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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2009 Distinguished Heritage Hall of Honor pays tribute to longtime supporters of the Naperville Heritage Society

Naperville, Ill. — Each year, the Naperville Heritage Society Board of Directors inducts honorees into the Distinguished Heritage Hall of Honor to recognize exemplary dedication to the preservation of our community's heritage. This award recognizes those who have enthusiastically supported preserving Naperville's rich and storied history, and have demonstrated a high level of commitment to Naper Settlement and the Heritage Society's mission of historic preservation and education.

The public is invited to the Distinguished Heritage Hall of Honor ceremony that is being held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, in Century Memorial Chapel at Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St., Naperville.

This year's inductees are:

Donald Burney: In 1983, Donald Burney was among the first group of volunteers to learn how to operate the printing presses in the new Print Shop. For over a decade, he trained and led a team of volunteers, who provided informative and fun presentations about 19th century printing to visitors and schoolchildren.

Cress Creek Garden Club: For 30 years, the Cress Creek Garden Club has lovingly cared for the gardens around the Paw Paw Post Office, Naperville's first post office and the oldest frame house at Naper Settlement. They have donated fruit and shade trees and annually organize volunteers for spring planting, fall cleanup and summertime watering.

Ruth Gamertsfelder: In 1939, the Martin Mitchell Museum opened to the public and Ruth Gamertsfelder was one of the people who regularly welcomed visitors on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons to learn about Naperville's past. When the Naperville Heritage Society started Naper Settlement in 1969, she also volunteered in the various buildings as they were moved on site.

Grace Fredenhagen and Rita Fredenhagen Harvard: Grace Fredenhagen was one of the original members of the Martin Mitchell Museum Board that converted Caroline Martin Mitchell's home into a museum in keeping with Caroline's bequest. Grace is often regarded as one of Naperville's first preservationists, taking on the restoration of the 1830s Bailey Hobson home. Grace's daughter, Rita, followed in her mother's footsteps, becoming a charter member of the Naperville Heritage Society and continuing to be a strong advocate for historic preservation in Naperville. She often volunteered in costume at the Murray House. Rita and her husband, John, continue to be strong supporters of Naper Settlement and the Naperville Heritage Society.

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Harold and Eva White: Ardent supporters of the Naperville Heritage Society, Harold and Eva White provided behind-the-scenes resources, such as letterhead, note cards, mailings and flyers and placements for the Antiques Show to promote the developing of Naper Settlement. They also provided the funds necessary to create a working print shop at Naper Settlement, complete with printing presses.

History comes to life at Naper Settlement, an outdoor museum village, located in downtown Naperville at 523 S. Webster St. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Naper Settlement has 30 historic structures ranging from a rustic log cabin to an elegant Victorian mansion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open year round, for more information about hours and admission prices, visit www.napersettlement.museum or call (630) 420-6010.

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