



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois State Museum invites Illinoisans to share stories for America 250

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Museum is inviting residents from across the state to share their family stories as part of a statewide effort to commemorate the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary.

As the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence approaches, the museum is asking Illinoisans to contribute stories passed down through their families. Selected submissions may be featured in exhibitions, programs and social media as part of the museum’s America 250 initiative.

The museum is seeking stories that have been told and retold within families over time. Participants can submit their stories by visiting the museum’s website and completing a short survey.

All stories are welcome, whether they happened last week or 200 years ago, involve a major historical event or reflect an everyday moment. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Stories about when and why you or an ancestor first came to Illinois.
- Memories describing what life was like “back then” for a family member.
- Childhood stories often shared by a parent or grandparent.
- Stories about how family members met or fell in love.

In 2026, the Illinois State Museum will highlight Illinois as a “Land of Stories,” recognizing that the state’s history is shaped by the people and places that define it. Planned exhibitions will explore stories connected to Indigenous life, the natural world, the people of Illinois and the legacy of U.S. Route 66. Through this initiative, the museum celebrates the diverse experiences that continue to shape Illinois and the nation.

For more information or to submit a story, visit the [Illinois State Museum](https://www.ism.edu) online.

About the Illinois State Museum

Established in 1877, the Illinois State Museum is a dynamic institution that inspires the exploration of Illinois' past and present to inform and enrich everyday life and promote stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Headquartered in Springfield with branch facilities in Lewistown and Lockport, ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and a proud member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

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