

Museum Notes

for the week of April 19 – 25, 2026
by Bridget Van Beckum, assistant curator

It's hard to put into words just how important volunteers are to the operations of a small local historical society like the Vernon County Historical Society. With only two paid staff members, it would be truly impossible to keep the society going without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. We are deeply grateful to all of the many individuals willing to offer up their time and talents to benefit the museum. Every single one of our volunteers, whether they volunteer regularly or only occasionally for special events, does invaluable work to support our organization.

As an individual volunteer, it may sometimes be difficult to see how your own small contributions manage to make a difference. But every action, no matter how small, does add up! You, our volunteers, are vital. Your work allows the society to fulfill its mission of preserving and promoting Vernon County history, and your help goes a long way to ensure the VCHS' continued existence for future generations. We would simply not be able to do what we do without your help!

This week is National Volunteer Week. To celebrate, we'd like to invite all volunteers to stop by the museum any time to enjoy some coffee and treats. In the past, we've held a small social to show our appreciation to our volunteers during this week. However, we know that many of our volunteers lead very busy lives, which makes us all the more grateful that they choose to share some of their time with us. That's why we decided to offer treats all week long this year, Monday to Friday, instead of holding a single-day social. We hope this will allow us to thank even more of our volunteers who may not otherwise be able to fit another museum visit into their schedules. So, if you have the time, please drop in to say hi! We would love to see you and thank you for all your hard work in person.

New volunteers are also welcome! If you have ever thought about volunteering at the museum but didn't know where to start, we have a "Volunteer" page on our website with more information, including examples of some of the many different types of volunteer work we have available. These opportunities include everything from research and filing, to acting and giving tours. Even if you're not that interested in history, you could still help out with hands-on tasks such as cleaning, gardening, or maintenance work, or general non-profit work such as fundraising and planning events. Whether you're outgoing or introverted, big-picture or detail-oriented, young or old, busy or available, or anything in between, there is a place for you here. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer or would just like to learn more, feel free to email us anytime at museum@vernoncountyhistory.org or call us at 608-637-7396. We would love to have you join us!

Thank you again to all our volunteers, and we hope to see you at the museum this week!