

## Museum Notes

by Kristen Parrott, curator, and Carol Krogan, assistant curator  
for the week of May 31, 2017

The Vernon County Historical Society's annual Cemetery Walk will be held this Sunday, June 4, at the Viroqua Cemetery at 429 Hickory St. This year's walk will commemorate World War I. The walk begins promptly at 4PM. Tickets are \$5 each, available that day at the cemetery.

Costumed actors will portray five local people buried in the cemetery, each actor positioned next to the person's gravestone. Dress for walking around the cemetery and for the weather. Refreshments will be served afterward inside the gazebo. We hope for a sunny day, but if it does rain, the event will move inside the Vernon County Museum.

Each week this month we've featured one of the characters from the upcoming Cemetery Walk. This week we'll focus on Isabelle Morley. Morley was born in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1875. She attended Ripon College and then attended graduate school in Madison. In 1908 she accepted a position at Central High School in La Crosse. She was married to Viroqua native Dr. Frank E. Morley later that year.

The Morleys settled in Viroqua where Isabelle became involved in many community activities. It was at the start of the United States' entrance into World War I when a Red Cross Branch was formed in Viroqua. Mrs. Morley was the first chairperson of the Branch. The actor portraying Mrs. Morley will speak about the activities of the local Red Cross and its part in the war effort.

The next meeting of the genealogy class will be Thursday, June 8. The class will be going on a field trip to Madison to visit the Wisconsin Historical Society's library and archives. New students are welcome to join the class on this trip. To sign up for the trip, please call the museum at 637-7396 by Tuesday, June 6.

The class will carpool to Madison, leaving the museum parking lot at 7:30AM on June 8. Lunch in Madison will be on your own. The carpool leaves Madison for Viroqua at 4PM. In Madison, the group will be given a tour of the library and archives to become familiar with the resources. Then students will be able to work individually on their family histories using these free resources.

To prepare for your visit, check out the Wisconsin Historical Society's website, [wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org). Click on "Research Your Family History" to learn more about the research materials available to you. The library's collection strengths are listed as follows: United States and Canadian history and genealogy, Wisconsin history, and a newspaper collection second only to the U.S. Library of Congress. The archives is described as being home to the Society's map and atlas collection as well as to audio, film, and photographs.