

# LAKEVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE CENTER, 20110 HOLYOKE AVENUE, 952-985-4680

*"In recognition of the responsibility to past and future generations, the mission of the Lakeville Area Historical Society shall be to document, collect, preserve and teach the history of the Lakeville area."*

AUGUST 2014

## A Summer Fieldtrip

If you haven't yet seen the LeDuc House in Hastings, it's a trip well worth taking. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an unusually complete example of the Carpenter Gothic style, it has been completely restored by the Dakota County Historical Society. The home was completed in 1865 by William LeDuc, a Civil War veteran and attorney who came to Minnesota to represent a party in a suit involving Vermillion Falls. As payment for his services, he received the land where he built his house.



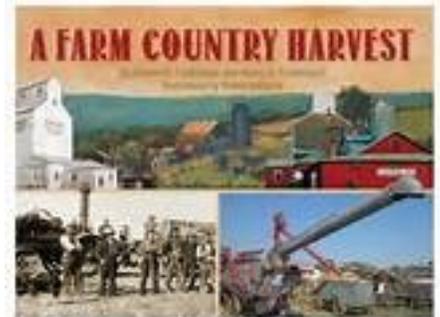
If this sounds intriguing to you, guided tours of the house run Thursday–Sunday each week through November 2 at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1, 2:30, and 4 p.m. Rates are \$3 for students, \$5 for seniors and veterans, and \$6 for adults.

The house is located at 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings.

## August LAHS Calendar

The display area at the Historical Society is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A volunteer will be happy to answer questions and/or assist you with the videos.

The monthly board meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 at 3 p.m. All Historical Society members are welcome.



## "The Great Minnesota Get-Together" — August 21 - September 1, 2014

The first Minnesota State Fair was held in 1859 near what would become downtown Minneapolis - the year after Minnesota was granted statehood. Four territorial fairs preceded that first state fair. In its early years, the fair's location changed annually from Minneapolis to St. Paul, Rochester, Red Wing, Winona, and Owatonna. The present location, midway between Minneapolis and St. Paul was finally established in 1885. Early fairs centered around agricultural exhibits and competitions - all the while encouraging farming in the state. Over the years, while agriculture still plays an important part in the fair, attractions such as large-scale entertainment, technological and industrial exhibits and education and government references have been added.



Since its beginning, the fair has been cancelled only five times. In 1861 and 1862, the Civil War and Dakota Indian Conflict interfered with its opening. The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago caused a scheduling clash in 1893. The last closures occurred in the 1940's with war-time fuel shortages in 1945 and a polio epidemic in 1946.

## Minnesota State Fair Fun Facts

- ◆ Teddy Roosevelt delivered the famous "Speak softly and carry a big stick" speech at the Minnesota State Fair in 1901.
- ◆ The legendary pacer, Dan Patch, set the world record for one-mile at the grandstand in 1906. That record stood for more than 30 years.
- ◆ John Phillip Souza composed "Minnesota March" and performed it at the 1927 fair.
- ◆ F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote about the Minnesota State Fair in his 1928 book titled "A Night at the Fair".

## Upcoming Fall Program

**Monday, September 22,  
7:00 p.m., Heritage Center**

### Mark your calendars!!

In conjunction with the new fall harvesting window display, Gordon W. Fredrickson will conduct a Farm Heritage presentation including historical photos and illustrations from his book, *A Farm Country Harvest*.

Gordon's talents as a Minnesota farm kid, soldier, farmer, high school English teacher, and drama director all come alive during this program.



**Watch for more  
information about  
Gordon's program in the  
September issue of  
"Heritage Happenings".**