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U.S. Department of the Interior

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News Release

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Sewing Up the Mississippi

See the Mississippi River through the eye of a needle during two free needlecraft programs at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. Make sample projects inspired by needlework created by the LeDuc sisters in the river town of Hastings, Minnesota, over a hundred years ago and learn the cultural history behind each stitch. Explore this heritage with guest experts from the LeDuc House, North Dakota State University, and National Park Service Rangers at the Mississippi River Visitor Center on two Thursday evenings, January 25 and February 1, 2007, 6:30 – 8:00p.m. Pre-registration is required; call 651.293.0200. Materials are provided.

Considered a creative, respectable, and profitable enterprise, needlework provided an opportunity for well-bred women of the 19th century to develop their artistic skills and turn them into a profession. Unique and artistic, LeDuc designs were thought to be influenced by their family home's picturesque location along the Mississippi River. Sessions feature an Ojibwe-influenced floral motif and traditional Victorian patterns, and include instruction in basic embroidery techniques similar to those used in the early 1900's. The Mississippi River Visitor Center is located at 120 West Kellogg Blvd. (in the Science Museum of MN), downtown St. Paul. Directions at www.nps.gov/miss.