FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HEARTHSTONE COMMEMORATES THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY WITH CITY-WIDE BELL RINGING AND A TWITTER RE-ENACTMENT.

Hearthstone Historic House Museum has organized a twitter re-enactment of events leading-up to Armistice Day with local university students playing the roles of historic Appleton figures. The re-enactment will culminate with the ringing of church bells across downtown Appleton at the time the Armistice took effect, marking the end of World War I.

World War I, which witnessed millions of military and civilian deaths on all sides, officially ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. When the four years of war finally ended, church bells rang out once again after being silent for most of the war. Over a dozen Appleton churches in the downtown area, many of which existed at the time that Armistice took effect, will recreate this historic moment by peeling their bells at the appointed hour. The commemorative bell ringing was organized by Hearthstone volunteer Christine Williams.

Students from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Lawrence University, and the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley will also commemorate Armistice Day with a Twitter reenactment leading up to November 11th. The students will voice the thoughts and actions of characters from Appleton’s past. The characters include Albert Priest who owned Hearthstone in 1918, a German-speaking servant working in the Priest household at the time, a soldier from Appleton serving at the front in France, the editor of the Appleton Crescent, one of two English-language newspapers published in Appleton at the time, and the editor of the Appleton Volksfreund, a German language newspaper published in Appleton from 1874-1932. Each re-enactor will express their character’s viewpoint on events in Europe and Appleton leading up to the conclusion of the war and Armistice Day.

The Twitter reenactment can be followed on Twitter at #HearthstoneArmistice.

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ABOUT HEARTHSTONE:

Friends of Hearthstone, Inc. is a non-profit, privately funded organization with the mission of preserving Hearthstone Historic House Museum and the contents within for the promotion of its unique place in history, architecture, innovation, and culture in the Fox Cities area to its members and all those in the State of Wisconsin.
Hearthstone Historic House Museum is a large, beautifully restored Queen Anne Victorian Style home built in 1882 by Henry J. Rogers, Superintendent of the Appleton Paper and Pulp Mill. On September 30, 1882, Hearthstone was the first house in the world to be lit by an Edison central hydroelectric power station. The house retains many unique, genuine features, including the original Thomas Edison electroliers and light switches. Appleton was one of the first three cities in the world to be lit by an Edison central power station, the other two being New York and London. This was all due to Mr. Rogers, who decided to invest in Edison’s power station in order to light two paper mills and his home. Since it became a museum in 1987, Hearthstone’s focus is to preserve the house and its artifacts to re-create a historical experience based on its Thomas A. Edison heritage for the cultural enjoyment and educational benefit of the public through its many exhibits and educational programs.