

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014 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 2014 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President, Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary, Helen Wagner (Roseau) - Treasurer, Darrell Borgen (Badger), Mark Engen (Warroad), Colleen Lorensen (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), Sheila Winstead (Roseau), and Bob Granitz (Malung).

Visitors

In 2014, 7173 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from twenty-two states, Canada, Taiwan, Australia, Hong Kong, Sweden, Germany, Norway, and Switzerland. This is an increase of about 500 from the previous year. A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair, Warroad Senior Living Center, and local school classrooms.

2014 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The 87th Annual Meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was May 1st, 2014 in Roseau City Center. President Glenn Holm conducted the meeting. Incumbent board members up for re-election were Glenn Holm, Jolene Juhl, and Helen Wagner. Bob Granitz was voted in as a new board member. Granitz filled Eva-Jayne Krueger's position after her passing. Don Miller, retired Roseau High School physics and electronics teacher, was introduced. He presented his work on "Sojourner", a replica of the Mars Robotics Rover. His presentation was informative, challenging, engaging, and fun.

The museum continued to build on the free summer youth activities and 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 225 children enjoyed these events.

The fair board informed the historical society that the museum would be able to use the entire Arts & Cultural Building as long as the museum provided exhibits and/or programming that is specific to the Legacy Grant guidelines.

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Minnesota Homefront*, August – January 2015. Along with the traveling exhibit, *Roseau County Homefront* exhibits were created to tell the story of how county residents helped provide for World War II at home.

A *Jacobite Harp* program of sounds and stories from eighteenth century Ireland was presented by Ann & Charlie Heymann in October 2014.

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 13th, seven area schools participated in the Northwest Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest at the Roseau City Center. The contest has taken place for over 30 years and is sponsored by the Roseau County Historical Society. Trophies and cash awards were presented to the top six students. The cash awards are sponsored by Border State Bank – Badger, Citizens State Bank – Roseau, and Security State Bank of Warroad.

School Educational Programs and Tours (continued)

This year students from Badger, Grygla, Goodridge, Lancaster, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, and Warroad Schools participated in the test. The top three students from each school compete in a competitive test for the trophies and cash awards. The following students received the awards: 1st place, Salyna Norindr (Warroad); 2nd- Grant Slukynsky (Warroad); 3rd – Casey Jones (Warroad); Tied for 4th- Olivia Urness (Roseau) and Seraphina Johnstun (Roseau); 6th- Mitchell Green (Roseau).

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Forty-nine individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 1200 photographs, three-dimensional objects and archival items to the museum. Included in the donations was a large collection of glass plate negatives from Tom C. Johnson that belonged to his great-grandfather Otto C. Johnson. Eleven boxes of family history from the Grover and Wallin families from the eastern portion of the county were also donated.

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.

In addition to the museum staff, one federally paid *Experience Works* trainee worked with the obituary indexes and word processing.

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.

Britt Dahl was able to attend the Annual Meeting for the American Association for State and Local History in September 2014 with funding through a Legacy Grant. The meeting provided numerous workshops associated with museum work.

Volunteers

Approximately 60 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2014. The historical society has three volunteers that come faithfully 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 2013-14 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assist with general operation. 128 contributors supported the 2013-14 fund drive. The historical society website lists the fund drive donors.
- Grant funding through the Roseau Area Community Fund Grant provided summer youth programming. An Art and Culture Heritage Fund Grant provided for the AASLH Annual Meeting.

Additional information is available in the 2014 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