



# Coon Valley Historical Society

*Building our Future on the Foundations of our Past*

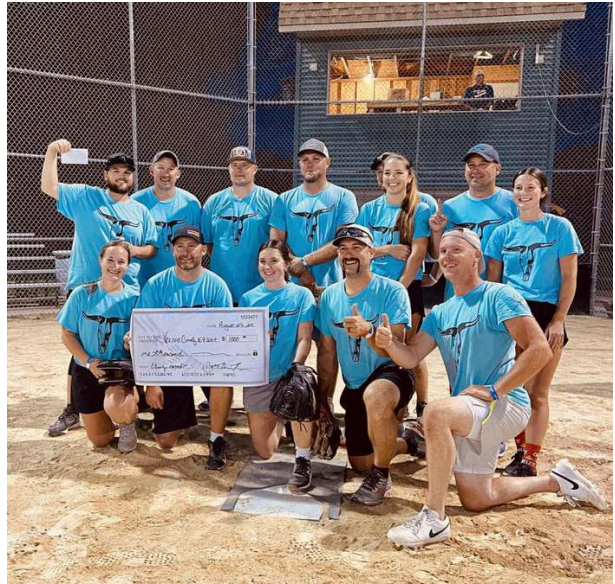


Welcome to our Newsletter. We are a passionate group of local volunteers dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories, artifacts, and traditions that make our community so unique!



## HERITAGE DAY 2025

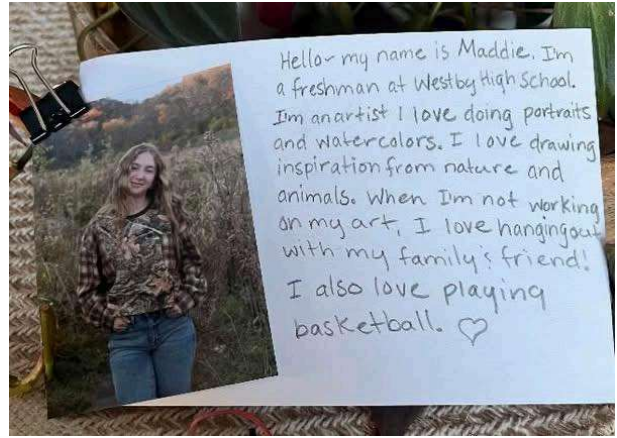
Our celebration was a huge success as it's more than just a celebration - it's a joyful gathering of neighbors, families and friends. It featured a co-ed softball tournament, parade, classic car show, a 5K Run/Walk, live music, scavenger hunt, kids' activities, delicious food and drinks, and a dazzling fireworks display!



## Logo designed by a local Artist

Our logo, beautifully designed by local artist Maddie Wedwick, features the original settlers' stone monument located in the Upper Coon Valley Cemetery.

Erected in 1899, this monument bears the names of the Norwegian pioneers who first made Coon Valley their home - a powerful symbol of resilience, community, and legacy.



## NEW HOME COMING SOON!

We are proud to announce that we will soon have a location for our Museum inside Sweet Valley Artisans, which will eventually house a growing collection of historical artifacts, a small library, and a genealogy center to help families trace their roots in Coon Valley.



## We can see our past if we know where to look!

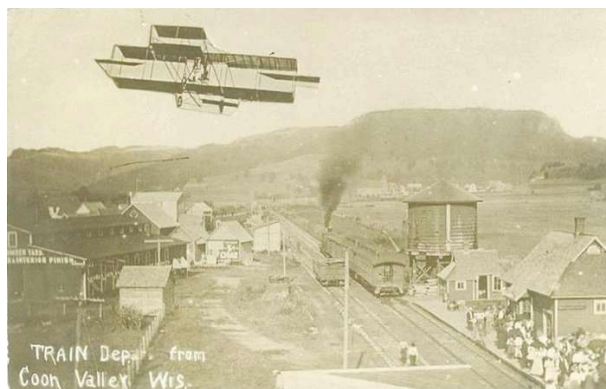
In 1860, Henrik Johnson Kvernstuen and Nils Hanson Neprud opened the first business in the area - a sawmill - on land that they bought for \$150 near a small waterfall. The waterfall was damned and the proprietors became recognized in 10 communities for their honesty and hard work.

In 1868, a flour and feed mill was added to the enterprise and the place became a hub of social activity. Farmers brought their grain to be milled and while they waited they met friends, traded horses, shopped, exchanged news, and visited the bars. The mill was what made Coon Valley a village.

The mill ran day and night six days a week (except Sunday) filling the air with dust. Besides wheat being ground into flour, barley was pearled here (*pearling is a process that removes the husk and polishes the grain to make it cook faster*), and wool was carded on the upper floor.

When the La Crosse & Southeastern railroad came through town in 1905, the first freight shipped out was a boxcar of flour from the mill. The mill burned down in 1923 after 63 years in operation. It was not rebuilt.

Our Scavenger Hunt led the finders of Rascal & Rocky Raccoon, who were found near where the mill once was.



# We invite you to join us!



As we begin this exciting journey together, we invite you to share your stories, donate artifacts, and help us build a museum that reflects the heart and soul of Coon Valley. Thank you for being here, and for helping us preserve the past while celebrating the present.

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