The evening will begin with a social hour at 5 pm, followed by courses on American literature, film and composition. The program at 7 pm. The dinner menu options are pot roast with carrots and potatoes; or cod with baked potato, or chicken with orange and ginger and baked potato. All dinners include salad, roll and butter, coffee and dessert. All dinners are $20 and include tax and gratuity.

At the business meeting, members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the bylaws. See the insert in this newsletter for details of the proposed change to the bylaws.

To make a reservation with your dinner selection call Melody Brooks at 742-6082 or Sarah Mautz at 742-1319. Reservations must be made by noon, Friday, April 12.

The Museum at the Portage will re-open on April 4. Museum hours will be 1-4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in April and May. In June, July, and August the Museum will be open Tuesday—Saturday from 1-4 pm.
grub is good and they have taken good care of us." The flu, he wrote to his mother, is "just about conquered." Keith Morris of Kilbourn was "laid low by pneumonia" in Portsmouth, England. A communication to his mother following his death may have provided some solace. "I can assure you I have catered for in his last hours by a competent and sympathetic staff of surgeons and nurses," wrote Lt. A.W. McMillan who also wrote that the soldier's final resting spot in Winchester "is a beautiful spot overlooking many miles of this lovely English countryside and many of his comrades who also gave their lives are buried beside him."

A review of the Portage newspaper from the second half of 1918 marks the progress of influenza in the civilian population. On Sept. 25, the newspaper reported that there were several cases of influenza in the city. Rhyme's Drug Store had been advertising "inner tube bargains" on September 20 but within a few weeks was advertising products to prevent the spread of influenza. Similar ads continued through the season, including several from Vick's VapoRub which was relatively new on the market. A national ad in late October promoted the notion that the order for 1.25 million jars the previous month completely sold out, and that "today's order alone is for 932,459 jars."

Influenza strikes rural areas too

Populous metropolitan areas were easy targets for the contagious disease — in Philadelphia 12,000 died in less than five weeks — but rural areas and small towns were visited by the Spanish Lady too, and Columbia County was no exception. Mrs. Laura Roundy died of influenza/pneumonia at the Wyocena home in mid-October. All seven of her children were afflicted, and in all, only one person in a home was designated to provide care for sick person. Reports of illness and death continued into 1919, but the rate of infection was slowing, and by December 1918 newspaper ads promoting products to prevent the flu were replaced with ads aimed at shoppers looking for Christmas gifts.

In an article in Wisconsin Magazine of History (Autumn, 2000) writer Steven Burg reports that Wisconsin was the only state to meet the flu threat with "uniform, statewide measures that were unusual both for their aggressiveness and the public's willingness to comply with them." He acknowledges that the state's low population density and the relatively late arrival of the flu to the state contributed to the low death rate, but Wisconsin was better prepared than other states "because of the state's foresight in making public health a policy priority."

Longtime supporter tenders resignation

Kathryn Curtis has been a familiar figure at the Museum at the Portage since its inception in the mid-1990s. Along with her late husband, J. R. "Doc" Curtis, who served as first president of the Portage Historical Society, she was closely involved with the evolution of the library on MacFarlane Rd into the Museum at the Portage, helping to plan and set up exhibits, encourage membership, and provide invaluable support services. Both Kathryn and "Doc" were key contributors when the sesquicentennial history of Portage was published in 2004, and she was her husband's right hand assistant when he authored A Military History of Portage. Kathryn joined the Portage Historical Society board in 2013 and has been active in that capacity until early this year when she retired from the board. Thank you, Kathryn, for your many years of support!

Can you spare a few hours on April 2? Willing workers are needed on Tuesday, April 2, to help get the Museum at the Portage spruced up and ready for opening on April 4. With a help from members and supporters, it will be a "fun and productive day" of spring cleaning starting at 10 am. Weather permitting, outside clean-up will be April 30.

Portage Historical Society Board of Directors

John Waldman, President
Vicki Vogts, Vice-President
Peg Amend, Secretary
Dave Rolberg, Treasurer
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Judy Eulberg
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Linda Wendt

Newsletter Editor
Jane Considine

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Email: museummuseumheportage@gmail.com

Sources:
- Pandemic 1918: Eyewitness Accounts from the Greatest Medical Holocaust in Modern History by Catharine Arnold
- Influenza: The Great Slaughter of 1918 by Ira Reiss and Charles Singer
- WSH Oral History interview with Glen Harman, 1980-81
- Wisconsin and the Great Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 by Steven Burg (Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol 84 (1)
- Obituary Index Portage Newspapers, 1908-1949 compiled by Anna Mae Axm
- A Military History of Portage by J. Robert Curtis

Portage Daily Register

Influenza strikes rural areas too

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Mayor takes action to reduce risk

On Oct. 12, Mayor S.H. Peck issued a proclamation banning public events other than open air gatherings. As a result schools were closed, and church services, civic meetings, and social events were halted. People were advised to not spit on the sidewalk, and the mayor recommended that children be confined to home. Citizens were to refrain from visiting the sick. One of the events that was permitted was the county fair — it being the only open air event — and attendance was sufficient enough to allow the fair board to pay its bills. The newspaper reported on Oct. 25 that the precautions were not widely used and "it would remain in place until further notice. It was noted that Red Cross visitors from Chicago complimented local authorities on the steps they had taken (including flushing the streets), and also cited the citizens for their cooperation, resulting in

Continued on p. 3

Coloring book features historic homes

Twelve historic Portage homes are featured in the coloring book published by the Portage Historic Preservation Commission. "Early Portage Photographs" published by the Portage Historical Society was incorporated in coloring book. The first run of 500 copies were quickly gone, and a 2nd run was authorized in January. Copies are available at city hall, Chamber of Commerce office and public library, and it is hoped that sufficient copies will be available for distribution at the Museum at the Portage when it opens in April. Copies of "Early Portage Photographs" starting 66 homes from the early 1900s, and information about the architectural style and owners is also available for purchase at the museum.

Influenza (can't from page 2)

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