

Museum Notes

for the week of April 12 – 18, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The history of the village of Readstown, in the Town of Kickapoo, will be the subject of our next public program. On Tuesday, April 21, at 7PM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center, Julie Roberts and Nan Alexander will present a program about the founding and growth of Readstown. Julie is the president of the Readstown Historical Society, and Nan is a retired teacher who has done a lot of research on the history of schools in the Readstown area.

Rural schools in the Town of Kickapoo included Day Creek, Kickapoo Center, Manning, Sherry, Spring Valley, and Sugar Grove. And then of course there were schools in the village of Readstown itself, including Readstown High School. A copy of the high school's yearbook, the Vallegian, from 1946 is currently on exhibit in a small display about Readstown located inside our conference room.

Other items in the exhibit include a Readstown souvenir miniature glass canoe, a Readstown sesquicentennial cookbook, and a postcard of the Readstown Church of Christ, circa 1900. On the 2nd floor of the museum, in the general store exhibit, is a store ledger once used by E. J. Anderson of Readstown. Anderson was born in 1882, and married Anna Larson in 1907. He was a businessman in Readstown who ran a number of businesses over the years — general store, car dealership, jewelry and clock shop, photography studio.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Readstown history program, which will be held in our first-floor conference room. We ask for a donation of \$2.50 per person to help us defray costs.

You can also learn about the history of the area from the history page on the Town of Kickapoo's website, <https://tn.kickapoo.wi.gov/page/history>

National Volunteer Week will be the week of April 19-25. This special week, held around this time every year, is an opportunity to say thank-you to the many volunteers who help our community. The Vernon County Historical Society relies on our wonderful volunteers to do so much of the day-to-day work of running our small non-profit organization. Volunteers past and present are welcome to drop by the museum and history center from Monday, April 20, through Friday, April 24, to enjoy treats for National Volunteer Week.

Remember that April is the time to eat at Culver's in Viroqua, so you can participate in their community "Change for Change" campaign, which benefits the Vernon County Historical Society this month. Either leave coins in the jar on the counter at the cash register, or round up your total at the end of your transaction. A little bit of spare change from each customer will hopefully amount to a large donation to our organization at the end of April.