

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Individuals who recognized the need to maintain a history of the county organized the Roseau County Historical Society in 1927. 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.

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2012 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President; Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President; Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary; Helen Wagner (Roseau) - Treasurer; Darrell Borgen (Badger); Eva-Jayne Krueger (Warroad); Ida Novacek (Roseau) resigned August 2012; Mark Engen (Warroad) filled Ida Novacek's spot; Jeff Pieterick (Greenbush); Bruce Olson (Badger); Irene Olson (Roseau); Jolene Juhl (Greenbush); and Sheila Winstead (Roseau).

Visitors

In 2012, 7065 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from twenty-six states, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Mexico, Norway, and Germany. Over 30,000 at the Roseau County Fair, Warroad Senior Living Center, Oakcrest Senior Living Center, LifeCare Greenbush Medical Center, Altru Clinic, and local school classrooms saw RCHS off-site exhibits and programs.

2012 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, a Minnesota Humanities Center and the Minnesota Historical Society partnership with the Smithsonian, closed at the museum on January 2 with refreshments and music by Highway 11 Ramblers. Over 2650 patrons from NW Minnesota and southern Manitoba visited the museum over the eight weeks.

In February, the historical society presented a four week Bag Lunch Program, *American Roots Music* movie series. The programs were held at Warroad Senior Living Center, Roseau City Center, Badger Community Center, and Greenbush LifeCare Manor.

Roseau County Commissioner Glenda Phillipe opened the March 2012 One Woman exhibit. The program honored twelve women selected for their community service: Eva Gregerson-Badger, Veronica Novacek-Barto, Sylvia Lisell-Falun, Dianne Churchill-Greenbush, Rose Strandlund-Jadis, Esther Sandstrom-Malung, Elvera Kvarnlov-Moranville, Irene Olson-Roseau, Jeanette Erickson-Ross, Sylvia Kukowski-Skagen, Addie Streiff-Unorganized, and Sunny Wilmer-Warroad. Co-chairs for the One Woman Exhibit were Linda Vatnsdal, Dawn Johnson, and Carole Wilson. Don & Bonnie Guttormson provided entertainment.

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was April 20, 2012 in Badger at Our Redeemers Church. President Glenn Holm conducted the meeting. Incumbent board members Darrell Borgen, Lola Grafstrom, Sheila Winstead, and Harriet Heinen were reinstated. Minnesota's folklorist, John Berquist presented a program to a group of seventy-two. Berquist also worked with music and choir teachers at the Badger, Roseau and Warroad schools during that week. The concert and school programming were made possible by a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council and the Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund.

In June 2012, RCHS and Pelan Pioneer Park joined in a barbeque picnic lunch and a night of music by Northern Posse. Approximately 176 people attended the events made possible by a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council and the Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund.

The Roseau County Fair Board allowed RCHS to place exhibits in the new building at the fairgrounds, located next to the Magnusson Building. Nearly 3000 visitors came through the building during the fair.

The museum continued to offer free activities for youth including a summer movie program and the August museum/Dairy Queen scavenger hunt partnership that offered a weekly drawing for a DQ Mini Blizzard. Approximately eighty children enjoyed these events.

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Minnesota Disasters*, August – November 2012. Along with the traveling exhibit, *Roseau County Disasters* exhibits were created to tell the story of disasters throughout Roseau County, including the flood of 2002.

The museum introduced a new holiday exhibit, *Christmas Trimmery* with ten Christmas trees decorated throughout the museum. The county's residents were asked to bring in or donate vintage Christmas ornaments and tree trimmings for the event. The opening day was in conjunction with the Roseau Public Library's *Christmas Treasures*.

School Educational Programs and Tours

RCHS provided educational programs for K12 students for all schools in the county and northwest Minnesota, including offsite presentations and onsite tours and programs. Education Coordinator Lola Grafstrom uses the museum SMART board and collection items during onsite teaching programs.

On May 14, seven schools (twenty-one students) from Badger, Goodridge, Grygla, Lake of the Woods, Lancaster, Roseau, and Warroad participated in the annual Minnesota History Sixth Grade contest at the Roseau City Center. Sponsors were Border State Bank, Citizens State Bank and Security State Bank. Participating students were Gabe Carlson, Roseau (1st place); Abby Huss, Roseau (2nd Place); Halley Meeker, Warroad (3rd Place); Sawyer Billings, Lancaster (4th Place); Jack Peppel, Badger (5th Place); Ethan Praska, Badger 6th Place); Reese Steen, Lancaster; Megan Doneth, Badger; Lauren Johnson, Roseau; Hailey Vad, Grygla- Gatzke; Jordan Herseth, Grygla-Gatzke; Malena Phongsavath, Warroad; Madeline Olson, Lancaster; Kathy Szymanski, Goodridge; Lauryn Nordine, Goodridge; Carlye Kiesow, Grygla-Gatzke; Andrew Thompson, Warroad

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Thirty individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 2,000 photographs, three-dimensional objects and archival items to the museum. Roseau River Watershed District and Irene Olson donated over 1,800 flood photos to the museum collection.

RCHS replaced the executive director's computer and moved the older computer, connecting it to the scanner, in order to scan photographs at a higher speed.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. They serve a period of three years and may serve as many terms as they desire.

Administration and Training

RCHS saw the retirement of Executive Director/ Curator, Charleen Haugen in June. Charleen was with the museum for seventeen years. Museum Assistant, Britt Dahl, was hired as Executive Director/ Curator. Along with Britt moving to the curator position, Linda Wojahn was hired as Museum Assistant. Linda had been working at the museum through an employment-training program. Marie Kompelien is the third RCHS employee along with one individual through an employment-training program.

Britt Dahl attended the American Association of Museums Annual Meeting, held April 29 – May 2, in the Twin Cities. Britt received a fellowship for the annual meeting that included registration, and an additional stipend for travel.

RCHS is a member of the Minnesota's Historical Northwest Consortium, an organization for historical societies and museums in Northwest Minnesota. The consortium provides collaboration and educational training for the members.

Volunteers

Approximately 80 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2012. Although the Sentence to Service program is not considered volunteer hours, their community service to the museum is invaluable.

Financial Information and Grants

General operating funds for the historical society come from county allocations, memberships, donations, gift shop proceeds, research requests, the RCHS Endowment Fund, a yearly fund drive, and grants.

- The 2012 fund drive provided the historical society the opportunity to purchase a new computer, computer software and help with the cost of exhibit design as well as assist with general operation. 102 contributors supported the 2011-12 fund drive. The historical society website lists the fund drive donors.
- The Roseau County Commissioners granted RCHS special funds to purchase fifteen additional lighting fixtures to provide more light in the gallery.
- Grant funding remaining from 2011 through the Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund and NW Arts Council provided for additional music programming in continuing *New Harmonies* programming.

Additional information is available in the 2012 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 Britt Dahl, Executive Director