

## ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### ***2015 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 2015 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President, Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary, Steve Dostal (Roseau) - Treasurer, Mark Engen (Warroad), Colleen Lorensen (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), Sheila Winstead (Roseau), and Bob Granitz (Malung). Helen Wagner resigned during her three year term and her position has yet to be filled.

#### **Visitors**

In 2015, 9490 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from twenty-seven states, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Kenya, Norway, and Switzerland. This is an increase of more than 2,300 from the previous year. A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair and local school classrooms.

#### **2015 Programs/Events and Exhibits**

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Minnesota Homefront*, August 2014 – 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. The theme remained throughout the year.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society was April 20, 2015 in Roseau City Center. Vice-President Harriet Heinen conducted the meeting. Incumbent board members up for re-election were Darrell Borgen, Lola Grafstrom, Sheila Winstead, and Harriet Heinen. Steve Dostal was voted in as a new board member. Dostal filled Darrell Borgen's position after deciding to retire from the board. A meal was served with the theme of war rationing, with a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person. Roseau Elementary School's own "Andrews Sisters" (Brenda Dahl, Brita Comstock, and Bonnie Wensloff) entertained with World War II era songs. Then Dave Kenney, a freelance writer specializing in Minnesota history spoke about life on the Minnesota home front during World War II, with special emphasis on the contributions and experiences of people in Roseau and the northwestern corner of the state. There were near 70 members and non-members that attended the evening with \$428 donated one of the best attended annual meetings in years.

The museum continued to build on the free summer youth activities and events made possible through a grant from the Roseau Area Community Fund. Events added were making dream catchers, sun catchers, and family tree project for kids. 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 100 children enjoyed these scheduled activities with numerous more coming for scavenger hunts. The attendance in 2015 from beginning of June - end of August alone was 4,916 most of the visitors were children and their family.

The museum again created an exhibit in the Arts & Cultural Building on the Roseau County Fairground. The theme for the year Roseau County Veterans. There was a wall of honor created that listed more than 7,000 Roseau County veterans and current military personnel with many more names added during the fair. There was a display to honor the Spanish American and Civil War Roseau County Veterans, a pictorial display, and many military artifacts.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup>, nine 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. This year students from Badger, Greenbush, Grygla, Goodridge, Lancaster, Lake of the Woods, Marshall County Central (Newfolden area), 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 Kyle Buley (Roseau), 2nd place Emmett Marvin (Warroad), 3rd place Kyle Thompson (Warroad), 4th place Maggie Korgel (Warroad), 5th place Cora Vagle (Lancaster), and 6th place Noah Warne (Badger)

### **Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology**

Fifty individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 600 three-dimensional objects, photographs, and archival items to the museum. Including numerous record books from the Skime School and Skagen township.

### **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, two federally paid *Experience Works* trainee worked with the obituary indexes and word processing, the other worked with the cataloging and inventory of the collection.

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 40 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2015. 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 sales, research requests, the RCHS Endowment Fund, a yearly fund drive, and grants.

The 2014-15 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assist with general operation.

147 contributors supported the 2014-15 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 Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-Up Grant provided archival boxes for the growing collection.

Additional information is available in the 2015 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