

Museum Notes

for the week of May 31 – June 6, 2026

by Kristen Parrott, curator

The Vernon County Museum and History Center is now on its summer hours of Monday through Friday, 11AM to 4PM, and Saturday, 10AM to 2PM. These hours will last through August. As always, we are also open by appointment, if the regular public hours aren't convenient for you. Contact us at 608-637-7396 or museum@vernoncountyhistory.org to schedule an appointment.

The genealogy class is taking a field trip to the Wisconsin Historical Society's library and archives in Madison on Thursday, June 11. The class is renting a van, and the cost will be around \$25 each. The van will leave the museum in Viroqua at 8AM, and will leave Madison at 4:30PM.

You can spend the day in Madison doing your own family history research at the library and archives. Their strengths include Wisconsin history and genealogy, U.S. and Canadian history, and one of the nation's largest newspaper collections. Please email or call us as soon as possible to reserve your spot for this trip.

As we move into the summer of the U.S. 250th, museum staff have created another exhibit related to this special anniversary. The small display is located in our conference room, and focuses on the U.S. Bicentennial. 1976 was the last time the nation commemorated its birthday in a really big way, and the museum's collection contains many bicentennial items.

Objects in the exhibit include a banner with the official bicentennial logo, buttons from Westby and Viroqua and Coon Valley, and even a Log Cabin syrup bottle marketed as a "Special Bicentennial Flask", featuring a Liberty Bell on one side. Stop by during our regular public hours to see this and other exhibits.

Remember that the historic Sherry-Butt House museum is now open for the summer season. The house is located at 795 N. Main St. in Viroqua, and summer hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 5PM. Admission to tour the house museum is \$5, but free for children under age 9. Come take a tour to learn about what life was like here in the late 1800's, how people lived and worked, and what their homes were like.