

Museum Notes

for the week of March 3 – 9, 2024
by Kristen Parrott, curator

The next meeting of the genealogy class will be Thursday, March 14, at 10AM. The class meets in the conference room at the Vernon County Museum and History Center. Teacher Karen Sherry will lead a discussion of genealogy forms, such as military, census, and obituary forms. These forms provide a convenient place to record information, and also offer suggestions and help keep you organized.

New students are always welcome to join the class. Vernon County Historical Society members may attend for free, and non-members are asked to pay \$5 per class session.

We have lots of genealogy forms here at the history center. Forms can be useful in situations such as when you are visiting an archive and want to record information but can't make photocopies or take photos.

Forms also remind you to write down information that you might otherwise ignore. A birth record form might ask for father's occupation, a marriage form for names of witnesses at a wedding, and a death form for location of burial ground. Maybe you weren't interested in that information on the day you were doing the research, but you might well be glad later that you recorded it.

Census forms show you how different one year's census is from another, and what kind of information you can expect to find on the various census records. A form for the 1880 census asks for the place of birth of the person, and of the person's father and mother. Looking at a form for the 1910 census, you see the same questions but also further, related questions about what year the person immigrated to the U.S., and whether the person is a "naturalized" citizen or an "alien".

Samples of these and other forms will be available at the March 14 genealogy class. Come learn more about how to organize your family history information using forms.

A Vernon County Historical Society photo that ran in the February 21 edition of the *Vernon County Times* newspaper caught the eye of a local reader. The photo was a wedding portrait of Malla Borgen and Christian Hagen, who married in Westby in 1904. The reader, a descendant of this family, noted that we made a mistake on the names of Malla's parents. The correct names are Julius and Raunog (or Ranaug) Borgen.