



THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM

A HOMECOMING BOOK LAUNCH FOR ONE OF ST. PAUL'S GREAT FORGOTTEN STORIES

SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2026

ST. PAUL & THE TWIN CITIES



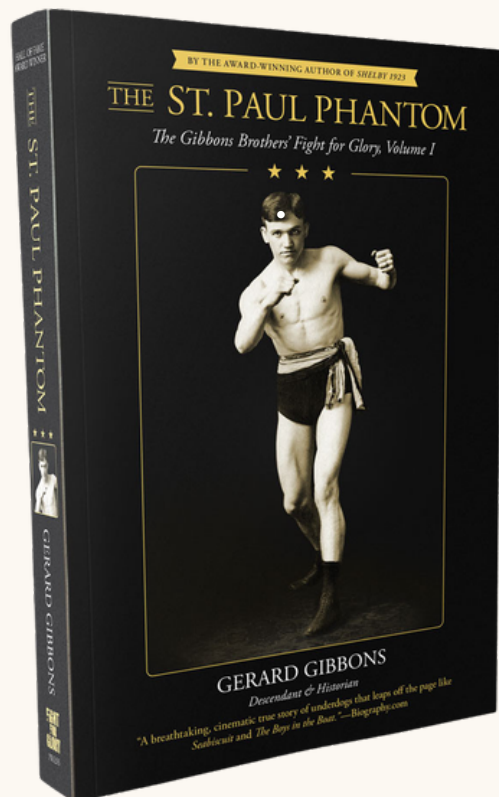
BY DR. GERARD GIBBONS



Author • Historian • Filmmaker • Gibbons-Family Descendant



MIKE GIBBONS
1887-1956



TOMMY GIBBONS
1891-1960

PERFECT FOR READERS OF SEABISCUIT, CINDERELLA MAN, AND THE BOYS IN THE BOAT

"AN ELECTRIFYING & INSPIRING RENDITION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM."
—THE US REVIEW OF BOOKS

"AN EPIC AMERICAN ODYSSEY...
UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS, EPIC SLUGFESTS, AND FASCINATING HISTORICAL CAMEOS."
—SELF-PUBLISHING REVIEW

TWO BROTHERS. ONE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM. A NATION ROARING INTO THE 20th CENTURY.

From St. Paul's hardscrabble Irish-American streets, Mike and Tommy Gibbons vow beneath Halley's Comet to fight their way out of poverty. Guided by priests, firefighters, sportswriters, and pioneering Black champions, Mike reinvents scientific boxing and rises from outlaw prizefights to Madison Square Garden, while Tommy pursues Jack Dempsey's heavyweight crown to save his gravely ill wife. In the tumultuous early 20th century, faith, love, family rivalry, race, war, and a deadly pandemic threaten everything forcing the brothers to discover what glory and the American Dream truly cost.

Published September 15, 2026, *The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I* is far more than a boxing story; it is the first installment of a sweeping St. Paul trilogy, drawn from decades of research and generations of rare family archives.

A UNIQUELY ST. PAUL STORY

- **Working-Class Roots** — Mike and Tommy Gibbons came of age in St. Paul's Irish-American neighborhoods, including Frogtown, before storming the world stage as history's greatest boxing brothers.
- **James J. Hill & Great Northern Railway** — Before boxing fame, the brothers—and their father—worked in Great Northern Railway shops as Hill's railroad empire transformed St. Paul and America.
- **The Outlaw Sport** — Though prizefighting was illegal in St. Paul and much of the country, boxing culture flourished through "sneak fights," the teachings of Monsignor John Dunphy, the mentorship of sportswriter George A. Barton, and the firefighters of Engine Station No. 1.
- **The "Shining Knights of the Ring"** — Mike became a legendary defensive tactician and "sweet scientist," while Tommy battled Jack Dempsey before serving 24 years as Ramsey County Sheriff, where he squared off against the FBI's Most Wanted.
- **A Remarkable St. Paul Cast** — The brothers' story intersects with a rogues' gallery of fistic legends, along with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sister Celestine Howard, Leroy Neiman, and corrupt police chief John O'Connor.
- **A City in Transformation** — Immigration, faith, race, suffrage, journalism, the rise of radio and cinema, public service, World War I, and the 1918 pandemic shape the story.

★ ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRINGING THE GIBBONS BROTHERS HOME TO MINNESOTA, WHERE THE FAMILY HAS LIVED NEARLY 150 YEARS OF STORIES ★



Dr. Gerard Gibbons is an author, historian, filmmaker, and descendant of the legendary Gibbons boxing family—the grandson of heavyweight contender Tommy Gibbons and great-nephew of Mike Gibbons.

His family fled County Mayo, Ireland's war and famine in 1884, making their new home on Burgess Street in St. Paul, with glory and gratitude to God and Archbishop John Ireland. For nearly 150 years, the Gibbons Clan have lived extraordinary stories of courage, sacrifice, faith, service, and heroism throughout the Saintry City, playing key roles at Great Northern Railway, St. Thomas Academy, St. Paul Athletic Club, 3M, YMCA, and more.

Drawing upon a century-old family archive and more than a decade of research in libraries, museums, galleries, historical collections, and newspaper repositories, including Minnesota's superlative resources, Dr. Gibbons has worked to recover the lost story of the Gibbons brothers and restore their place in American sports and cultural history. *The St. Paul Phantom* is the first installment of the *Fight for Glory* literary trilogy.

Before developing the *Fight for Glory* books and screen projects, Dr. Gibbons spent thirty years as an award-winning filmmaker, storyteller, and brand strategist through Visual Eyes Inc., working with NASA, Disney Imagineering, the U.S. Department of Defense, Special Operations Command, DARPA, the Military Health System, and more.

His live presentations combine historical scholarship, family connection, rare imagery, cinematic storytelling, humor, and a deeply human perspective.

**DR. GIBBONS IS COMING HOME TO ST. PAUL SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2026.
INVITE HIM TO SHARE FORGOTTEN STORIES OF ST. PAUL AND HIS LEGENDARY FAMILY WITH YOU!**



THE GIBBONS BROTHERS
Mike and Tommy

HOST A PHANTOM BOOK-LAUNCH EVENT

Organizations interested in hosting, co-hosting, promoting, sponsoring, or participating in a launch-week event are invited to contact the Fight for Glory team.

IDEAL HOSTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Public libraries and library systems • Historical societies • Museums • Schools • Irish-American organizations • Neighborhood associations • Civic and service organizations • Boxing gyms and athletic clubs • Veterans organizations • Humanities programs • Literary organizations • Book clubs • Community reading programs • Cultural centers • Journalism and media organizations • Faith communities • Minnesota heritage organizations



★ AVAILABLE EVENT FORMATS ★

1 THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM: A HOMETOWN HISTORY PRESENTATION

An illustrated author talk tracing Mike and Tommy Gibbons from Frogtown to international fame—and revealing how St. Paul helped shape two of the most remarkable figures in early American sports.

2 FROM FROGTOWN TO FIGHTING FAME

A community-centered program exploring immigration, poverty, faith, family, opportunity, and reinvention in turn-of-the-century St. Paul.

3 OUTLAW BOXING AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN CELEBRITY

Police raids, rooftop fights, powerful promoters, newspaper wars, early motion pictures, and the transformation of prizefighters into America's first mass-media sports stars.

4 ST. PAUL'S SHINING KNIGHTS OF THE RING

A visually rich presentation focused on the careers, personalities, boxing innovations, and enduring local legacy of Mike and Tommy Gibbons.

5 FROM FAMILY ARCHIVES TO AMERICAN EPIC

A behind-the-scenes discussion of how letters, photographs, memoirs, newspapers, and forgotten family materials were transformed into a major work of narrative nonfiction.

6 BOXING, RACE, AND THE COLOR LINE

A historically grounded discussion of Jack Johnson, Joe Gans, Sam Langford, and the complicated racial world in which the Gibbons brothers learned their craft.

7 TOMMY GIBBONS: FROM THE PRIZE RING TO RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF

A program connecting Tommy's athletic career, family life, community identity, and decades of public service as Ramsey County Sheriff, where he transformed from prizefighter to crimefighter, squaring off with the FBI's Most Wanted. Lushly illustrated, tied to Dr. Gibbons' companion book, *SHELBY 1923: The Dempsey-Gibbons Fight for Glory and a Little Montana Town's Impossible Dream*.

Additional formats include moderated conversations, book club discussions, classroom visits, writing and research workshops, panel appearances, media interviews, receptions, signings, and community-history events.



★ WHY PARTNER WITH THE PHANTOM BOOK LAUNCH? ★

A POWERFUL LOCAL-HISTORY EXPERIENCE.

The story is rooted in St. Paul's people, neighborhoods, institutions, and cultural history.

BROAD AUDIENCE APPEAL.

The program reaches beyond boxing enthusiasts to readers interested in Minnesota history, immigration, Irish-American heritage, family stories, journalism, military history, race, faith, public service, and narrative nonfiction.

RARE ARCHIVAL MATERIAL.

Presentations may incorporate historical photographs, correspondence, family records, newspaper coverage, and other seldom-seen materials.

FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING.

Events can range from an intimate book-club conversation to a full multimedia presentation, panel, reception, or community celebration.

STRONG PROMOTIONAL POTENTIAL.

Participating organizations may be featured in coordinated launch-week publicity, event listings, social-media promotion, local outreach, and Fight for Glory communications.

A TIMELY AMERICA250 CONNECTION.

The book revisits a formative period when modern America's media culture, immigration debates, racial tensions, mass entertainment, wartime identity, and celebrity economy were taking shape.

— ADVANCE PRAISE —

"RECOMMENDED!"

A sweeping, unforgettable saga of courage, ambition, and glory that illuminates the American experience and the common ground that binds us together."

—Midwest Book Review

"The kind of true story Hollywood spends years looking for."

—Paul Tamasy, Oscar-nominated writer/producer, *The Fighter*

"A HIGH-VELOCITY work of narrative history, full of heart, soul, and fury."

—Steve Hockensmith, bestselling author, *Holmes on the Range*

"LIVELY, WONDERFULLY VIVID, TRULY ENGAGING..."

A stirring story of siblings against the world with expert pacing and character development."

—Kirkus Reviews

— AT A GLANCE —

THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM:
The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I

Publisher: Fight for Glory Press

Publication Date: September 15, 2026

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★ HOST A HOMECOMING EVENT—AND HELP BRING ONE OF ST. PAUL'S GREAT FORGOTTEN STORIES ROARING BACK TO LIFE. ★

★ CONTACT FIGHT FOR GLORY ★

Media/Events: ToddAaronJensen@gmail.com

Social: @FightForGloryStory

Digital Press Kit: <https://bit.ly/4cqozyo>

FightForGloryStory.com