

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2016 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.

Visitors

In 2016, 7160 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from twenty states, Canada, France, Panama, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan. A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair and local school classrooms.

2016 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historic Northwest traveling exhibit, *Innovators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs*, June – December 2016.

The museum offered free summer youth activities and events including making dream catchers, sun catchers, plaster animal tracks, and more. The annual August museum scavenger hunt offered a weekly drawing for a DQ Mini Blizzard donated by Roseau Dairy Queen. Approximately 100 children enjoyed these scheduled activities with numerous more coming for scavenger hunts.

The museum created an exhibit in the Arts & Cultural Building on the Roseau County Fairground. We continued with the 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 also a display of uniforms throughout the wars and military branches. The traveling exhibit, *Innovators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs* was also on display.

The Roseau County Historical Society & Museum started a new holiday event. The First Annual Christmas Tree Walk opening event was held November 20 and the trees remained up through the end of December. We invited county organizations, groups, and businesses to decorate a tree for the tree walk.

A contest was held where visitors could place money in boxes at each tree to vote for their favorite tree(s). The three trees with the most money in their boxes won the tree walk. After prizes were paid to the top three vote-getters, the remaining proceeds from the boxes went to benefit the Roseau County Historical Society's mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing Roseau County history.

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 these teaching programs.

The 36th NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on May 11, 2016. Students from Badger, Greenbush-Middle River, Lancaster, Lake of the Woods, Marshall County Central, Roseau, and Warroad participated in the contest. Three competitors from each school were chosen by their teachers to participate in the MN history test. The six students scoring the highest on the test win trophies/medals and cash awards. The Roseau County Historical Society produces and sponsors the test. Cash awards are donated by Security State Bank, Citizens State Bank, and Border State Bank.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Forty-five individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 450 three-dimensional objects, photographs, and archival items to the museum.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2016 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President, Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary, Steve Dostal (Roseau) - Treasurer (resigned September 2016, Sheila Winstead became Treasurer), Karen Hagen (Wannaska), Colleen Lorenson (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), Sheila Winstead (Roseau), and Bob Granitz (Malung). Katie Hedlund (Roseau) filled the remaining term of Helen Wagner which expires April 2017.

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 cataloging incoming artifacts and working with some inventory of the collection. *Inter-County Community Council* also provided a federally paid participant that worked with data entry, exhibit displays, and general duties.

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 2016. 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 2015-16 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assisting with general operation. 132 contributors supported the fund drive.

The historical society was awarded several grants in 2016 to help us acquire items that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans. Through this grant program we were able to build a new website and acquire a microfilm reader/scanner with computer.

Through the same grant program we were able to update our microfilm reader/scanner in the research center with a new computer. This machine (ST Imaging's ST ViewScan III microfilm scanner) offers a high resolution camera allowing users to see more details in the film as well as digitally zoom and is an easy system to use.

The historical society also received funding through Roseau Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up to purchase a new Security Camera - Surveillance System and archival boxes.

The Roseau Area Community Fund awarded the museum grant money for youth programming at the museum. Additional information is available in the 2016 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