

October 9, 2023

For your consideration:

It is my privilege to write a letter for Seth Boyes, News Editor of the Dickinson County News, in support of his entries for awards granted by the Iowa Newspaper Association. I am honored to do this, as Seth is not only the face of written news in the county, he is the soul.

As Director of the Dickinson County Historical Society and Museum, Inc., my experience with Seth lies mostly in the local historical realm, a realm that has been brought to life county-wide because of Seth's passion and skills. He has been an integral part of bringing the history of our area and our mission to the public.

Four years ago, Seth was approached by a woman with an extraordinary story. She had a magnificent, beaded pipe bag in her possession that was stolen decades ago from the Abbie Gardner cabin by an ancestor. She wished to return it to the cabin, but also wanted to remain anonymous. She asked for Seth's help in this task. Seth spent four years working with the woman, the State Historical Society of Iowa, doing exhaustive research into the Gardner family, and more. Seth's four years of work culminated in August with the return of this treasure to the Abbie Gardner cabin museum and the publication of an excellent five-part series titled "Stolen History" in the Dickinson County News documenting both the factual process involved and the human stories.

In addition to the "Stolen History" series, Seth has written and published many articles in the past few years highlighting history and historical events in Dickinson County. He also shared a presentation for the Museum on the story of John Other Day, one of the lesser known - yet important - players in the release of Abbie Gardner from captivity.

Any honor or award presented him would be well earned!

I would gladly answer any further questions you may have regarding him or the work he has done.

Sincerely,

Mary Dreier, Director  
Dickinson County Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
1708 Keokuk Ave.  
Spirit Lake, IA. 51360  
[dickinsoncountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dickinsoncountymuseum@gmail.com)  
712-336-5928