

Holiday History Tour 2023

The Vernon County Historical Society's first-ever Holiday History Tour will be held on Sunday, December 3, from 1 to 4PM. Modelled on the Tour of Homes of years past, the Holiday History Tour visits the Historical Society's four historic sites plus the lobby of the historic Hotel Fortney, all in Viroqua.

The sites include the Vernon County Museum and History Center, located at the corner of S. Main St. and E. South St.; the Foreaker School and the historic St. Mary's Church, both at 606 W. Broadway; and the Sherry-Butt House at 795 N. Main St. The Hotel Fortney is located at 100 N. Main St. Each of the five buildings is over 100 years old.

All of the places on the tour will be decorated for the holidays, with lots of Christmas trees and vintage ornaments. Fourth-graders from Viroqua Elementary School are making decorations for the Foreaker School. Several organizations are decorating the trees that will be found throughout the Sherry-Butt House, including the Liberty Pole Boosters 4-H, Mississippi Steamers 4-H, Davis Diggers 4-H, and Liberty Pole Methodist Church.

An afternoon of entertainment awaits you along the tour. At the Foreaker School, children and adults can enjoy making crafts from 1 to 2PM, listening to holiday stories from 2 to 3, and more crafts from 3 to 4. Next door at the St. Mary's Church building, live holiday music will be performed throughout the afternoon, including by the Solverson Family Trio from 2 to 3PM.

The Hotel Fortney lobby will feature accordion music by Bob Solverson from 1 to 2:30PM, and the Hairless Harmonics Quartet from 2:30 to 3. This new quartet consists of Brian Mastin, Dan Heitman, Rob Hoversten, and Nathan Randall. And there will be square dancing led by Sue Hulsether and Jane Keeley, with live music, from 3 to 4PM.

Entertainment at the Sherry-Butt House will also include the Hairless Harmonics Quartet, singing there from 1:30 to 2. Best of all, Santa will be at the House between 1 and 4PM, sitting at the fireside waiting to talk to you or the children in your life.

The Holiday History Tour begins at the museum and history center, where you can enjoy holiday cookies and purchase tour tickets of \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, with a maximum \$20 per household. Food and drinks and holiday treats will be also be available at other stops along the tour, including savories at the hotel, and a hot chocolate bar at the church. For more information, see the historical society website at vernoncountyhistory.org, or call the museum at 608-637-7396.