



A History Museum

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Naper Settlement's Log House to get a makeover

Naperville, Ill. — The Log House at Naper Settlement is about to receive a not-so-extreme makeover. Visitors soon will be able to sit on an old-fashioned rope bed, open a trunk to take a peek at what the pioneers might have brought with them to the Illinois frontier, and rock a wooden cradle.

“We are making this transition so that a visit to the Log House will be much more experiential,” said Director of Visitor Services Donna Sack. “We are training our volunteers and staff to integrate a hands-on approach with the building’s interpretation.”

Before this occurs, Naper Settlement is putting out a call to the community seeking reproductions of these objects, including a trunk, cradle and 1830s-era rope bed.

Throughout the summer, Naper Settlement will be seeking visitor input on the changes, which are being done in response to visitor and community requests for more immersive, engaging opportunities. Currently, this is a pilot to gauge visitor response to the changes, while continuing Naper Settlement and the Naperville Heritage Society’s public trust to preserve original materials. If successful, this type of interactive furnishing will be considered for other select buildings on site.

If you are interested in donating a rope bed, trunk or wooden cradle or making a monetary donation, which can be designated to support the project, please call Naper Settlement at (630) 420-6010.

Naper Settlement plans to have the Log House transition in place early this summer. About 120,000 visitors take part in the museum’s programs each year.

Relocated to the site in 1978 from Jonesboro, Ill., the Log House is the only building not originally from Naperville. The house, built in 1843, was dismantled, each piece inventoried, and then shipped to Naperville where it was reassembled piece by piece. A limestone chimney made from local quarry stones finished the house, which has a working hearth. The Log House is used to represent and interpret early life in what was then known as Naper’s Settlement and that we now know as Naperville.

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. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.museum or call (630) 420-6010.

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