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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNIOR NEEDLE WORKING AT THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

August 24, 2010, Hastings, MN - Hastings Needle Work Company was a very profitable business for Florence and Alice LeDuc. In fact, their work was in such great demand in the East, Chicago, and the Twin Cities that they had to hire 15-20 Hastings women to help them create their high quality products. They designed and made everything from lamp shades to place mats to pillow covers. In the interest of keeping needle working alive, the LeDuc Historic Estate is offering a Junior Needle Working Class on Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. until noon. The class is open to children ages 9-12 and is limited to 12 students.

Instructor Diana Langenfeld learned about embroidery from her mother and grandmother, and she has passed this knowledge on to her family and countless Dakota County 4-H youth. Besides needle working she enjoys doing other handwork techniques such as sewing, knitting, crocheting, and jewelry making. She spends much of her spare time as a volunteer at the LeDuc Historic Estate.

The class attendees will re-create one of the patterns from Hastings Needle Work Company on a dish towel, using two different stitches with beautifully colored threads. There will be enough left over material for students to continue stitching at home after their experience.

Register for this class by calling the LeDuc Historic Estate at 651-437-7055. The registration fee of \$18 can be paid by credit card or check upon registration and includes all class supplies. Deadline for registration is September 29, 2010. Information is also available on the Dakota County Historical Society website: www.dakotahistory.org.

Junior needle workers under age 16 are encouraged to participate in the junior division of Modern Interpretations of Historic Design II. Deadline for entry applications is March 31, 2011. Please see www.dakotahistory.org for specific details.

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