

March 2020

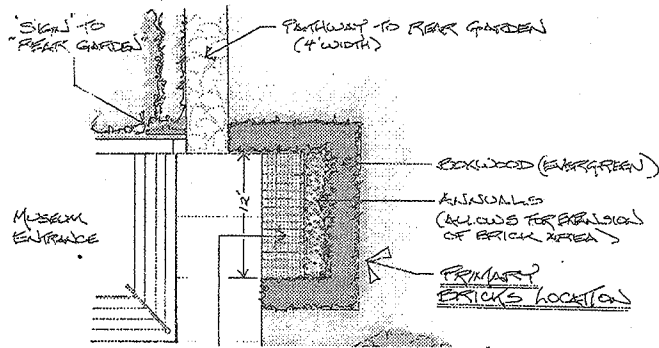
Portage Historical Society Museum at the Portage

804 MacFarlane Rd., Portage, WI



Work starts soon on memorial terrace, still time to buy a brick

With spring in the air and the ground thawing, contractors will soon be at the Museum at the Portage to start working on the brick terrace in front of the building. To date about 50 memorial bricks (pavers) have been purchased according to Dave Eulberg who is spearheading the project. But there's still time to place an order. A 4"x8" paver is \$125, and an 8"x8" paver is \$150. If you are interested in purchasing a paver in honor of an individual, family or business contact Dave at 742-4957 before April 15 to discuss details regarding desired imprint on the paver (characters per line, etc.)



The diagram at right illustrates the layout for the terrace as designed by Joel Engelland, LA.

SCALE (ft):

Option: **A**

Brick Area Layout
Museum at the Portage

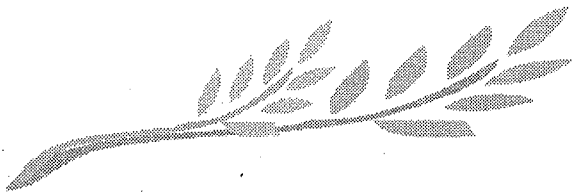
Joel Engelland, LA
June, 2019

'Sweet' program awaits at annual dinner meeting

The Odyssey Quartet from Milwaukee/Chicago will provide a selection of music in the Sweet Adeline tradition at the PHS annual dinner meeting. The meeting was originally scheduled for April 13 but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak on April 13 at Trails Lounge in Portage. The event will be rescheduled when the situation improves so that social gatherings can resume without risk to participants. PHS members will be notified by postcard when the event is rescheduled. And menu options, price, etc will be included in that notice.



Members of the Odyssey Quartet are, from left, Renee Rieboldt, Karen Leet, Sarah Balke and Monica Arnt. In addition to entertaining with song, they will provide a short history of the Sweet Adeline organization.



Y

Stories of the Upper Fox River starts with Canal Days in Portage

The Portage Historical Society, Marquette Historical Society (Green Lake Co.) and Montello Historical Preservation Society will be collaborating this upcoming summer to promote a series of events in each of the towns that highlight the history of the Upper Fox River and the cultures of the people who live there.

The three month event starts in Portage on June 6 with Canal Days, featuring a downtown walking tour and activities at the Surgeon's Quarters and the Indian Agency House, two sites figuring prominently in the life along the Fox River. Subsequent events during the summer include

- June 13 program at Marquette (in Green Lake Co)Village Hall: "Growing up Native American in the 21st century and Woodland Sky Native American Dance Company
- June 20 Re-enactment Father Marquette arriving by canoe at city dock in Montello, 10:30 am. teepee tours, exhibit opens at Vaughn Hall, kids games, voyageur canoe rides, and community folk dance.
- June 27, Montello, Kids Saunter along the Fox-River starting 10 am at library; author Pete Schrake talks about Indian agents and the fur trade at 1 pm
- July 18 presentation by two daughters of lock-tenders in Montello, 1 pm at Vaughn Hall
- Aug 15 Friendship Village in Portage with talk about the Portage canal by Jeff Grothman, 10 at Museum
- Aug 15, Father Marquette Days in Montello, with parade at 10 am
- Sept 5, Sunset on the Fox at Montello boat landing, music
- Sept 6, Marquette (Green Lake Co.) Village Hall, speaker on duck hunting; voyageur canoe rides

Archaeology topic for summer speaker series

Portage Historical Society and the Indian Agency House will be teaming up to co-sponsor a lecture series on four Tuesdays evenings in July. Each speaker will present a program on an aspect of archaeology.

July 7: Indian Agency Blacksmiths – Indian Agency House Executive Director Adam Novey, will delve into the history of these frontier iron-workers who filled a unique role on Wisconsin's cultural landscape. Agency blacksmiths were hired by the government to serve Wisconsin's Native American nations either as a means of garnering a tribe's allegiance or as a payment for their land. One such smith was located at the Fort Winnebago Indian Agency...

July 14: John Wackman is an archaeologist with experience working for the Wisconsin Archaeological Rescue Program. He will discuss the 1980s dig which he led at the Agency House as well as the practices of archaeology in general

July 21: Constance Arzigian of the Archaeology and Anthropology Department of UW-LaCrosse will offer a presentation on the critical thinking involved in pre-historic archaeology. Rather than merely reviewing what is known about pre-historic era America, she will explore how archaeologists interpret artifacts to arrive at a conclusion.

July 28-Archaeology at the Agency. Archaeologist Ryan Howell will summarize what was and was not learned about the Agency House blacksmith shop during the archaeological excavation that will be done at the property in June.

Preservation Commission seeks new member
The Historic Preservation Commission for the city of Portage has vacancies, and is encouraging interested applicants to apply. The commission is charged with "promoting the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of sites of special character and use of improvements of sites of special character or special architectural, archaeological or historic interest or value. The Commission meets monthly.

Thanks to 2019 Donors for their Financial Support

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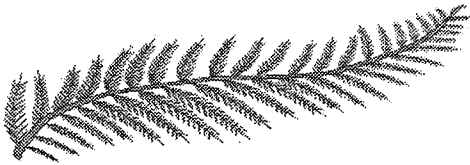
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It's not too late to support the Portage Historical Society in 2020 with your donation in any amount. To check on your donation for 2020, you may contact Nancy Kreier at 608 742-4477.

Museum awarded CAP grant targeting care of collection

Portage Historical Society was recently awarded a grant totaling \$7,800 to hire specialists to assess the Museum collection and building, and evaluate policies and procedures for caring for the collection. The CAP (Collections Assessment for Preservation) program is a joint effort of the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Foundation for the Advancement of Conservation. The program is intended for small and medium size museums.

The assessors will spend two days at the Museum, interviewing staff and organization leadership, and then prepare a report outlining their recommendations and facilitate the development of a long range preservation plan.



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