

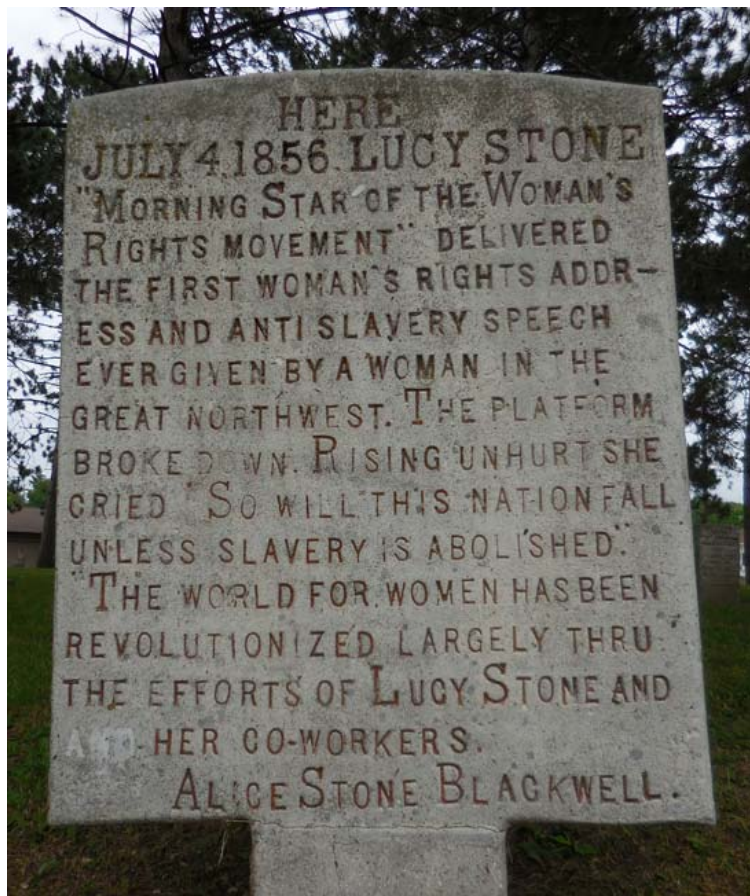
Museum Notes

by Kristen Parrott, curator
for the week of August 18 – 24, 2019

As we continue to prepare for the upcoming Vernon County Fair, today we'll look again at a few of the history quiz questions that will be asked at our Fair booth. The Vernon County Historical Society's booth always features a local history quiz, a free quiz with a candy prize, so it's time to study up on local history.

One question for adults asks, Who was the famous abolitionist and women's rights activist who spoke in Viroqua on July 4, 1856? The answer is Lucy Stone. A stone marker in Viroqua's Pioneer Cemetery marks the approximate spot where she gave a speech on that Independence Day over 160 years ago. Lucy Stone, a well-known speaker across the U.S., was visiting Viroqua that summer while her husband worked on a land deal in the area.

About her speech, the local *Western Times* newspaper of July 19, 1856, noted that "She is a very excellent speaker – her anti-slavery and a portion of her women's-rights opinions are all well enough, yes, very good; but women never will demand universal suffrage, and accept the responsibilities and unnatural hardships inseparably connected with the exercise of that natural attribute of man." As we plan to celebrate the centennial of women's right to vote in 2020, we now see how wrong that writer was.



The Lucy Stone marker created by C.V. Porter in 1930.