

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013 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 2013 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) who passed away September 2013; Mark Engen (Warroad); Colleen Lorenson (Greenbush); Bruce Olson (Badger); Irene Olson (Roseau); Jolene Juhl (Greenbush); and Sheila Winstead (Roseau). Bob Granitz (Malung) filled Eva-Jayne Krueger's position.

Visitors

In 2013, 6676 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from thirty-one states, Canada, Japan, Sweden, India, Australia, and Norway. A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair, Warroad Senior Living Center, LifeCare Greenbush Medical Center, Altru Clinic, and local school classrooms.

2013 Programs/Events and Exhibits

Roseau County Museum opened March 2013 One Woman exhibit. The program honored fourteen women Pearl Vacura –Badger; Julia Shimpa – Barnett; Darlene Novacek – Barto; Muriel Olson – Cedarbend; Alice Guyaux – Enstrom; MaryAnn Johnson – Greenbush; Deloris Lorenson – Huss; Violet Sikorski – Juneberry/Unorganized; Peggy Magnusson – Jadis; Darlene Kompelien – Malung; Doris Skoien – Mickinock; Margaret Johnston Marvin – Moranville; Hazel Wahlberg – Roseau; Lorelee Marvin – Warroad. Program Coordinator was Dawn Johnson with Mary Dieter as emcee, and Elaine Wulff provided entertainment.

The 86th Annual Meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was April 20, 2013 in Roseau City Center. Vice-President Harriet Heinen conducted the meeting. Incumbent board members Bruce Olson, Irene Olson, Mark Engen, and Jeff Pieterick terms were expiring. Jeff Pieterick chose to step down from his position and the remaining board members were reinstated. Colleen Lorenson of Greenbush was elected to fill Jeff's position on the board. Minnesota performer, Dale Blanshan presented a program to a group of twenty-eight. Blanshan recreated one of the great stories of American history, "Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley", with the help of period photographs and musical numbers. The program featured the music of Irving Berlin's "Annie, Get Your Gun" and actual photographs of the grounds, performers, and action from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The programming was made possible by a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council.

The museum added to the free summer youth activities with three new events made possible through a grant from the Roseau Area Community Fund. The museum also continued with the summer movie program and the August museum/Dairy Queen scavenger hunt partnership that offered a weekly drawing for a DQ Mini Blizzard. Approximately 150 children enjoyed these events.

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Electrifying Minnesota*, August – October 2013. Along with the traveling exhibit, *Electrifying Roseau County* exhibits were created to tell the story of how electricity was introduced and how it has affected our lives. In conjunction with the exhibit, a program with retired Roseau Electric Cooperative workers came to talk about their days of working for the electric company.

2013 Programs/Events and Exhibits continued

The museum held a music event, *Christmas Harmonies*, at the Roseau School Theater in December with local musical talents from across the county. The production committee consisted of Bonnie Nordvall and Dawn Johnson. Talents included a family band from Warroad, a storyteller from Greenbush and a bell choir from Roseau. The program was well received by approximately one hundred attendees. We are looking at making this program an annual museum event.

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 9, 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 First Place - Owen Marvin (Warroad); Second Place - Catie Glodowski (Roseau); Third Place - Henry Sanford (Roseau); Fourth Place - Madicyn Holmgren (Roseau); Fifth Place - Colby Wooten (Badger); Sixth Place - Gavin Davy (Badger); Sarah Dignan (Warroad); Victor Anselmo (Warroad); Dylan Wold (Goodridge); Jacob Tharaldson (Goodridge); Kaleb Sjulstad (Goodridge); Andi Strege (Lancaster); Emily Schmiedeberg (Lancaster); Gabe Vagle (Lancaster); Isaac Stephani (Lake of the Woods), Sky Cobiness Boucha (Lake of the Woods); Grant Stebakken (Lake of the Woods); Alex Ylitalo (Badger); Lucian Tinnes (Grygla/ Gatzke); Sarah Suchoski (Grygla/ Gatzke); Abby Kiesow (Grygla/ Gatzke).

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Over fifty-two individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 800 photographs, three-dimensional objects and archival items to the museum.

A \$7,000 Minnesota Legacy Grant was accepted to hire a Collection Assistant to catalog and enter a backlog of artifacts and photographs into the museum's cataloging system. This project will be complete April 2014 and will give the staff a better sense of what is in the museum inventory and where to find the items when creating an exhibit.

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 staff includes one full-time employee, Britt Dahl, Executive Director; and two part-time employees Linda Wojahn, Museum Assistant 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.

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. This training provided RCHS staff and consortium members with various types of information related to the care of museum collections.

Volunteers

Approximately 70 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2013. The historical society has two volunteers that come faithfully on Thursdays to help with memberships, mailings, filing, and sewing.

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 2012-13 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assist with general operation. 125 contributors supported the 2012-13 fund drive. The historical society website lists the fund drive donors.
- Grant funding through the Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Fund allowed the historical society to hire a Collection Assistant to help catalog a backlog of donated items and NW Arts Council provided for a professional performer at the 2013 Annual Meeting. There was also a Roseau Area Community Fund Grant that help provide additional summer youth programming.

Additional information is available in the 2013 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