

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Roseau County Historical Society was organized in 1927 by individuals who recognized the need to maintain a history of the county. The Minnesota Historical Society designated the Roseau County Historical Society as the official county organization. The historical society is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization.

The mission of the Roseau County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Roseau County and to relate it to the State of Minnesota as it pertains to Article II, sections 1, 2, and 3 in the historical society's by-laws. This includes preserving written materials, electronic data/media, photographs, and three-dimensional items. The Roseau County Historical Society is the sole owner of its collection.

The Roseau County Historical Society (hereafter referred to as RCHS, historical society or society) operates the Roseau County Historical Museum and Interpretive Center, which houses the county archive and artifact collections and serves as the hub for the society's activities.

The historical society is governing by twelve trustees from across Roseau County. The 2010 board members included Glenn Holm (Roseau) - President, Brenda Sather (Greenbush)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol) – Secretary, Helen Wagner (Roseau) – Treasurer, Darrell Borgen (Badger), Harriet Heinen (Warroad), Eva-Jayne Krueger (Warroad), Ida Novacek (Roseau), Jeff Pieterick (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), and Sheila Winstead (Roseau).

7,685 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs, with an increased of about nine percent over 2009. Visitors to the museum came from twenty-nine states and across Minnesota. Foreign visitation was down with visitors registering in from four Canadian provinces, Germany and Sweden. Approximately 13,000 individuals enjoyed off-site exhibits and programs at places such as the Roseau County Fair, Northland Community and Technical College, and the county schools.

The historical society partnered with area schools, organizations, and assisted-living residents to present programs. Children from preschool to grade 12 received both on-site and off-site educational programs. Special on-site tours were organized for senior citizens and organizations.

2010 Annual Meeting

The 83rd annual meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was held Thursday, April 8, 2010, at the Badger School. The Historical Society had partnered with the school to bring Charlie Maguire, the “Centennial Troubadour” for Minnesota and the “Singing Ranger” for the National Park Service to the school during the day to work with Kelly Grahn’s fourth grade class. Prior to the meeting, Maguire and Grahn’s class presented a program for those who attended the event and meeting. An ice cream social at the conclusion of the program, sponsored by

the Badger HS Student Council, was held after the program with all proceeds going to the relief effort for the Haiti earthquake. Immediately following the program, a short annual meeting was held. Incumbent board members who were up for re-election, Bruce Olson, Irene Olson, Ida Novacek, and Jeff Pieterick, were re-elected to the board of directors. An update on 2009 was presented. Door prizes were also.

Programs/Events and Exhibits

Woman's History Month

On February 28, 2010, the ribbon was cut by Roseau County Treasurer Diane Gregerson, Minnesota State Treasurer of the Year for the One Women event and exhibit. Approximately 170 individuals attended the open house and event honoring thirteen women selected by Roseau County cities and townships for their community service. The women, who came from all walks of life, were an example to all. The 2010 women are Alma Anderson - Stokes, Alma Lee - Dieter, Brenda Yanok - Unorganized, Christine Nelson - Malung, Gertie Hetteen Carter - Jadis, Joy Phillipe - Warroad, Kelly Falk - Roseau, Lucille Wiskow - Huss, Marie Comstock - Falun, Marie Oslund - Palmville, Oline Erickson - Badger, Ruth Stukel - Warroad, and Selma Rigstad - Greenbush. Linda Vatnsdal, Dawn Johnson, Carole Wilson were in charge of the One Woman event with Jeanne Hamness and Karen Messelt working with staff member Britt Dahl,

The second exhibit and program honored the over 160 women who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces. A lunch for the women who had/are served in the military, sponsored by the Roseau VFW, and held in the Roseau City Center. Over sixty women from many areas of the United States attended, some as far away as South Carolina. Robert Novacek, the Greenbush VFW Commander served as Master of Ceremonies the program. Special speakers included Sarah Dryburgh, granddaughter of WWII veteran LaMae Lundbohm, Susan Dostal Schostag, Lt. Col. Emily Desrosier, and Col Eleanor Hukkee-Cottam. Certificate of appreciation were presented to each military woman or a family member, expressing appreciation to all who served our country. Over 25 volunteers from across Roseau County under the direction of Jean Vatnsdal assisted with the research, exhibit, lunch, and program.

Between Fences

Once again the RCHS was chosen to have a **Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit**. The **Museum on Main Street Exhibit**

Between Fences was at the museum from March 27, 2010 thru May 8, 2010. During that time over 1,100 visitors



including students visited the museum.

The exhibit offered the history of fencing in a broad range. We live between fences; we may hardly notice them, but they are dominant features in our lives and in our history. ***Between Fences*** explores how tightly the fence is entwined with American history, politics, industry, and daily life.

The museum always provides complimentary exhibits for Smithsonian Traveling Exhibits as it give the staff an opportunity to explore a new area of history. *Between Fences* in Roseau County explored how agriculture, the border with Canada, and sports all have fences to a degree. The use of GPS in agriculture and highway construction was explored as well as land borders. Most sports have invisible fences such as basketball and volley ball, while others have definite fences, such as hockey and tennis. Border issues and transportation was the topic for the land line between the U.S. and Canada.

One of the major exhibits designed by RCHS staff was *Roseau County Century Farms*. Roseau County has over fifty-five farms that have that status. Museum staff contacted all present century farm owners requesting a history of the first farmer. Photos of the early homestead and owners and families, plus a history on the family, the pedigree of land ownership and a recent aerial photo of the farm was used in this exhibit, which is still available for viewing. Over fifty other farmers brought in aerial farm photographs for a matching game also.

Between Fences exhibits were sponsored by the fund drive, the Gladys Paulson and Kenneth Holm estate, Northern Resources, Border State Bank, and the Roseau Liquor Store.

Several programs were presented during the exhibit. Two programs were sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Smithsonian. The Charlie Maguire program for the Annual meeting and Minnesota's Mr. Geography, Professor David Lanegran, Macalister College John S Holl Chair of Geography, provided a presentation on the how the Northwest Angle became a part of Minnesota as well as provided an interesting history on the U. S. - Canadian border. Three noon programs also follow the fencing theme.

Scandinavian Festival

In June during the Scandinavian Festival in Roseau, four of Gwen Salberg's speech students presented several very entertaining Scandinavian stories to children as a part of the festival programming.

Summer Youth Program

During the summer the museum offers free activities for youth. Once a month two different movies, one for younger children and one for older youth, were shown in the Mini Theater. Attendance increased each month until the theater reached its capacity of about 55.

For three weeks in August the museum and Dairy Queen partner on a daily scavenger hunt. Children who do the scavenger hunt enter for a weekly drawing for a DQ blizzard.

The Mushroom Picker

The historical society collaborated with Patrick Dewane on a grant to bring the One-Man show *The Mushroom Picker* to Roseau County in August. The play was held on August 27, 2010 in the Roseau High School Theater with an attendance of over 300. The moving presentation by Patrick Dewane told the true story about the liberation of Czechoslovakia and his grandfather's part in it. Matt Konop, Dewane's grandfather, service for the United States during WWII brought him to his immigrant family's home area in the Czechoslovakia; *The Mushroom Picker* is the untold story of what took place there. Dewane presentation was as riveting as his grandfather's story.

Holiday Open House

On November 14, the annual Holiday Open House and Pot Luck dinner was held in the Roseau City Center. The program for the evening included humor from MC Lou Hermansen, music from the Highway 11 Ramblers and Phil Salberg and Barb Roseen, and Phil and Gwen Salberg, members of the Roseau County Toastmasters Club, offered two entertaining vocalizations.

Hartz Grant

A major contributor to the museum over the years has been the Hartz Foundation. The museum was fortunate to receive a \$5,000 grant from the foundation in 2010 for exhibit cases.

School Educational Programs and Tours

Successful educational programs for K12 students are a goal of the historical society.

In 2010, we worked with the schools across the county by not only offering onsite presentation but tours and programs in the museum. RCHS staff designed educational programs using the museum SMART board and the collection for use in teach the history of the county. Educational programs/presentations were offered to county schools at various times throughout the year. Students from Badger, Greenbush, and Roseau received tours or participated in onsite and offsite programs during 2010, while students in Warroad received programs at the Warroad Elementary School. RCHS volunteer educator Lola Grafstrom gave Roseau County Ojibwa history presentations in the spring to the county schools when they attended the museum. In December, she provided Scandinavian Heritage programs at their schools.

School programs are a popular educational component for the museum and research center. Students from Badger, Greenbush/Middle River, Karlstad, and Roseau participated in tours and programs at the museum during 2010. Over 600 students received programs and tours during the spring. RCHS offered an immigration program for elementary students which were taught on-site by RCHS volunteer educator, Lola Grafstrom.

During Between Fences, through a program co-sponsored by the museum, the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Smithsonian, Charlie Maguire provided an education music lesson for Badger educator Kelly Grahn's fourth grade class. They were taught to use a mouth harp and spoons as musical instruments and that evening entertained at the historical society's annual meeting.

Roseau civics teacher Aaron Nelson and the historical society partnered on a military oral history project during the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Nelson's Advanced History Class and was used in an exhibit on Memorial Day 2010 to honor veterans who served during these conflicts. A DVD was also produced for the program. The interviews, exhibit, and DVD were donated to the museum.

On Thursday, May 20th the Roseau County Museum held the Minnesota History Sixth Grade contest at the Roseau City Center. Students from seven schools, Badger; Greenbush; Grygla; Goodridge; Lancaster; Roseau;

and Warroad, participated. During the closing event, six students receive savings bonds sponsored by the Badger, Roseau and Warroad banks. Students take a 200+ question test on Minnesota history during the morning to place in the contest. Last year's students included Sam Moorhead from Warroad who placed first, Kirsten Grafstrom of Roseau in second, Robby Davy - Badger, third place; Amy Svir, Badger - 3rd; Sabel Knochenmus, Roseau - 4th and Amy Svir, Badger - 5th; Martyn Novacek, Greenbush - 6th; other participants were Riley Sovde, Badger; Brady Klien, Greenbush/ MR; Courtney Novacek

Greenbush/ MR; Benji Wilebski, Goodridge; Cassidy Stenvik, Goodridge; and Caleb Olson, Goodridge; Madison Bakken, Grygla-Gatzke; Samantha Kraulik, Grygla-Gatzke, Marisa Newton, Grygla-Gatzke; Dylan Olsonawski, Lancaster; and Sydney Sele, Lancaster; Trent Jerome, Lancaster; Taylor Loken - Roseau, Erin Thompson, Warroad; and Kirk Pearson, Warroad.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Collection Care and Acquisitions

Twenty-two individuals, families and businesses donated over 481 3-dimensional objects and countless memorabilia and photographs to the museum in 2010. items to the museum. LifeCare Medical Center in Greenbush donated outdated surgical equipment and furniture. Following the closing of the Methodist Church in Roseau, Norman Flagstad (Roseau) decided to donate memorabilia collected over the years by his parents; this includes scrapbooks his mother had designed and an exhibit case that was used for display in the church. Bill and Helen Wagner donated several cameras. Sheila Winstead (Roseau) donated items from her father's estate and Elinor M. Koshenia of Greenbush donated many historic personal care objects.

Technology

RCCHS staff is continually looking for ways to ensure that equipment is available for projects. As a part of the Veteran Oral History project with Aaron Nelson's Advanced History class, Nelson and Haugen applied for a Minnesota Legacy grant for equipment to use for veteran interviews. In February, the museum received notification from the Minnesota Historical Society that their project had been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The equipment will be available for Roseau teachers to use when doing class projects.

This equipment made it possible for the museum to have Janet Standlie interview several of the Women in Military participants, including Lt. Col. Emily Derosier and Susan Dostal Schostag.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

The historical society is governed by twelve trustees. The 2010 Board of Directors included Glenn Holm, President- Roseau, Brenda Sather, Vice President – Greenbush, Lola Grafstrom, Secretary – Salol, Helen Wagner, Treasurer – Roseau, Darrell Borgen – Badger, Harriet Heinen – Warroad, Eva-Jayne Krueger – Warroad, Ida

Novacek – Roseau, Bruce Olson - Badger, Irene Olson – Roseau, Jeff Pieterick – Greenbush, and Sheila Winstead – Roseau. Board members serve on various committees setting policy. They ensure that the historical society has operating funds. The board members provide invaluable service. An example are the following two items. Irene Olson has given the radio broadcast A Look Back in Time on KJ102 and now Wild 102, since 1996. Helen Wagner and Sheila Winstead are instrumental in assisting Charleen Haugen in designing the newsletter.

Administration and Training

RCHS staff includes one full-time employee, Britt Dahl, Museum Assistant; and two part-time employees Charleen Haugen, Executive Director and, Marie Kompelien, Research Specialist. Museum staff responsibilities include administration of all areas of museum management. They also organize and provide community and educational programs.

In addition to the museum staff, three federal paid Experience Works trainees work at the museum. Two work in the research center entering birth, marriages, and obituaries information into databases. The information was gleaned from the county newspapers. The third individual works with the museum collection software, PastPerfect, entering all information on all 3-dimensional and archival items donated to the historical society.

Being a member of the Minnesota's Historic Northwest consortium has many benefits. In November, a Minnesota's Historic Northwest consortium training class was held in Roseau. Funding for this class, one additional class and over \$8,000 of collection care products for consortium members was financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. This training provided RCHS staff and consortium members with various types of information related to the care of museum collections.

Once again, in 2010 the historical society was contacted and asked to submit an application for a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit by the Minnesota Humanities Center. The historical society was notified of their acceptance for the **Smithsonian Museum on Main Street** exhibit *New Harmonies: American Roots Music*. The exhibit will be at the museum from November 7, 2011 through Christmas vacation Staff are very excited about this exhibit due the great interest in music and the many musicians and musical groups in Roseau County. In preparation for exhibit, Charleen Haugen, Britt Dahl, and volunteer Rlou Specter attended a training session in October at the Minnesota Humanities Center.

Volunteers

Approximately 120 volunteers provided assistance with exhibits, programs, collection care and research at the museum in 2010. An example is Mr. Glassman's class. They painted fence posts for the Between Fences exhibits and panels for exhibits at the school.

Although the Sentence to Service program is not considered volunteer hours, their community service to the museum is invaluable. Crew leader Frank Haubrick and those working under the program setup

additional shelving units, made units for exhibit display and assisted the museum in projects too numerous to mention.

Financial

General operating funds for the historical society come from county allocations, memberships, donations, gift shop proceeds, research requests, the Roseau County Endowment Fund, a yearly fund drive, and grants. The Roseau County Historical Society endowment fund was established with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation in 1995. The endowment provides capital for special projects and is supported by donations and memorials from supporters.

Grants

Grant funding in 2010 came from the following foundations and the Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund.

Hartz Foundation for exhibit cases - \$5,000

The Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund for the Veteran Oral History Project - \$2,468

Fund Drive

The 2010 fund drive has provided the historical society with the opportunity to purchase collection care items, purchase exhibit supplies, develop student and senior educational programs as well as assist with general operation. 103 contributors supported the 2009-10 fund drive. A \$1,000 donation was received for the research center from Dennis, Richard, and Peter King in memory of their Grandparents - Peter and Helma Peterson, Aunt Mabel (Peterson) Pellet, Uncles George and Chester Peterson and Mother, Helene (Peterson) King Hollick who lived in Laona Township as well as \$500 from the Care Abounds in the Community Thrivent program. All donations make a difference, regardless of the amount. The fund drive provided much needed funding for the *One Woman* and *Women in Military* exhibits as well as the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street *Between Fences* exhibit. Without this additional help the museum would not be able to provide these exhibits.

Bequest

A lasting legacy was left to the historical society in May. Former historical society member Gladys Paulson of Badger bequeathed \$9,492 to the society. This gift has provided the historical society with the opportunity to purchase exhibit display equipment for not only the museum but also for outreach exhibits.

Additional information is available in the 2010 financial report.

The Roseau County Historical Society Board of Directors apologizes for any oversights or errors in the annual or financial report.

Glenn Holm, President and Charleen Haugen, Executive Director