

Museum Notes

by Kristen Parrott, curator
for the week of May 27 – June 2, 2018

On Friday, June 1, the museum will begin its summer hours of Mondays through Fridays, noon to 4PM, plus Saturdays, 10AM to 2PM. These hours continue through the end of August. Also open in the summer is the historic Sherry-Butt House at 795 N. Main St. in Viroqua. Come take a tour of this gracious home from 1 to 5PM on Saturdays and Sundays all summer long, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

On Sunday, June 3, a cemetery walk will be held at 4PM at the Liberty Pole Cemetery. Five local actors will tell the World War I stories of a few of the people buried in the cemetery. This walk will be a little different from some of those we have held in the past because it will focus on ordinary people, people whose stories are rarely told, rather than the “rich and famous”. World War I affected everyone, no matter who you were, and this year’s cemetery walk will reveal that.

Two of the people featured on the walk will be soldiers and cousins Ernest and Lawrence Zitzner. Bryce Funk will play the part of Ernest Zitzner and will also tell Lawrence’s story. Both soldiers served at Camp Shelby in Mississippi.

The Zitzners had German ancestry, as did many Vernon County residents during WWI, which must have made fighting against Germany a complicated moral matter. German ancestry also could make life at home uncomfortable. The Wisconsin Loyalty League published a “Sedition Map” in 1918, the final year of the war, noting heavily German areas of Wisconsin, including nearby La Crosse County.

Liberty Pole Cemetery is located at S6502 Black River Rd. To get there from Hwy. 27/82 in Liberty Pole, turn north on Black River Rd and drive 3/10 mile. The cemetery is on the east side, just past the solar farm. If the walk is rained out on June 3, it will be rescheduled for June 10. For weather cancellations, listen to WVRQ radio or check the Vernon County Historical Society’s Facebook page.

On Thursday, June 14, the genealogy class will take its annual trip to the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Library and Archives in Madison. A carpool will leave the museum parking lot at 7:30AM. Lunch will be on your own in Madison. The carpool will leave Madison at 4PM. New students are welcome to attend. Call the museum at 637-7396 to sign up for the trip.