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Contacts: Donna DeFalco, 630.305.5250, Defalcod@naperville.il.us
Jody E. Ellyne, 630.420.6017, Ellynej@naperville.il.us

523 S. Webster St.
Naperville, Illinois 60540-6517
P: 630.420.6010
F: 630.305.5255
W: napersettlement.museum

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Naper Settlement receives IMLS Bookshelf

Naperville, Ill. – Treasured objects and artifacts held by Naper Settlement will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS has now awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

“Receipt of the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* will contribute to the overall improvement of collections care at Naper Settlement by serving as a ready and ongoing resource to not only the curatorial staff, but other museum staff members as well,” said Naper Settlement’s Chief Curator Louise Howard. “Having no conservator on staff at the museum, the Bookshelf resources will benefit the museum by providing accessible and updated information on current standards and practices as they apply to the conservation of various materials in the collections.”

“When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the dire state of our nation’s collections, we understood that the materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide,” said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. “We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations.”

The Naperville Heritage Society’s Museum Collection will receive this essential set of resources based on an application that described the needs and plans for the care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries’ special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America’s collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the

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national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

About the American Association for State and Local History

The American Association for State and Local History is a non-profit membership organization comprising individuals, agencies, and organizations acting in the public trust, engaged in the practice of history, and representing a variety of disciplines and professions. It provides leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. To learn more, visit www.aaslh.org.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is 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.

Editor's note: For additional information, contact Naper Settlement's Chief Curator Louise Howard at (630) 420-6014, howardl@naperville.il.us, or IMLS contact Jeannine Mjoseth at (202) 653-4632, jmjoseth@ims.gov.

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