



GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Research & Interpretation Intern (RII) will work with the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) staff at the Sibley Historic Site and Lawshe Memorial Museum to complete their internship. The intern will be expected to conduct one to two shifts as a tour guide at the Sibley Site and complete a research project on the history of slavery in Mendota and the surrounding area.

The Research & Interpretation Intern will engage in the duties of a Site Educator (tour guide) at the Sibley Historic Site in Mendota, Minn., as well as complete a research project designated by site staff. The position requires someone that is personable, collaborative, well-organized, accountable, and enthusiastic. Interns will interact with the public by giving tours and will work independently while doing research.

Research Project Description:

The Sibley Historic Site is operated by the Dakota County Historical Society to preserve four of Minnesota's oldest buildings. The site is located on the southern bluff of the Minnesota River, an area called Bdote by the Dakota people. DCHS also operates two other historic sites: the Lawshe Museum in South St. Paul and the LeDuc Estate in Hastings. Although enslavers were in violation of both the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Missouri Compromise of 1820, an estimated 15 – 30 enslaved African Americans worked at Fort Snelling at one time. Territorial laws and practices allowed human slavery to continue in various forms. As such, the Sibley Historic Site employed enslaved people originally brought to Fort Snelling. The research projects will fully explore the story of those enslaved people.

The TGR will be directly supervised by the Sibley Site Supervisor and work closely with the organization's Executive Director and Associate Director. The primary internship location will be the Sibley Historic Site, but research may be required to be completed at the Lawshe Museum and/or Minnesota History Center. DCHS staff will make every effort to have research materials available to you at the Sibley Site to avoid unnecessary travel.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

I. Site Educator

- a. Lead engaging tours of the Sibley Historic Site for school and community groups, drop-in guests, and event attendees.
- b. Greet the public and provide a positive and memorable experience for guests.
- c. Assist in the execution of special events and programming.
- d. Staff admission counter and gift shop as needed.
- e. Understand and clearly convey overall Society and Site goals, mission, and programs as needed.

II. Researcher

- a.** Become familiar with the Sibley Site history and current interpretive goals.
- b.** Researching, synthesizing, and writing about the history of slavery at the Sibley Historic Site and nearby area
- c.** Visit required repositories to uncover as much materials as you can in the research process.
- d.** Create a comprehensive scholarly document that includes an annotated bibliography detailing the history of slavery in Minnesota and specifically, the history of slavery at the Sibley Site
- e.** Help connect local and national history and making connections between past and present.
- f.** Collaborating with supervisors and colleagues in a clear and timely manner

III. Write

- a.** Maintain meticulous notes regarding your research, including documenting sources.
- b.** Complete a written timeline related to the families and their interactions.
- c.** Write a summary that can be used by staff to obtain an overview of the connections between the two.
- d.** Write an article that can potentially be used in a future publication, but also used by staff.

IV. Competencies

- a.** A demonstrated interest in Minnesota history, as well as American and African American enslavement
- b.** Knowledge of current research methods and synthesizing research
- c.** Ability to work independently and collaboratively, with a preference for candidates who can operate with minimal supervision.
- d.** Time management skills
- e.** Excellent communication and writing skills.
- f.** Strong customer service and interpersonal skills

Classification

Paid - \$14

Intern / Volunteer - Intern

Average hours/week - 20

Skills and Experience

Minimum Education – High School Diploma

Work Week

Mid-May through September 1, 2025

Tours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Research can be completed Wednesday - Sunday

May require evenings.

If interested in applying, please send a cover letter, resume, three references and a writing sample of no more than 200 words. Failure to include one of these items may result in your application not being reviewed.

To apply online, send to: dakotahistory@co.dakota.mn.us – include in the subject line “Sibley/Slavery Intern.”

To apply via mail, send to: Matt Carter
Dakota County Historical Society
130 3rd Avenue N
South St. Paul, MN 55075