

Museum Notes

for the week of April 5 – 11, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

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.

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.

Come learn about Readstown and its history at our next public program. Julie Roberts of the Readstown Historical Society will talk about the founding of the village and its development through the modern day, and Nan Alexander will talk about Readstown-area schools. The program will be held on Tuesday, April 21, at 7PM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center. (Note the change from our usual day of the month.) Everyone is welcome to attend. We ask for a donation of \$2.50 per person to help us defray costs.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us about the painter and muralist Ernest Hüpeden, who lived and worked in Vernon County in the 1890's. We are seeking more information about his time in this region, other than the years he spent in Valton working on his masterpiece, the Painted Forest.

So far we have learned that Hüpeden lived in La Farge for a while. He worked at the Thayer lumberyard in La Farge, and painted a mural in the office there. He also painted a mural in the house where he lived in the village. And, he painted a wall in a bar in nearby Yuba, in Richland County.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center has acquired some of Hüpeden's work, including the "Lumber Office Scene" from the Thayer lumberyard. You can learn more from their website, <https://www.jmkac.org/>.