

# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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September 29, 2023

Iowa Newspaper Association  
319 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern,

The State Historical Society of Iowa has been a trustee of Iowa's historical legacy since 1857. With a dual mission of preservation and education, the Society maintains a museum, two research centers, and seven historic sites, including the Abbie Gardner Sharp Cabin in Arnolds Park.

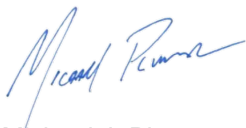
At the Gardner Cabin, our ability to tell Iowa's stories has improved through our partnership with Dickinson County News and its News Editor, Seth Boyes. Through several years of ongoing conversations with Seth and, more importantly, his significant research and unwavering determination, we were recently able to "bring home" an artifact that had been surreptitiously removed from the site over seventy years ago.

"Stolen History", the recent five-part article series published by Dickinson County News, reflects Seth's time researching the history of the site and the artifact, the genealogy of Abbie Gardner Sharp and her family, as well as multiple conversations with us and our colleagues at the State Historical Society, among them the State Curator, the State Historical Museum's Exhibits Manager and the State Historical Museum's Collections Coordinator.

The work of Dickinson County News on this project represents an excellent example of a public/private partnership that can benefit all Iowans. Had Seth only assisted in returning the artifact to us and never published a story about it, that would have been an important public service in its own right. But, through bringing the story to a larger audience through "Stolen History", Dickinson County News has helped us to connect Iowans to the people, places, and points of pride that make our state unique.

We strongly support Seth Boyes and Dickinson County News as they seek professional recognition for their work. We look forward to continued opportunities for collaboration with Dickinson County News and hope you will give strong consideration to their award nominations. If we can provide additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,



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