

Museum Notes

for the week of December 7 – 13, 2025

by Kristen Parrott, curator

Santas, Santas, everywhere! The theme of this year's Holiday History Tour is Santa Claus, and you will find collections of Santas at several of the sites. The tour will be held this coming Sunday, December 14, from 12:30 to 4PM. It starts at the Vernon County Museum and History Center, where you can enjoy holiday treats, tour the exhibits, and purchase tickets. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12 (children under 5 are free).

Then travel on to the other four stops in and around Viroqua, which are the Sherry-Butt House at 795 N. Main St., the Foreaker School and old St. Mary's Church at 606 W. Broadway, and the Colonel May Schoolhouse at E5732 Hwy. 56, west of Viroqua. Each of the five buildings is over 100 years old, dating from 1870 to 1922, and all will be decorated for the holidays. Enjoy food and drink at the history center, the church, and the Col. May school, and live music at the church and the Sherry-Butt House. Should be a great time!

The newly-installed heat on the upper floors of the museum is really wonderful, and you should stop by soon to experience it. Staff are working hard to install new exhibits in different spaces around the building this month, taking advantage of this improvement. A new display in the temporary exhibit room on the 2nd floor will focus on the U.S. 250th. Several pieces from the Helen Huschka glass collection will be featured in this space, with themes of George Washington and the American Revolution. Helen was a librarian in Viroqua, and ran a cattle farm with her husband, and she was a great collector of glassware.

Be sure to get your sweepstakes tickets soon! The Vernon County Historical Society's annual sweepstakes drawing will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 4PM, at the history center. Suggested donation for tickets is \$5 each, and the prizes are all cash, from \$50 to \$300. Tickets are available at the history center during regular business hours.

Winter hours at the history center are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment – call 608-637-7396 to make an appointment. Please note that we will be closed during the week of Christmas (December 21 - 27) and the week of New Year's (December 28 - January 3).