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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sponsored in part by the Hastings VFW

Civil War Weekend at the LeDuc Historic Estate

August 25, 2011, Hastings, MN - Over the Brink: Civil War Weekend will take place at the LeDuc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings, on September 10 and 11, 2011, 10 am - 5 pm each day. The year 1861 will be explored from the firing on Ft. Sumter to the first hard-fought battles of the Civil War. There will be true stories of triumph and heartache told from the points-of-view of the South and North. Special tours of the LeDuc house will be available on the half hour from 10 am until 4:30 pm each day. More than 100 costumed actors portraying soldiers and civilians will be on-hand and in character demonstrating life in 1861; programming changes daily.

Both days begin with a Flag Raising Ceremony led by Union soldiers. At 11:30 am each day a Bugle Call Demonstration by "Bugler Bill" details the importance of bugle calls and their role in combat and maneuvers. All visitors have the opportunity to step into the shoes of a specific soldier or civilian from 1861 and learn what befell that person during the course of the war. This interactive program is suitable for individuals and whole families; it will guide guests through the site, as it helps them explore details of individual lives affected by the war.

Civil War Weekend at the LeDuc Historic Estate promises something special for people of all ages and is especially family friendly. Admission to the grounds includes a special tour of the LeDuc house available every 30 minutes beginning at 10 am each day. Regular tour rates apply: \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors and military veterans; \$3 for people ages 6-17; and 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.

SATURDAY-ONLY EVENTS

- During the LeDuc House Tour at 12 noon: Mrs. Mary LeDuc and the Living History Society members host a tea in the Dining Room.
- *The History of Minnesota*, a humorous short play about the founding of Minnesota, presented by the Living History Society at 2 pm

SUNDAY-ONLY EVENTS

- Victorian re-enactors in the LeDuc house portraying civilian life and a *Victorian Fashion Show* at 3:30 pm
- Firing Drill with both Union and Missouri State Guard members
- Baking and butter-making demonstrations by Pat Bauer at the Quartermaster Camp

MUSIC

- Saturday: **The Manitou Regimental Brass Band** from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN will perform music from 1861 at 2:45 pm *Sponsored by the Hastings VFW.*
- Saturday: **Century Brass Band** will play period patriotic tunes at 4:00 pm
- Sunday: **The New Pearl Buttons**, Don & Sherry Ladig, will perform songs appropriate to the era at 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Period games and toys, like stilt-walking & Wonder Whizzers; Churning butter; Coffee grinding & making home-made Lemonade.

IN THE CARRIAGE BARN – Ongoing Displays

- Extensive Civil War Gun Collection
- Civil War Artifact Collection
- George Daniels Display with NEW program guide: As an escaped slave, Daniels fights on behalf of the Confederacy and fakes his death to escape across lines to a Union encampment; later he becomes a hired hand for William LeDuc and a pioneer farmer in South Dakota.

AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS

- Cindy Thury Smith and Shirley Dalaska will discuss and sign their recent book, "Civil War Veterans: Hastings, MN. A Documented List Plus Selected Biographies."

MARCHING, DRILLING, FIRING DEMONSTRATIONS, & ENCAMPMENTS

- Missouri State Guard - Militia - Headed by Rich Williams
- First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment Re-enactors - Military Drills, Musketry & Firing
- Third Minnesota Volunteer Regiment Re-enactors - Co. C Provost & Medical
- Battery I – Re-enactors - Gatling Gun and Artillery Drills
- Spencer Johnson's Quartermaster's Camp - Cooking over an open fire
- Victorian Re-enactors - portraying civilian life and women's roles and fashions of the era
- St. Paul Volunteer Soldiers' Aid Society - Portraying the women of 1861 and their support for the soldiers headed to war.

OVER THE BRINK: CIVIL WAR WEEKEND 2011 SCHEDULE

Saturday Schedule

- 10:00 am Opening Flag Ceremony on Front Lawn
10:15 am *The Role of the Quartermaster* presentation at **Spencer Johnson Camp** with Cooking Demonstration
10:30 am Musket Demonstration and Firing with **1st Minnesota** on the North Lawn
10:45 am Gatling Gun & Artillery Drill with **Battery I** on the North Lawn
11:00 am Civil War Era Medical Demonstration with **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn, drill with the **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn immediately following – participation invited!
- 11:15 am Drill with the **Missouri State Guard** in the Walnut Grove, East of the Carriage Barn
11:30 am Bugle Call Demonstration with “Bugler Bill” under Speakers’ Tent
Noon *The War of Northern Aggression* presentation by Rich Williams
Special Tour In the LeDuc House: Tea with the **Living History Society**
- 12:30 pm **Secession and the North’s View** presentation
12:45 pm Musket Demonstration and Firing with **1st Minnesota** on the North Lawn
1:00 pm *Potholder Quilts and the United States Sanitary Commission* presentation by Cindy Thury Smith
1:30 pm Drill with the **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn – participation invited!
1:45 pm Gatling Gun & Artillery Drill with **Battery I** on the North Lawn
2-3 pm *The History of Minnesota* Play by the **Living History Society**
2:45 pm 1860’s music with **Manitou Regimental Brass Band**
3:30 pm Civil War Era Medical Demonstration—**3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn
4 pm Period Music by the **Century Brass Band**
5 pm Closing Ceremony with Union Soldiers on Front Lawn

Sunday Schedule

- 10:00 am Opening Ceremony
10:15 am *The Role of the Quartermaster* presentation at **Spencer Johnson Camp**, with Cooking Demonstration by **Pat Bauer** to follow
10:30 am Musket Demonstration and Firing with **1st Minnesota** on the North Lawn
10:45 am Gatling Gun & Artillery Drill with **Battery I** on the North Lawn
11:00 am Civil War Era Medical Demonstration with **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn, drill with the **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn immediately following – participation invited!
11:15 am Drill with the **Missouri State Guard** in the Walnut Grove, East of the Carriage Barn
11:30 am Bugle Call Demonstration with “Bugler Bill”
Noon *The War of Northern Aggression* presentation by Rich Williams
12:45 pm Music by the **New Pearl Buttons** by the Ice House
Musket Demonstration and Firing with **1st Minnesota** on the North Lawn
1:00 pm **Secession and the North’s View** presentation
1:30 pm Drill with the **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn – participation invited!
1:45 pm Firing Demonstration with **Union** and **Missouri State Guard**
2:00 pm Music by the **New Pearl Buttons** by the Ice House
2:30 pm *Civil War Veterans: Hastings, MN. A Documented List Plus Selected Biographies* author presentation & book signing by Shirley Dalaska
3:00 pm Gatling Gun & Artillery Drill with **Battery I** on the North Lawn
3:45 pm Civil War Era Medical Demonstration— with **3rd Minnesota** on the South Lawn
Victorian Fashion Show
4:30 pm Final LeDuc House Tour
5:00 pm Closing Ceremony with Union Soldiers

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