

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Hearthstone Historic House Museum's Flag Day Parade comprises a classic wooden boat and two figures from Hearthstone's history. The entry highlights Hearthstone's international significance as the world's first home to be electrified using a hydroelectric central power station plying the Edison system.

It all started as a conversation between two old fishing friends who were spending the day on Lake Winnebago. It was the first day of black bass season in the spring of 1882. H. J. Rogers, an industrialist in Appleton who was building a new beautiful mansion (now known as Hearthstone), was hosting his friend H. E. Jacobs for a day on the lake. As Mr. Jacobs began telling his friend how enthusiastic he was for his new job with the Western Edison Light Company of Chicago, Mr. Rogers soon found the idea of electrifying his house and the nearby mills more interesting than fishing.

Hearthstone's new exhibit, "Caught in the Current... Reeling in Edison's Bright Idea," tells the story of fishing in the 1880s with antique lures, rods, reels, and other gear and memorabilia in almost every room of the house. But it also tells a larger story, one of the dawn of electrification, of people with vision, and of how a day on the lake changed the world. "Caught in the Current" runs through September 30, 2018.

In the boat are Mr. Rogers (played by Frank Koffend – a lifetime collector of fishing gear whose collection comprises much of the Hearthstone exhibit and who will also be at Hearthstone speaking next Saturday about the history of sport fishing) and Mr. Edwards (played by Tom Weiland, Hearthstone's Marketing and Development Director).

The boat features a 38 star US flag from 1882, the year Hearthstone was completed.