

Museum Notes
for the week of July 7 –13, 2024
by Kristen Parrott, curator

Summer is in full swing, and I bet that your calendar is filling up. Be sure to add these events to your list:

The genealogy class meets this Thursday, July 11, at 10AM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center. Teacher Karen Sherry will present odds and ends of useful genealogy hints that she's picked up over the years. New students are always welcome to attend. Vernon County Historical Society members attend for free, and non-members are asked to pay \$5 per session.

The Vernon County Historical Society's annual pork chop dinner will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 4 to 7PM, in the parking lot of the history center. It will be a drive-through carry-out event. Each meal costs \$15 and includes a pork chop, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, a roll, and a cookie.

Looking ahead to August, our next grill-out at Nelson Agri-Center in Viroqua will be held on Saturday, August 10. Volunteers will be serving hot dogs and bratwurst from 10AM to 2PM. Funds raised at these events help to preserve and promote Vernon County history.

In the evening of that same day, Saturday, August 10, come enjoy a Swift Night Out in the parking lot on the west side of the museum and history center. Chimney swifts roost in the building's large chimney, and the hundreds of birds streaming into the chimney at dusk is a sight to see. The event will begin at 7:30PM with brief talks by swift expert Dr. Stefan Gleissberg of the Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group, and by local birder Dave Krier. Then we'll watch the swifts roost in the chimney around 8:30PM.

Other local groups are also holding summer events that might be of interest to history-lovers. The Cheyenne Settlers Heritage Society will be holding its annual reunion and fundraiser on Saturday, July 27, from 10AM to 6PM, at the Fireman's Park in Hillsboro. There will be speakers, food, games for kids, and more at this event celebrating the history of Cheyenne Valley.

The annual Wild West Days in Viroqua will be held the weekend of August 16-18, offering an opportunity to step back in time and experience a taste of frontier life. And the village of Coon Valley will celebrate its 175th on Saturday, August 24, from 7AM to 10PM, with food, games, music, vintage cars and tractors, and a scavenger hunt.

Summer is a great time to get out and learn about local history. Hope to see you at these area events!