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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Prelude to War - Civil War Weekend

*August 31, 2010, Hastings, MN* Visitors at the LeDuc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings, will have an opportunity to go back in history as they attend "Prelude to War - Civil War Weekend" on Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The dramatic lead-up to the war and its causes will be explored and the question will be asked, "Was it slavery or something else?" There will be encampments, demonstrations, speakers, music and activities for entire families to enjoy. The exciting schedule for the weekend includes the following:

#### Programming for Both Days

##### **Soldier re-enactors**

- Missouri State Guard – Militia - Headed by Rich Williams
- First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment – drills & musketry
- Third Minnesota Volunteer Regiment – Co. C Provost and Medical
- Battery I – Gatling Gun Drills

##### **Politician & non-combatant re-enactors**

- Abraham Lincoln & Stephen Douglas (historians Taber Akin & Dave Woodard) re-stage their famous 1858 debates and discuss pre-war politics.
- Spencer Johnson's Quartermaster's Camp – LeDuc at war and cooking over an open fire
- Cooking over an open fire with educator Pat Bauer
- MN Living History Society - 1860s clothing and the roles of men and women of the period
- Women's Temperance Union
- St. Paul Volunteer Soldiers' Aid society - Portraying the women of Guardian Angels Church and the charitable work they did before the Civil War
- Parlor demonstration of Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine during the *Art and War* Estate tour
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##### **Youth & family focused activities**

- Children will have an opportunity to try on costumes for photo opportunities - be sure to bring your camera!
- Go on a scavenger hunt that travels through the grounds and to the encampments at the Estate
- Family participation in soldiers drill is encouraged!

- Cindy Thury Smith and Shirley Dalaska will be selling their book, *Civil War Veterans: Hastings, MN. A Documented List Including Selected Biographies*
- Authentic 1860 Dakota County Ballot Box on display

### **Exhibits & Tours**

- Attendees will want to take the *Art and War* tour of the Estate. This unique tour focuses on the LeDuc family from 1855-1861 and features original art by David Geister, vignette portrayals of Mrs. Bronson and her son Charlie (mother and brother of Mrs. LeDuc), and an authentic 1860 Dakota County ballot box.

### **Other Activities**

- Cindy Thury Smith and Shirley Dalaska will be selling their book, *Civil War Veterans: Hastings, MN. A Documented List Including Selected Biographies*

### **Saturday-Only Programming**

- Opening Flag Ceremony
- *The Road to War* by educator and author Steve Werle
- *Civil War Veterans* presentation by author Cindy Thury Smith
- Music by the Century Brass Band

### **Sunday-Only Programming**

- *B is for Battle Cry!* reading & signing by author Pat Bauer & illustrator Dave Geister
- *Abraham Lincoln in New Orleans* reading & signing by author Rae Katherine Eighmey
- Music by the New Pearl Button Players

Music will be a major part of the festivities. On Saturday, September 11 the Century Brass Band will entertain with its rousing music. Don & Sherry Lading, New Pearl Button Players, will be present with their period appropriate music on Sunday, September 12.

Admission to the event, including a tour of the LeDuc House, is the same as regular tour rates - \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors and military veterans; \$3 for people ages 6-17; free for active military personnel and their families, children age 5 and younger, and members of Dakota County Historical Society. The LeDuc Historic Estate is owned by the City of Hastings and managed by Dakota County Historical Society.

For questions and additional information please call 651-437-7055 or view the website: [www.dakotahistory.org](http://www.dakotahistory.org).

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