FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/22/26

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Subject: Explore Illinois History Through 10 Fascinating Objects at Free Brown Bag Lunch Program

DeKalb, IL – What can historical objects reveal about the people and experiences that shaped Illinois? The Ellwood House Museum and DeKalb County History Center invite the public to explore that question during a free Brown Bag Lunch program, "Illinois History in 10 Objects," on Thursday, November 5, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ellwood House Museum Visitor Center, located at 420 Linden Place, in DeKalb.

Public historian Erika Holst will lead an engaging presentation featuring 10 fascinating objects from the Illinois State Museum's collection in commemoration of America's 250th anniversary. Spanning centuries of Illinois history, the objects offer a glimpse into the lives of people who experienced pivotal moments, from the history of the state's first Indigenous peoples and the Revolutionary War era to women's history, immigration, the Civil War, the Great Depression, and World War II.

Participants are encouraged to bring an object or photograph that holds personal or family significance. Following the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to share the stories behind their own items and reflect on how personal experiences and everyday objects contribute to the history being made around us.

The program aligns with the Illinois America 250 Commission's "We the People" theme, which celebrates the diverse people and experiences that have shaped Illinois and the nation. By connecting historical artifacts with personal stories, the program encourages participants to consider how individual lives and family histories contribute to a broader understanding of the past.

Holst is a public historian and Illinois Humanities Road Scholar who enjoys uncovering historical discoveries and sharing them through engaging, conversational presentations that connect the past to our lives today.

The Brown Bag Lunch series is held on the first Thursday of each month through a partnership between the Ellwood House Museum and the DeKalb County History Center. Programs are free and open to the public. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy during the presentation. The series is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council.

For more information, contact the Ellwood House Museum at 815-756-4609 or ellwoodhouse.org, or reach out to the DeKalb County History Center at 815-895-5762 or visit dekalbcountyhistory.org.

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