

# ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2002

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The Roseau County Historical Society has been designated the official county society by the Minnesota Historical Society. It was organized seventy-five years ago on April 22, 1927. It is incorporated as a private non-profit organization under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of the Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Roseau County and to a certain extent Northwest Minnesota as per Article 11, section 1, 2, and 3 of the Society's by-laws. This includes written materials, electronic data/media, photographs, and three-dimensional items. The Roseau County Historical Society is sole owner of all artifacts in the collection.

The Roseau County Historical Society (here after referred to as RCHS) operates the Roseau County Historical Museum and Interpretive Center, which houses the county archives and artifact collections, and serves as the hub of the Society's activities.

The Society serves the people of Roseau County and surrounding area. Visitors to the Roseau County Museum in 2002 were from 24 of the fifty states, three Canadian Provinces and included foreign visitors from such countries as Norway, Sweden, Germany and South Africa. A total of 6,394 individuals made onsite visits to the Museum. Onsite visitation included students, nursing home residents, REM residents, research scholars, genealogists and the general public. Off site visits were approximately 32,000, which included visitors to the Roseau County Fair booth, the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration and annual meeting, and the Reed River Trading Company building photograph and Land O'Lakes exhibit.

#### **2002 HIGHLIGHTS**

##### ***Roseau County Historical Museum and Interpretive Center Flood Recovery***

The Roseau County Museum received eight inches of water during the City of Roseau flood on June 11 – 13. The flooding followed the torrential rainfall of up to seventeen inches of rain in certain areas of Roseau County.

Staff members, Director Charleen Haugen and Toni Anderson-Donarski, plus several volunteers had prepared as well as possible for the flash flood and minimal damage to the collection was seen. Board members and the director were allowed into the building on Friday, June 14. Chief Conservationist for the Minnesota Historical Society Robert Herskovitz arrived on Friday, June 14 to work with the museum Board of Directors and staff to minimize damage.

RCHS Board of Director President Aliza Novacek-Olson and Northwest Regional Library Assn. Director Barbara Kalinowski worked with Herskovitz to organize a contract with the city and a commercial company to have the museum/library building dried out as quickly as possible to prevent mold from destroying the collection and books. Immediate action was taken by the board of directors, staff, members of the Warroad Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and other volunteers to remove all carpeting and dry out as many wet artifacts as possible. Several volunteers continued to help staff and board members prepare the museum/library building for the drying process. After an urgent call from Herskovitz on Monday evening expressing concern about the mold issue due to the length of time it was taking to get bids for having the building dried, Aliza Olson contacted Board members Sheila Winstead and Bruce Olson. These three spent the night setting up fans for circulation within the building and preparing the building for drying. Electricity was limited due to the flooding and Polaris Industries supplied generators for power with many volunteers supplying fans and help for this operation. At this time director Charleen Haugen's home telephone service had been affected by flooding in her area and she was not able to be contacted.

On June 18 the City of Roseau hired BMS Catastrophe, Inc. to dry out the building. During the next month Director Charleen Haugen monitored humidity daily and purchased dehumidifiers to help control the levels. The City of Roseau and Roseau County provided funding for this procedure.

In July the City of Roseau made a decision to move the city offices and police department into the Museum/Library building. The city informed RCHS board of directors that the auditorium would be available for museum storage. The city would require the west 2,000 feet of the museum for city office space until new quarters would be available. The museum staff immediately began the process of packing all artifacts and with the help of many volunteers moved all artifacts in the storage room to the auditorium. Once the storage area was cleaned and sanitized, museum gallery artifacts moved to the back storage area in the museum building. The city moved into the west area of the museum in September. The process of setting up the museum and research center started immediately following this move.

In the middle of September Federal Emergency Management Flood Grant funding for employees who lost their jobs due to the flood was made available to several counties affected by flooding. Roseau County qualified for funding. These individuals would work to rehabilitate the non-profit and public entities in flood stricken counties. Throughout the fall and winter the Society has had up to 10 flood grant employees working on rehabilitating the museum. Cleaning of damaged artifacts was the main priority. While artifact loss was minimal considerable work was required to clean artifacts that received water damage.

Damage to equipment, shelving, file cabinets, and other essential museum storage items plus the cleaning of artifacts was valued at \$110,000 by SBA. A Minnesota Historical Society emergency grant was obtained in November. This was used to purchase shelving, archival storage material, and fire-resistant file cabinets that had mold and rust damage from the flood.

The Society maintained a normal schedule of hours and staffing throughout the disaster recovery so the museum could be opened as quickly as possible. After carpet was installed by the City of Roseau in the museum offices and research center in October, the research center was reorganized and opened in November. The museum gallery opened in December on a limited basis.

The recovery process has gone well due to the help of many volunteers throughout our county and beyond. The City of Roseau and Roseau County, plus several companies, businesses and organizations have assisted with recovery efforts in numerous ways. A few of these companies and businesses are Polaris Industries, Intercept Industries, the Science Museum of Minnesota, Viking Office Supplies, Coast True Value, Stardiff Brothers Trucking, Meikle Trucking, Overby Trucking, Penner International, and Langlie's Supermarket, and many more who have given discounts or assistance.

### ***Annual Meeting and Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration***

2002 was a historic year for the Roseau County Historical Society. On May fifth a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual meeting was held at the Roseau Community School. During the annual meeting the following individuals were reelected to the board Neal Johnson, Glenn Holm, Aliza Olson and Ann Novacek for a three-year terms. Reports on the progress of the society were presented. Board member Glenn Holm spoke of the condition of the Pinecreek Lutheran Log Church's condition. Director Charleen Haugen gave a review of the last year and introduced two new employees, Toni Anderson-Donarski from Greenbush and Barbara Wood from Vassar Manitoba Canada.

The highlight of the evening was the anniversary celebration program, a clothing review and military tribute, titled *Looking Back*. Approximately 350 individuals attended the program in the school theater and the reception held in the school commons afterward. Aliza Novacek-Olson and Angie Brewster-Battles spear headed this successful program. Many volunteer hours contributed to the success of this program, they included narrator Aliza Novacek-Olson, the stage was designed by Trumpet Design, many models, model dressing room staffing under the direction of Ida Novacek, reception organizers Mary Ross and Sandy Flagstad, the RCHS hospitality committee, plus many other individuals participating behind the scenes to make this event a success. Special recognition goes to Ida Novacek, whose advance work with the clothing and models was outstanding; and to Val Bernat for his contribution to the military tribute. The military tribute finalized the event. All branches of the military from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War were represented. Approximately 350 people attended the event.

### ***Sixth Grade Minnesota History Contest***

Six schools from across Northwest Minnesota participated in the annual Minnesota History Contest sponsored by the Society; this was held at the museum. The top three students in their sixth grade classes in each of the following schools took a Minnesota history test. The participating schools were Badger, Goodridge, Grygla, Karlstad Tri-County, and Warroad. Trophies were awarded to the following three students: first place - James Erickson, Warroad. second place - Aaron Marvin, Warroad. and third place Jenna Poppenhagen - Grygla. James Erickson's teacher was Ron Tviet of Warroad. Five students received saving bonds donated by the following banks: Border State Bank of Badger, Greenbush, and Roseau; Citizens State Bank, Badger and Roseau; and Security State Bank of Warroad.

## **EXHIBITS/ COLLECTION/ ACQUISITIONS**

The flood of 2002 meant the museum had to do a complete rehabilitation of the collection and exhibit area. Immediately after the flood artifacts were sorted and checked for damage. Although the losses were minimal, checking for damage and mold was essential for all artifacts. A fifty percent matching grant from the Minnesota Historical Society provided funds for replacing damaged shelving units, file cabinets and archival storage supplies that were lost or damaged during the flood.

By September all artifacts had been moved, the storage area cleaned and exhibit artifacts packed and ready to be moved to the museum storage room so the museum could be cleaned.

In the middle of September the FEMA emergency employee grant made it possible for the museum to receive nine employees to help with rehabilitate the museum.

After the City of Roseau acquired the 2,000 square feet of museum gallery space, the museum had to be redesigned and all exhibit cases and exhibit areas and objects cleaned. Director Charleen Haugen guided the recovery activities, with Barbara Wood, museum assistant, supervised the rehabilitation work of the emergency grant employees.

The museum was operating on a limited basis by the end of November with exhibit work still in process. To make use of all space available the museum storage area was considered for an exhibit gallery. This process would begin soon after the beginning of the 2003.

In November an item-level inventory to verify the condition and clean all artifacts in the auditorium began. A flood employee supervised this project under the direction of Director Charleen Haugen. The storage area collection inventory began in November. Minnesota Historical Society Conservator Robert Herskovitz provided assistance as needed. The inventory established artifact condition and where collection objects were located. By the end of the year it was discovered that damage or mold problems were almost nonexistent. This inventory is expected to be completed in the late winter.

### ***Projects***

The following projects were accomplished in 2002

- Work was completed on replacing the last of the windows with sliding glass doors on several exhibit cases. This work was accomplished with the funding from a Hartz Grant from Mrs. L. B. Hartz in 2000. This project has helped the staff by providing direct access to the exhibit items without having to move the exhibit cases. The cases are easier to clean and repair/replace of exhibit items can be done with ease.
- Robert Bergland finished the John Rein altar painting exhibit case.
- The Medora stagecoach print and John Rein painting installed by Robert Bergland and Paul Knochenmus.
- 2001 new donation items exhibited by staff assistant Barbara Wood.
- Photograph exhibit featuring the historical society's history of the past 75 years and the flood was organized.
- Volunteers Jeanie Hamness and Pam Erickson placed an exhibit featuring winter sports above the lobby door.
- The Reed River Trading Company - In 2001 an exhibit of over 65 historic Roseau County Historical Society photographs had been installed throughout a former milk drying plant located in Roseau. In the spring of 2002 a lobby exhibit was set up with artifacts representing the history of Land O' Lakes Company and the milk drying plant in Roseau.
- Roseau County Fair Exhibit - The Fair was held the third week in July. The 2002 fair exhibit featured World War II uniforms and other military paraphernalia. Photograph albums were available including one with photographs that needed identifying. Scrapbooks and newspapers were also available for visitors. Over 4,000 individuals stopped and looked at the exhibit.
- Old Pinecreek Lutheran Church – This exhibit is at the Pioneer Farm and Village. Galen Lisell completed the stabilizing of the building with help from the Sentencing to Service crew. Consideration has been given to have a rock foundation placed around the base of the building in the future. Board of Director Member Glenn Holm has taken direct charge of the project.
- All flood recovery efforts spoken of in prior areas.

### ***Acquisitions***

Barbara Wood had cataloged over 2,500 artifacts in 2002. Toni Anderson-Donarski had entered cataloging data into Past Perfect software for over 2,000 records.

RCHS received over 400 acquisitions in 2003 excluding the Bill and Maggi Adams collection. Some of the items of interest include a Swedish costume from Mathilda C. Mattson from Badger. Lillian Kuznia donated Norbert Dostal's memoirs "The Changing Times on the Farm Scene". Montgomery Ward Catalogs for 1912, 1922-23, and 1927-28 were received from Ida Novacek. A Row Lumber Company carpenter's apron from the former Row Lumber Company was donated by Marty Robbins, George W. Row's daughter. Bill Jennings donated several newspapers, including the May 8, 1945 edition of *Stars and Stripes*. The Bill and Maggi Adams collection with its varied and interesting items is still in the process of being cataloged.

### **RESEARCH CENTER**

The Roseau County Historical Society's research center is a major source of Roseau County History. It became an immediate concern when the flood threatened. The history of the county was in file cabinets and on shelves in the Center. Staff members Charleen Haugen, Toni Anderson-Donarski and several volunteers took immediate action to place the

Center's material up and out of harms way, which lead to no losses to the center's material. An emergency grant from the Minnesota Historical Society made it possible for the research center to replace fire-resistant file cabinets that were damaged by the flood.

Prior to the flood staff had assisted over 1,500 individuals in various research projects. In order to meet the rising need for genealogy the Society began a project of transferring cemetery records to a computer database in 2001. These records will eventually be placed on the Internet. At this time approximately 50 percent of the records have been transferred.

A representative of the Minnesota Genealogical Society visited the research center in the fall to collect cemetery information for an upcoming book on Roseau County's cemeteries. All database records for this project were sent via e-mail, which simplified the work for the Genealogical Society. Board of Directors member Robert Nelson has undertaken the responsibility of updating cemetery records.

A microfilm of the 1930 Roseau County census records as well as the 1881 Canadian and 1880 US censuses on CDs were purchased for the center in the spring of 2002.

Maintenance of the reader-printer is of utmost concern, after the flood the reader-printer was checked and several problems were found. It was recommended that it be replaced as soon as possible. The reader-printer is the most important piece of equipment in the center. All Roseau County census records, immigration records, and most newspapers can only be accessed via the reader-printer. The Society is pursuing a grant to replace the reader-printer.

The Center was used for various projects by scholars and authors this past year. Staff assisted with the research on the award winning documentary "Power and Stride – The Nancy Burggraf Documentary". North Dakota State University professor Merry Sue Holton and several of her students produced this biography. Roseau native Nancy Harris-Burggraf. Burggraf was instrumental in organizing power skating clinics for professional and non-professional hockey players. Her techniques enabled many players to rise to the ranks of the National Hockey League (NHL), they included such players as the Broten brothers.

Two different Polaris Industry research projects took place this past year. Canadian French writer Eric Clusiau published a pictorial snowmobile history book. The other project involved 2002 a Polaris Industry historian, who spent several days researching the center's files photographs and history about Polaris industry. His efforts will produce a Polaris history, which is due to be published prior to their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2004.

Research on various projects for future exhibits has been undertaken as well as updating regular museum exhibits. After the flood exhibits were rehabilitated, research was necessary to provide accurate information due to flood damage.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

The Society manages four areas of focus. They are the Roseau County Historical Museum and Interpretive Center, preservation/conservation of the collection, Research and Publications, and the Old Log Pinecreek Lutheran Church at the Pioneer Farm and Village. Staff administers the first three areas. Volunteers play an important role for the Society. The Society benefited from over **3,299.5** hours of volunteer time in 2002.

### ***Board of Directors***

A twelve member Board of Directors governs the Roseau County Historical Society. The 2002 Board of Directors members included **Angie Brewster-Battles** – Warroad, **Darrell Borgen** – Badger, **Glenn Holm** - Roseau, **Neal Johnson** – Roseau, **Robert Nelson** – Greenbush, **Ann Novacek** – Greenbush, **Ida Novacek** – Roseau, **Bruce Olson** – Badger, **Aliza Novacek-Olson** – Wannaska, **Irene Olson** – Roseau, **Milton Sather** – Greenbush, and **Sheila Winstead** – Roseau. At the annual meeting in April Neal Johnson, Glen Holm, Aliza Novacek-Olson and Ann Novacek were re-elected to the board. Angie Brewster-Battles resigned from the board in September. In May Aliza Novacek-Olson was elected President, Irene Olson –Vice President, Neal Johnson – Treasurer, and Sheila Winstead – Secretary. In July Aliza Olson requested a leave of absence from her position as president due to personal reasons and Irene Olson became Acting President.

The commitment of Roseau County Historical Society's Board of Directors is seen in the dedicated service they have rendered over the past many years. Within a month of celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary which Aliza Novacek-Olson co-chaired the flood happened, Aliza Novacek-Olson spent many hours assisting the Society in getting the museum/library building dried, out Irene E. Olson is in the seventh year of presenting the history of the county to the KJ102 radio audience. Glenn Holm's involvement with the Pinecreek Church has continued to help the Society with this worthwhile project. Other projects include: Neal Johnson and Irene Olson spending hours researching the history of photographs in the collection, or Sheila Winstead chairing the committee for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook.

### ***Administration***

RCHS staff consists of three full-time employees and one Experienced Works (Green Thumb) federally funded employee.

**Charleen Haugen**, the director/curator implements board policy, administers the budget, and represents the institution to the public and to a variety of funding sources. The director and staff manage each area. The director reports to the Society Board of Directors monthly.

In February 2002 the director applied for an Institute of Museum and Library Service General Operating Grant, which was awarded to the Society in October. Haugen worked with Lutheran Brotherhood as it supplied funding for the research center.

During the flood Haugen directed and organized the flood recovery. Prepared all FEMA/SBA papers and worked with SBA to establish funding. She searched for funding for flood recovery and secured flood recovery funding from the Minnesota Historical Society and the Roseau Area Community Fund. Haugen worked with Minnesota Work Force Center as it administered the federal funding for the flood employees; organized the artifacts for the move to the auditorium; established an item-level inventory to check collection items for flood damage and location.

**Toni Anderson-Donarski**, assistant to the director. She manages memberships and museum visitation, records all registered artifacts into a database, maintains the Military History program, scans photographs, presents educational student tours, and assists the director as needed. Donarski helped inventory collection losses so the director could present them to the Board of Directors and to Frank Rentfro, an appraiser who appraised the collection. She worked with item-level inventory crew to locate collection objects and correct the misplaced objects.

**Barbara Wood**, assistant to the director, is in charge of acquisitions, she registers and cleans all incoming artifacts; helps organize, design and maintain exhibits; presents educational tours; and assists the director as needed. Barbara was instrumental in flood recovery efforts. Under her supervision museum volunteers and federal flood grant employees cleaned artifacts and the museum building, and organized exhibits. She also assisted with the inventory.

**Marie Kompelien** employed through the federally funded Experience Works program indexes all obituaries, marriages and births for genealogy purposes as well as indexing important historical information. She also assists patrons and researchers in research and genealogy requests.

During the flood Marie helped with the artifact damage assessment.

### ***Historical Society Volunteers***

Volunteers played an important part in historical society and museum programs and flood rehabilitation efforts in 2002. Without the volunteer efforts of individuals, organizations, and businesses this past year the Society would not have recovered from the flood as quickly as it has. Due to the fact that we do not know the names of all those who have assisted us we have decided to refrain from adding a list. We want to express our appreciation to all for helping us in our recovery efforts and in any other way during this extraordinary year.

### ***Flood Volunteers***

Some of the flood projects volunteers helped with include:

- Moved museum and research center items out of harms way prior to the flood.
- President Aliza Novacek-Olson worked with Minnesota Historical Society Chief Conservator Robert Herskovitz to have the museum/library building professionally dried before a mold infestation could destroy the collection.
- Prepared the building for the drying process after the flood.
- Helped separate and inventory damaged artifacts immediately after the flood.
- Packed the collection then moved all storage room in the museum to the city auditorium.
- Cleaned and sterilized the storage area and museum.
- Designed exhibits, painted, wall papered, and setup exhibits.
- Helped put together shelving units and reorganize the storage area in the auditorium.

### ***Regular Society Volunteers***

- Assisted in transferring the cemetery information into a computer data base program and checked the accuracy of the transfer.
- Assisted in the Research Center documenting, clipping and filing historic county happenings. Worked on updated cemetery records, updated the website.
- Assisted the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program co-chairs with the program.
- Video taped programs for classroom use and the museum.
- Cleaned exhibits.
- Setup exhibits in the lobby and at the Reed River Building.
- Manned the Fair booth.
- Served at special functions.

## **Financial Report**

Hayes and Czeh Certified Public Accountants who provide monthly and year-end statements, and compile tax returns complete Roseau County Historical Society 2002 Financial Report.

A financial audit was conducted by Brady-Martz in the fall of 2002, for a copy of the report please contact Charleen Haugen at the museum.

Funding for general operations come from Roseau County appropriations, memberships, publications, admittance, grants, memorials, donations, etc. In August 2001 the Society Board of Directors and Director/Curator Charleen Haugen meet with the Roseau County Board of Commissioners, later in the year they were notified that the 2002 funding would be \$36,000. In August they appropriated an additional \$1,000 to help with flood recovery efforts.

Director Charleen Haugen applied for an Institute of Museum and Library Services (Federal) grant in February 2002. The Society was informed that they had received this award in October. The funding covers 2-years under a General Operating Support grant, which will partially fund the salary of one employee, help purchase needed supplies and archival storage materials for collection objects. For the first time in the history of the IMLS full years funding for 2003 was received in November 2002.

A donation to the Society for the Research Center was received from Lutheran Brotherhood. The Minnesota Historical Society provided \$4481 in funding through an flood emergency grant.

Many memorials had been received in 2002, including donations from friends and relatives for the following: Elsie Lislegard and Ethel Davidson Johnson - Old Pinecreek Lutheran Church fund, Inga Billberg Morris Trust and Edward Billberg honorary memorial - Roseau County Historical Society endowment fund, and several donations were received in memory of former county residents.

Major general operating funding sources for FY2002 were:

- Roseau County appropriation
- Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant
- Lutheran Brotherhood for Research Center Projects
- Anonymous Foundation Grant
- Flood Recovery
  - City of Roseau
  - Dr. Roholt (Bemidji Merit Care)
  - Grand Forks Historical Society
  - Joan Shetterly (in memory of her father, Amos Fikkan)
  - Kevin & Pat Zahler
  - Leroy & Arlene Seydel
  - Minnesota Historical Society Emergency Grant
  - Roseau County
  - Thomas Babington (honor of James & Carole Wilson)