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March 1, 2006

For Immediate Release:

SPEAKER TO DISCUSS QUILTS' IMPORTANCE TO FUGITIVE SLAVES

CHARLESTON – Clarice Boswell, author of “Lizzie’s Story: A Slave Family’s Journey to Freedom,” will present the history of pre-Civil War quilts Thursday on Eastern Illinois University’s campus.

“Pre-Civil War Quilts: Their Hidden Codes to the Freedom of Slaves Through the Underground Railroad” will begin at 7 p.m. in Lumpkin Hall, room 2020. Admission is free and open to the public.

Boswell plans to talk about the significance of hidden codes in many quilts that enabled fugitive slaves to follow a safe route to the Underground Railroad and, eventually, freedom. Replicas of some of the quilts will be on display.

The presentation will be followed by a book-signing.