

Museum Notes

for the week of March 8-14, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The “Good Earth – Deep Roots” art show will open at the Vernon County Museum and History Center this Saturday, March 14. It will run for nearly two weeks, closing on Thursday, March 26. During this time, the museum and history center will be open every day from 11AM to 4PM. Suggested donation of \$10 to tour the art show and the museum exhibits.

Guest curator Nathan Popp of Viroqua has chosen mainly landscapes, from the museum’s collection, for this art show. Artists include Virginia Torgerson O’Brien and Ethyl Maifeld. Ethyl was born in Victory in 1914, daughter of Tollef and Clara Anderson. She was a painter, and her work was exhibited in Boston and New York City, as well as in Wisconsin and Iowa.

Virginia embroidered a picture of the Vernon County Normal School while she was a student there in 1964-5, under the instruction of art teacher Naomi Flugstad. The picture includes the ginkgo tree that grows on the north side of the building, a building that now houses our museum and history center. This ginkgo is believed to be the oldest one in Vernon County.

Seven other artists are also represented in the show. The art will be displayed in the first-floor, wheelchair-accessible conference room. The art show will be complemented by a silent auction of art created by contemporary local artists. Art for sale will include prints of Gordon Glass’ drawings of local buildings.

Other pieces of artwork can be found throughout the museum in our regular exhibits. Featured in the first-floor U.S. 250th exhibit is a crocheted U.S. flag of 13 stars and stripes, created by Alvera (Johnson) Sneed of Purdy, Dach Ridge, and Viroqua. She crocheted this flag for the U.S. 200th in 1976.

On 3rd floor you will find a quilt created by Ethel Munson of Sandhill Ridge near La Farge. Also part of our U.S. 250th commemoration, this quilt features embroidered portraits of U.S. presidents from Washington to Reagan. The quilt is located next to the “Fashion of ‘76” exhibit.

In the tobacco exhibit on 2nd floor is a painting that depicts the perspective from inside of a tobacco shed, looking out the opened doors. This work was painted by Verna Buhr and Judy Gates. A painting by Amos Miller of Westby is featured in the “Protest!” exhibit on 2nd floor, depicting local activist Stephen O’Donnell at a protest at the Wisconsin state capitol. And in the medical exhibit on the same floor is a painting by an unknown artist of three Viroqua doctors, circa 1910. One of the doctors is Civil War surgeon William A. Gott.

Lots of art for you to enjoy, both in the art show and silent auction, and in the regular exhibits. Remember that the museum and history center will be open daily 11AM to 4PM from March 14 through March 26.