

# SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter ~ January 2020

700 Main Street \* P.O. Box 407 \* Henderson, Minnesota 56044

Phone: (507) 248-3434 \* [www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.sibleycountyhistoricalsociety.com) \* [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net)



### A Message from the Prez

Happy 2020! As we embark upon a new year and decade, the Sibley County Historical Society / Museum is well positioned to create new and lasting memories for our community. My first year as Board President has provided me with the opportunity to become acquainted with our indispensable volunteers who skillfully keep this great old house to run like clockwork. Heartfelt congratulations to them! The Tuesday and Thursday volunteers also provide tours between the hours of 9 and 2 during the winter months. Ruth Ann Buck, Arlene Busse, Eldrene Ebert, Sharon Haggemiller, Marie Main, Mike Reinhardt and

Vicki Stock have become faithful friends, and I cannot possibly thank them enough for their dedicated service. I am also grateful to be working with a very supportive Board of Directors. Please take some time perusing the Sibley County Historical Society website as Mike Reinhardt and Dan Hislop have done a fantastic job in updating it. With the help of Becky and Steve Briggs, they have also added the Ostrom Photographs to our website for purchase.

2019 was a notable year because the SCHS received a \$94,953 Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to inventory the entire collection. Thanks to Amy Newsom, who wrote the grant, we were able to retain the services of Claudia Nicholson known as The Museum Lady. In turn, Todd Sasse and Luke Koran, both skilled in museum management, were employed to take on this mammoth challenge of cataloging our collections. To date over 13,000 objects have been inventoried and labeled. Fortunately, Todd Sasse will remain with us to complete the next phase of this task as he begins reconciliation of inventory from spreadsheet to Past Perfect. Until this job is completed, the museum will be unable to accept gifts. However, the accession moratorium will be lifted in June. If you happen to have something you would like to gift to the museum, please keep us in mind later this spring.

*News from the Board of Directors:* The Board joins me in expressing our sincere gratitude to Rich Nagel for his exemplary contributions over the past 5 years. As Treasurer, Rich has diligently kept our books in order, and now he is retiring from the Board. Vicki Stock remains Vice President, Karen Klenk, Secretary, our new Treasurer Tom Frauendienst, and Joy Cohrs is our Sibley County Commissioner. Also, we recognize new Board member, Holly Harjes. We all thank our new volunteer, Diane Frauendienst for the preparation of this newsletter. On December 3rd, the Board hosted a special luncheon in honor of our volunteers. During brief remarks by members of the board, our volunteers were recognized for their exceptional devotion and dedication to making the museum a vibrant cultural com-

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### Board of Directors:

#### President

Jeff DuCharme

#### Vice President

Vicki Stock

#### Secretary

Karen Klenk

#### Treasurer

Tom Frauendienst

#### Directors

Joy Cohrs, Holly Harjes,  
Wendy Evenson, Eldrene  
Ebert, Mike Reinhardt

ponent of our County. Unfortunately, one of star volunteers, Arlene Busse, was unable to attend due to a recent accident, and so a Board member and volunteers took lunch to her home that afternoon.

The Board has two major goals on their agenda for the coming year. The first is to complete cataloging of the museum's collections, which should be done by the first of June. The second is to explore the possibility of hiring an Executive Director to oversee logistics associated with running of the museum. We also intend to expand museum activities to include more educational programs as well as an annual fundraiser for budget relief.

In conclusion, please renew your membership in a timely way and also encourage a friend to join. The more the merrier!! As we move forward in preserving the rich historical contexts of our beloved Sibley County for future generations, I wish you a very happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

Jeff DuCharme  
President

## ON EXHIBIT



*Don't miss the current exhibit by SCHS friend, JoAnne Martens' handkerchief collection. Did you know Kleenex was first produced in 1930 to remove makeup. Other brands appeared and by the 1950's tissues had almost replaced the use of cloth handkerchiefs.*

## Pas Times by JoAnne Martens

Here is JoAnne Martens' handkerchief collection story:

Hankies, one of my pleasant pastimes. Hankies always fascinated me. I would buy them at auctions and garage sales. Years ago ladies always had a hanky in their purse. I still do, I also have one or two in my pocket.

Before Kleenex, you always needed a hanky. Now they use Kleenex or some other brand of tissue instead and many don't carry a hanky.

Hankies were a quiet toy in church, they were made into "babies in a cradle." My children maybe put one on their head or tied it on their arm. We had communion cup holders on the backs of the pews and they would slide a hanky

in a hole or take two or three and do the same and make a bouquet.

We would wrap a quarter in a corner of a hanky for Sunday School and that way they didn't lose their money.

One Sunday, one of my children tried shining a lady's shoes under the bench in front of her. They were also great for cleaning one's glasses, playing "peak a boo," or wiping tears. Men also carried a hanky in their back pocket.

My granddaughter, when she came to grandma Jo's, would sit on the bed and just look at the pretties. So many had beautiful flowers, so that was her flower garden. The grandchildren even wanted one for their pockets.

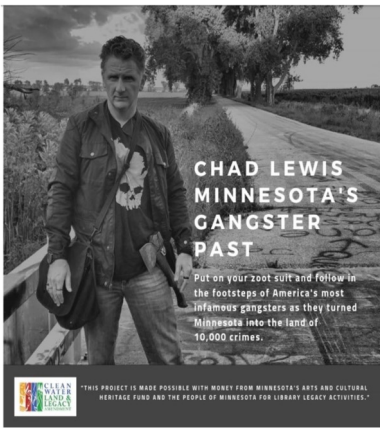
Some of the older hankies had many different borders, were not just square. The flowers and other decorations on the older hankies were beautiful. They made hankies for children with different designs.

Sometimes I just like looking at the old hankies. Many were sold 2 or 3 in boxes of different shapes. I've had many years of enjoyment with hankies.

If you don't have a Kleenex, hankies still work great. And, they never bothered anyone.

## Wonderful Things on the Web...

Check the SCHS website, [www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com) for monthly Board Minutes and to learn of upcoming SCHS programs. Follow us on Facebook at [Sibley County Historical Society and Museum - Henderson, MN](#) for program information and updates of Society activities.



**DATE:** Tuesday, February 4 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Henderson Library lower level  
110 S. 6th Street  
Henderson, MN



## CHAD LEWIS AT HENDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY...

Henderson, MN - Put on your zoot suit and follow in the footsteps of America's most infamous gangsters as they turned Minnesota into the land of 10,000 crimes. Filled with deadly bank robberies, explosive shootouts, brutal murders, and daring kidnappings, this presentation lets the audience discover the grisly locations where the gangster history will never die.

HENDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY—Lower Level  
February 4 @ 6 p.m.

Free and open to the public!

This program is for 16 years and up.  
110 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Henderson, MN

Contact: Tosha Anderson  
Henderson Library  
libtsh@tds.lib.mn.us, 507-248-3880

*This program is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library*

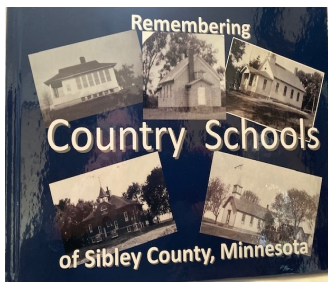
*Cooperative, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*

**MURDER.**

It is not often that we are called upon to report so cruel and unprovoked a murder as that which took place in Green Isle on Friday last. The monster who committed the deed is one Frederick Golz and his victim Mrs. Matilda Schauer, wife of John Schauer. Mrs. Schauer was once married to Golz in Germany and by him had two children; they also lived together as husband and wife in Wisconsin. Golz was however of such an ugly and cruel disposition that his wife was finally compelled to abandon him and obtain a divorce. She finally came to Sibley county and married John Schauer with whom she has since lived on a farm in Green Isle and by whom she has one child. Golz finding the whereabouts of his divorced wife, mad with jealousy and with murder in his heart, followed her to this county and has been prowling about for the past year or two evidently waiting an opportunity to execute his devilish purpose. The simple facts of the tragedy are related in the following affidavit, taken by Justice Kirby at the request of the county attorney.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, County of Sibley

Submitted by Ruth Ann Buck



## FOR SALE:

### Remembering Country Schools of Sibley County, Minnesota

A hardcover volume book with more than 500 pages, featuring colored township maps that show the boundaries served by the school districts. Along with the numerous interviews, there are 2,000 pieces of memorabilia, including teacher lesson plans, notes, exams, grades and various programs. Hundreds of other photos submitted by people who attended country schools were scanned, pioneer families researched, and courthouse records and newspaper archives examined.

SCHS Members: \$27.00 Non-Members: \$33.00  
Postage & Handling: \$ 7.00



Sibley County Historical Society volunteer, Fred Lobitz as a 4-H member, was very involved with chickens

back in the 1950's. He has been the donor of many items added to various collections at the museum including some blue ribbons. He received them in 1951 for winning with his poultry exhibit, first at the Sibley County Fair and then at the Minnesota State Fair. He enjoyed four days at the State Fair with his well groomed chickens. He slept at the Fair Grounds in the 4H dorm along with other 4H exhibitors and others working at the Fair in various jobs.

In preparation for exhibition, his white chickens were washed with a bit of laundry bluing added to their bath water. After their legs and feet were dried, he rubbed

Vaseline on them for an attractive glow. His healthy well fed birds, smartly groomed, made him a proud winner with vivid memories of that long ago summer.

Fred also contributed to the creation of our *Remember Country Schools of Sibley County, Minnesota*. He attended Sibley County Rural School District 25. The interior of his school in 1951 is on page 352 of this book. Fred must have been sitting in one of the seats not pictured. However, he identified those that are pictured.



Fred's picture is on p. 445 as one who came for an interview. His other activities are referenced in the index.

...To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Sibley County.

## Stan Wigand Story

By Sharon Haggenmiller

Stan the Man! Is what I called him on more than one occasion whenever I visited his sister, Carmen. We worked closely when writing the book, *Henderson Then and Now*. I would stop by to have her proof read the most recent article or chapter. Stan was always listening and added vital information if we missed something or had our facts wrong. Otherwise, you hardly knew he was around; he was a very quiet man. When I first became a member of the Sibley County Historical Society, I seem to remember someone telling me that Carmen and Stan washed the windows of the museum every spring, helped clean the inside and did maintenance and care outside. Carmen and Stan were never members of the Society but were very hard workers at the museum. A very helpful project of theirs was to transcribe tombstones in the Brown and St. Joseph cemeteries at Henderson. They had the transcriptions made into booklets, which we find to be very useful in our genealogy work at SCHS. Another special event for them was to be honored as Henderson's Grand Marshalls at the Sauerkraut celebration.

Stan was born February 16, 1924 in Gibbon, Minnesota to Elsie Geib Wigand and Allie Wigand. The family moved from Gibbon to Henderson in 1935, into Stan and Carmen's grandparent's house. Their dad Allie was a barber in Henderson. Stan and Carmen graduated from Henderson High School. They lived in the historic home until the spring of 2019 when medical issues forced them to move to Oak Terrace, Le Sueur, Minnesota.



My story about Stan is on the subject of his military service. Stan's sister Carmen writes: "Stan was drafted into the United States Army in April of 1943. After being stationed at various camps for training throughout the United States, the ship left New York City in September 1943 arriving in Liverpool, England. It took two

weeks from New York to Liverpool. Several thousand soldiers were on board in very cramped quarters. Stan was seasick for about 2 ½ days. After the seasickness he felt fine. The soldiers received only two meals a day on the ship. From the camp near London he was sent to Germany during which time he was captured by the German soldiers." In the process of cleaning their house and moving from Henderson to Le Sueur, Stan donated a book, written by his

friend, another soldier, whom he met while he was a member of the Twelfth Armored Division. His friend, Fred "Mike" Gorman, contacted each of the men/families in his division to ask them to write about their time in the military and their prisoner of war experiences. The book was written in 1988. I (Sharon) decided that I would read this book to see if I could find out more about Stan's tour of duty. I knew that Stan was a POW, but he never talked about his experiences. However, Gorman wrote about Stan and some of his experiences which I found while reading the story written by Service Officer and Ex POW coordinator, Frederic Michael Gorman.

*In the book of memoirs, Prisoners of War of the Twelfth Armored Division by Fred Michael Gorman, C134 Service Officer and POW Coordinator, "Mike" starts with a reprint of a radio broadcast, of April 17, 1945, which told about the Twelfth Armored Division experiences. This background led the author to the experience that he relates here in his own words; "In the radio broadcast it stated that our Division was averaging 20 to 25 miles a day in our penetration ease into Germany. Of course, that was an average. Many days we traveled as much as fifty miles and more. My job as a liaison NCO was to travel with forward units and report back to the supporting units. Many times, there was as much as fifty miles between the forward elements and the supporting troops with none of our troops, only Germans in between." April 3, 1945, Germany, Mike writes; I had just left a meeting of Combat Command R. where the next three plans had been put forth and I had them written down, in a little notebook I carried in my pocket, along with all the new locations of all Combat Command R. troops. I talked personally with a Senior Warrant officer who was trains commander for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion, who told me the location of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion. This information later turned out to be erroneous.*

*My driver, Stan Wigand, a six foot four inch, nineteen year old who had just made Corporal and I left this little town in Germany approximately thirty kilometers southwest of Wurzburg, Germany. We headed across a country road to this little town where the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion was supposed to be located.*

*Now, our experience so far enabled us to almost smell a town that had been taken or had not been taken and, as we approached this little town, it seemed that there was nothing to warn us of what was ahead. We were still in open country when we popped up over a little rise in the ground and found ourselves right in the center of a whole company of German infantry that*

were dug into their foxholes. I think we surprised them as much as they surprised us and, with this surprise, I told Stan, who had stopped the jeep, to turn around and "Let's get the hell out of here!" He had backed around and started to pull out when a German officer gave the order to fire. That's the same sound in German that it is in English, so I knew that it was all over for us.

Stan stopped; we threw off our helmets, which was the universal signal for surrender. I immediately rubbed all the locations off my map case, the new locations of CCR fighting forces so that they took us up to what I thought was an officer. I later found out it was a German first sergeant, but he had three pips on his shoulder, which is the same as an English captain, and I saluted him. This got a big laugh out of everybody around there to think that I would salute a non-commissioned officer. However, I was very nervous and being very friendly.

I told them immediately that I had to go to the bathroom really bad, I just couldn't wait, and lo and behold, they let me go into a bathroom which had a pull-chain, flush-type outfit. I was able to tear all the pages out of my notebook into little bits and flush it down this toilet so that they would not get any information from me. They were so surprised and ignorant. I later found out that, according to their intelligence we weren't supposed to be within a hundred miles of their position and they had no idea that American troops were as close as we were.

I was interrogated by a young German Lieutenant but gave him only my name, rank and serial number and that is all I would give him, hard as he tried. We had been shown many propaganda films in our training about what would happen if we were captured and probably be interrogated by S. S. troops and this was a very nervous time for me. Nervous is hardly the word. I was scared to death. Luckily, the training that I had received and the experiences that I had lived through to this time enabled me to follow the correct procedure that we were taught and not give any more information than we were supposed to by the Geneva Convention.

Later in the day, the officer who had told me where the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion was located had followed his own misinformation and led a train's convoy across the same route. This time the company of German Infantry, having been alerted by our coming though earlier, ambushed this soft-shelled vehicle convoy killing all

but five or six who were captured. Five of these men were put with Stan and me, and they told us about the ambush.

Later on, our group had grown to nine American prisoners. After two or three days going back, handed from outfit to outfit, we were put in charge of a group of soldiers that had been discharged from the hospital and were on their way back to be reassigned. These Germans were in no hurry to get back because they knew when they got back they would be reassigned to fighting units and they had had their belly full of that, so we holed up in a little village formed by a group of farms and were billeted in a barn. These Germans bought a hog while we were there and butchered it. We dug up potatoes out of mounds where the farmers had buried them from the season before. We were eating pretty good and sitting around a fire all day swapping stories mostly about food. They put us in a haymow in the barn through its one and only door at night and kept just one guard on that door.

I felt that it was my duty to try to escape. So one night, just as it got dark when they were filling us in through the door to go up to our haymow to sleep, I ducked out around the corner of the barn. The rest of the prisoners went on up but did not say a word and I was away!

The story continues with the Gorman's escape and recapture. It is an interesting story of itself, but I found no more information about Stan in this book.

Carmen writes again: "One day while Stan was in Germany, my Dad received a "missing in action" telegram. It

came via telegram to our local train depot and the depot agent had to deliver it to Dad. He (the depot agent) said it was the hardest thing he ever had to do. I was in school in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the time."

Carman's story continues: "Every day when I came home, for lunch I could tell by the looks on Mom & Dad's faces there had been no news until one day their expressions were all smiles. A second telegram followed that he was released from captivity in May, 1945.

## Stanley Wigand Listed Missing

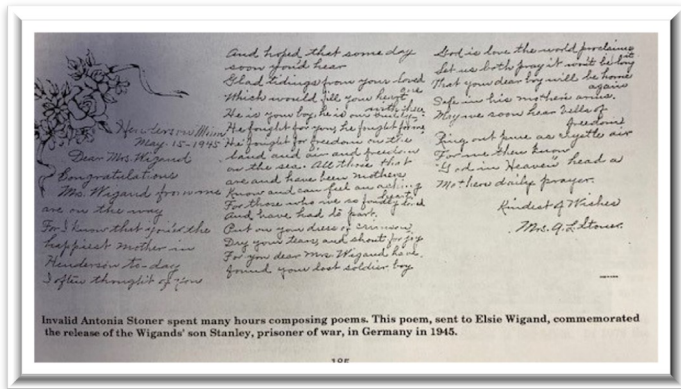
Mr. and Mrs. Allie Wigand received the sad news Friday, April 20th, that their only son Stanley is missing in action. The message reads as follows:

The secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret that your son Pfc. Wigand, Stanley G. has been missing in action in Germany since 03 April 45. If further details or other information are received, you will be promptly notified.

A second telegram followed, stating that he was released from captivity in May 1945.

When I went back to school that afternoon the good news had spread----"what a happy day."

Shortly after Stan's release, an invalid lady from Henderson, Mrs. Antonia Stoner spent many hours composing poems. This poem sent to Elsie Wigand commemorating the



release of the Wigand's son Stanley, Prisoner of War in Germany in May 1945.

Stan and "Mike," after being discharged kept in touch for a number of years. Eventually we didn't hear from Mike again. We later found out that Mike had passed away. Upon Stan's return to the United States he was sent to a German POW camp at Trinidad Colorado where he did guard duty of the German POW's who worked at various jobs here in America. He was discharged from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin in January 1946 and returned home to Henderson."

Stan worked for Ehlers Bros. Construction of Henderson for thirty-three years, building houses, barns, and other carpentry work in the area. Stan passed away on November 15, 2019 at the age of 95. He is buried at Brown Cemetery, Henderson, MN

*Awaiting accession at the museum is a doll from long ago. This is her story.*



### Minnie's Christmas Doll

Minnie Becker was born about 1886, the daughter of Albert and Minnie Gasow Becker of Gaylord. A cherished childhood toy was a doll received as a Christmas gift. This doll met with a serious accident when one of her brothers grabbed the doll, stuck her in the narrow drawer of the sewing machine cabinet and slammed the drawer shut.

Her bisque head was smashed beyond repair! The German-made white leather body survived, as did her bisque arms, minus several fingers on the left hand. Minnie carefully saved the remains.

Gaylord was established as a village in 1882. The Beckers soon became residents with Albert working as a carpenter and the children attending the public school. Minnie is not listed as a graduate of the high school. Finishing eighth grade was considered enough education by many. When Minnie began teaching school is not known. 1908 finds her teaching at District 18, a country school near Gaylord. In 1910 she is the teacher at District 49 in Transit Township.

In December 1913, Minnie married Henry Tschue. Their only child Jack Albert was born about 1915. The 1940 census lists Jack as age 25. Since birth, he was handicapped, completely dependent upon parental care. The family lived in Gaylord where Henry was custodian at the Sibley County Courthouse for many years.

Years after the deaths of her husband and son, Minnie remained in her home, dependent on a small pension. On occasion she would invite young collector friends to "shop in her attic". During one such event, the headless doll was discovered and left home for repair. Sent along were scraps from Minnie's wedding dress, which had been cut up to make baby cloths for Jack, and white silk stockings worn with the dress.

The right size German-made bisque head and wig were found and attached, minor repairs made to the body which was then spiffed up with white shoe polish. Next came underwear and stockings from the wedding finery, a new red print dress and Minnie's doll went home for Christmas.

A few years later, Minnie was ill and in the Gaylord Hospital. Before she was transferred to the University Hospital, she gave her house key to a friend and said, "I will not live through this. Go to my home, clean out my refrigerator, lay out my funeral clothes and take our dolly home. My brother will be dealing with my house, he is not going to get his hands on that doll again!" By Christmas 2020 Minnie's doll will be a resident in the Museum's Children's room.

**SCSH Inventory Expert:****Todd Sasse**

Todd Sasse, lives at Prior Lake and is an inventory specialist. He is a graduate of Prior Lake High School. Upon graduation from high school he has traveled to Alaska where he became a chef's assistant in a hotel restaurant called The Prospector.

After five years in Alaska, Todd came back to Minnesota to attend Normandale Community College and Metropolitan State University. He graduated with a degree in history. Todd worked at Carver County Historical Society, Waconia, MN for about two years. He decided to try something different and applied for a job with the "Museum Lady." Claudia Nicholson to do a complete inventory of 3D items (other than books or paper items) at our Sibley County Historical Museum. When that job is finished Todd has been hired to stay at SCSH for six months. His job is to match accession numbers from our Ledger with the items listed on the inventory spreadsheet.

Interviewed by Sharon Haggemiller

**New SCSH Volunteers:****Tom and Diane Frauendienst**

Tom and Diane live in Henderson and graciously accepted volunteer positions for the Sibley County Historical Society. Tom as treasurer and Diane as volunteer newsletter publisher. They partner their talents at home too, with three children, three grandchildren and a chocolate lab, they stay quite busy. Tom recently retired as billing clerk from Imagine Print Solutions in Shakopee after 22 years. Diane had been Deputy City Clerk for the City of Henderson and City Clerk in Norwood Young America. She now serves as secretary at Zion United Church of Christ in Le Sueur, St Paul's United Church of Christ, and Centennial Lutheran Church in Henderson.

## SCSH Membership Form

- |                                |                                     |         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew | <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$25.00 |
|                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Business   | \$50.00 |

I would like to receive my newsletter by email (in color)

I would like to receive my newsletter by U.S. Mail

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send articles, announcements, photos, and comments to the SCSH Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or email: [schs1@frontiernet.net](mailto:schs1@frontiernet.net)

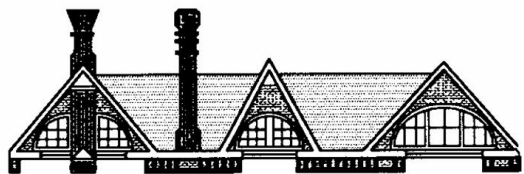
Check your membership date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated above:

Mail to:

SCSH Treasurer

P.O. Box 407

Henderson, MN 56044



# SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

700 Main Street, P.O. Box 407

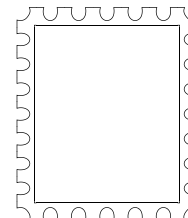
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Website:

[www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.sibleycountyhistoricalmuseum.com)



## *Your presence is requested at the* **Sibley County Historical Society Annual Meeting**

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Arlington Haus II

147 W Main Street

Arlington, MN 55307



Dinner will be served at 12 noon

Please RSVP by April 16th.

Dinner reservations \$15 per person. Please send RSVP and check to  
SCHS, Attn: Tom, at P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044

Then you will enjoy a presentation by Dwight Grabitske -

On the History of Arlington, MN

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your support.