors.

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 class session. Classes are held in the first-floor, wheelchair-accessible conference room.

Our winter art show, “Good Earth – Deep Roots”, will be running from Saturday, March 14, through Thursday, March 26. The museum and history center will be open every day during that time period, from 11AM to 4PM. Art on exhibit from our collections will include several pieces by local artists including Mabel Treseder (later Mabel Gardner) of Viola, 1875-1934, and Dorothy Werth of Viroqua, 1924-2022. Guest curator Nathan Popp has chosen these works.

A silent auction of art created by local artists will also be part of this special event, as will a scavenger hunt of artistic elements found on objects around the museum. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 for touring the art show and the museum exhibits together.

The history center is rarely open on weekends in the winter, so be sure to take advantage of these special hours during the art show. You are also welcome to come in to do research, or tour the regular exhibits, during this time period.

A new exhibit has just opened at the museum about the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) and its connection to Vernon County and Viroqua. On display are artifacts donated by Viroqua resident Thor J. Thorson, who served on the ship. Learn about the history of the ship and about three area men who served on the ship during different decades. A special feature of this display is a video interview with Thor about his experiences on the USS Wisconsin. The exhibit is located on the third floor and is accessible by the elevator.