

NAPER SETTLEMENT



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Naper Settlement exhibit honors legacy of Naperville Heritage Society

NAPERVILLE, IL — Naper Settlement kicked off its 2019 exhibit line-up today with “NHS|50: Treasures & Chronicles”, an exhibit documenting the history of the Naperville Heritage Society. Now in its fiftieth year, the Society formed in 1969 as a group of volunteers fighting to save St. John’s Episcopal Church from demolition.

The exhibit follows the Naperville Heritage Society from its humble beginnings as a grassroots community organization to today, now the administrators of an award-winning, nationally accredited regional destination museum. It details both the organization’s history and its positive impact on education, preservation, volunteerism, and community identity within the City of Naperville.

Never seen before artifacts from the museum’s 80,000-piece collection are on display, including a 2010 Crown Victoria Squad car from the Naperville Police Department Unit 190, acquired by the Society in 2018. Spanning Naperville’s 188-year history, other highlights include: an original Joseph Naper daguerreotype, too fragile for frequent display; a Cock Robin multimixer with collars and cups; a Phoenix salesman sample case with plastic tops made here in Naperville; and a sari and rice cooker from the museums growing Asian collection.

From saving historic buildings facing demolition to collecting and exhibiting inclusive present-day history, understanding the organization’s evolution is a key takeaway for visitors. “The Naperville Heritage Society is a reflection of its community. In the 1970s and 1980s, the focus was on building the architectural collections and moving buildings to the site. Then came the City’s Sesquicentennial, and now, today, we look to capture Naperville’s growth and diversity, while exploring the City in the 20th and 21st centuries. With each decade, the story, the artifacts, and the history of the community becomes more layered and richer with meaning and significance.” said Donna Sack, vice president of community engagement and audience.

“NHS|50: Treasures & Chronicles” is on view now through May 19 at Naper Settlement. Naperville residents, members, and children under 4 receive free admission.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is home to thirty historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes alive and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.