

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2018 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 2018, 7,408 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from seventeen states, Canada, and Sweden. A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair and local school classrooms.

2018 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Fur Trade in Minnesota*, February – April.

The Minnesota Historic Northwest also created a traveling exhibit about the Fur Trade in our area and it will be featured in Roseau County Museum as well as in 14 other museums in the northwest corner of the state for some coming time. The 15 organizations each have one piece of the exhibit and they will rotate throughout the locations. The museum offered free summer youth activities and events including making dream catchers, sun catchers, plaster animal tracks, and more. Approximately 460 children enjoyed these scheduled activities with many more coming for scavenger hunts. This is a huge increase from previous years.

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 7,300 Roseau County veterans and current military personnel with many more names added during the fair. There was also a display of Veteran's pictures. The other portion of the building at the fairgrounds had a focus on medicine in Roseau County, doctors, and the Spanish Influenza epidemic during WWI.

The Roseau County Historical Society & Museum continued the Annual Christmas Tree Walk inviting county organizations, groups, and businesses to decorate a tree for the tree walk. This year we had 13 trees decorated throughout the museum.

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 37th NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on May 9, 2018. Students from Badger, Grygla, 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-eight individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 1,500 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 2018 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President, Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary, Sheila Winstead (Roseau) - Treasurer, Karen Hagen (Wannaska), Colleen Lorensen (Greenbush), Bruce Olson (Badger), Irene Olson (Roseau), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), Bob Granitz (Malung), Katie Hedlund (Roseau), and Aaron Magnusson (Roseau).

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.

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 25 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2018. The historical society has two volunteers that come faithfully to help with memberships, mailings, and filing.

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 2017--18 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assisting with general operation. 153 contributors supported the fund drive.

The historical society was awarded several grants in 2018 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 hire a temporary staff person to work with inventory control. We also hired a light consultant to look at our lighting in the museum and come up with a plan for lighting restructure for the museum.

The historical society received funding through Roseau Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up to upgrade our security system.

The Roseau Area Community Fund awarded the museum grant money for youth programming at the museum.

Grants through the Northwest MN Arts Council allowed us to have three programs for the year.

Additional information is available in the 2018 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