

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Margaret Goderstad, Senior Guide

LeDuc Historic Estate/Dakota County Historical Society

1629 Vermillion=2 0Street

Hastings, MN 55033

Phone: 651-437-3365 or 651-437-7055

bgoderstad@aol.com

www.dakotahistory.org

Fourth Annual Civil War Weekend at the LeDuc Historic Estate

August 31, 2009, Hastings, MN – Experience life during the Civil War at the Fourth Annual Civil War Weekend, September 12 & 13, 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Leduc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings. Visitors will witness Union and Confederate soldiers drilling with rifles, practicing with artillery, and tending the wounded in the 3rd Minnesota's medical tent. They will be present for one of the famous Abraham Lincoln-Stephan Douglas debates that illustrates the tense years and competing ideals that lead up to the Civil War as well as readings of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Lee's Farewell Address to the Troops. More than 60 re-enactors will be encamped at the Estate including soldiers from the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, the 2nd MN Light Artillery, 3rd Minnesota Regiment, Battery I, and Missouri State Guard. Representing the home front will be the St. Paul Volunteer Soldiers Aid Society, Century Brass Band, U.S. Christian Commission, and demonstrations of the 1860 Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine.

Other programs include cooking over an open fire, "Life as a Civil War Quartermaster", fife and drum music throughout the weekend, "Women in the Civil War", a musical reading of the new book "B is for Battle Cry" by author Pat Bauer accompanied by the Pearl Button Players, and families will have a chance to get up close to a cavalry soldier and his 23 year-old horse Virginia.

Events will take place at several venues on the grounds of the LeDuc Historic Estate on both Saturday and Sunday.

EAST LAWN (Apple Orchard area)

- 10: a.m., both days - "The Role of the Quartermaster" with Spencer Johnson
- 10:30 a.m., both days - Reading of Gettysburg Address by Mayor Paul Hicks
- 11:00 a.m., both days - "Women in the Civil War" with Janie D arrow
- Noon, Sunday - "B is for Battle Cry" – Author Pat Bauer & illustrator Dave Geister read excerpts from their latest book accompanied by Pearl Button Players. (Don & Sherry Ladig)
- 1:00 p.m., Sunday - Century Brass Band
- 2:00 p.m., both days - Lincoln-Douglas Debate with Taber20Aikin & Dave Woodard

*** MORE ***

SIMMONS SHED

- 11:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m., Saturday and 3:30 p.m., Sunday - Demonstration of Operation & Functions of 1860 Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines with Diane Thorpe & Tara Hartl. This sewing machine was sold using the modern day "party plan."

THE GENERAL GROUNDS

- 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m., both days - Musket Demonstration & Firing
- Noon & 3:00 p.m., Saturday and 11 a.m. & 3:00 p.m., Sunday - Artillery Demonstration
- Ongoing, both days - Music of fife and drum

WALNUT GROVE (east of carriage barn)

- All weekend - Encampment of Missouri State Guard (Confederate) - Men who fought for Southern State's Rights

NORTH LAWN

- All weekend – Encampments of the First Minnesota, Second Minnesota, Battery I and the St. Paul Volunteer Soldiers Aid Society
- All weekend - Mike Martin with his 23 year-old horse named Virginia. Last year Virginia met 1800 children at Blue Mounds State Park near Madison, WI.

EAST OF THE HOUSE

- All weekend - Spencer Johnson's Encampment. This serves as a "mess" for the troops
- 10:30 a.m. - Sunday - Baking Bread over an open fire with Pat Bauer

SOUTH LAWN

- All weekend – Encampment of the Third Minnesota, Co. C Provost & Medical and the U.S. Christian Commission. Ongoing interpretation of their field hospital tent.
- 11:30 a.m. - Drill with the 3rd Minnesota, Family Participation Invited - (Saturday & Sunday)
- 12:30 p.m. - Civil War Era Medical Demonstration - 3rd Minnesota - (Saturday)
- 1:30 p.m. - Drill with 3rd Minnesota, Family Participation Invited - (Saturday)
- 3:00 p.m. - Civil War Era Medical Demonstration - 3rd Minnesota (Sunday)
- 4:00 p.m. - Civil War Era Medical Demonstration - 3rd Minnesota (Saturday)
- 4:00 p.m. - Closing Ceremony, U.S. Christian Commission

CARRIAGE BARN

- All weekend - Arne Kind will work with children in recruiting & drilling.

THE LEDUC HOUSE

- Tours of the house running daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every 20 minutes. Hour-long tour is included in the admission price:

Members & Military Personnel with ID – FREE

Adults - \$10

Seniors - \$9

Students - \$5

Kids ages 5 and younger – FREE

MORE

There will be a special booth called "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" on the grounds and information will be offered about resources available to military personnel and their families.

Food may be purchased on the grounds both days and will be catered by a local establishment.

The LeDuc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings, is handicap accessible on first floor and there is a virtual tour that visitors may watch. Free parking is available behind the Estate and can be reached by turning left on Highway 61 at 17th Street East. The parking lot entrance is the first left hand turn on 17th Street East.

For more information or questions please call 651-437-7055 or check the website: <http://www.dakotahistory.org/LeDuc/home.asp> (complete schedule and release with images available September 1, 3 p.m.)

The LeDuc Historic Estate is managed by Dakota County Historical Society and owned by the City of Hastings.

END