

Museum Notes

for the week of March 29 – April 4, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

Criminal ancestors will be the topic of the next genealogy class! On Thursday, April 9, at 10AM, Norwegian genealogist Liv Marit Haakenstad will present a program called “A Tinsmith, a Traveler, and a Thief”, via Zoom from her home in Norway. In the year 1900, a tinsmith came to Lærdal in Sogn og Fjordane, Norway, and rented a room from a widow. But, was he really a tinsmith? And what can we find out about ancestors who were on the wrong side of the law?

Liv Marit is an author, speaker, and professional genealogist. She served as a visiting professor at Brigham Young University in the spring of 2025, and is currently working on a research project about “Norwegians in Utah, 1825-1920”. She has also worked for the National Criminal Investigation Service of Norway (“Kripis”) on a cold case.

New students are always welcome at the genealogy 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 conference room at the Vernon County Museum and History Center.

Karve In 10 will be held on Saturday, April 11, from 10AM to 4PM, at the Westby High School’s old gym at 206 West Ave. S. in Westby. The Karve In is an annual event showcasing area woodcarvers, and this is the event’s 10th year. Norwegian heritage, including the Norwegian tradition of woodcarving, is an important part of this gathering.

There will be seminars, vendors, food, and much more. The Vernon County Historical Society and other area historical societies will have tables at the Karve In to display woodcarvings from our own collections and to share information about what we do. Karve-In 10 is free, and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Vernon County Museum and History Center is now on its spring hours, open to the public Monday through Friday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment. Call us at 608-637-7396, or email us at museum@vernoncountyhistory.org, to make an appointment.