

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 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 2019, 7,084 individuals attended historical society/museum on-site exhibits and programs. Visitors were from sixteen states, 3 Canadian Provinces, Africa, Australia, Austria, England, Estonia, Germany, India, Ireland, Macedonia, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, and Wales.

A countless number of people were able to view RCHS off-site exhibits and programs at the Roseau County Fair and local school classrooms.

2019 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum hosted a Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, *Coming of Age: 1968*, March. Also a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota League of Women Voter's traveling exhibit, October.

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. In 2019, the museum offered several new crafts to make including, rain sticks, slime, clay creatures, and more. Approximately 676 children enjoyed these scheduled activities with many more coming for scavenger hunts. This is an increase of 206 from last years. The Summer Explorers programs are funded by the Roseau Area Community Fund grant fund, \$500. The museum also partnered with the Roseau Public Library to host a free movie for youth on Thursdays during the summer. We were also open special hours throughout the year when special youth programming was held in the city center.

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 7,500 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 1968 era in Roseau County.

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 10 trees decorated throughout the museum by groups and museum staff.

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.

Along with the regular programming the museum also hosted "The Lost Forty" music group in June, Jane Peck, women's suffrage speaker in October, and Ross Sutter and friends "A Scandinavian Christmas" in November.

The Peck and Sutter programming was funded in part through a grant from the Northwest Regional Arts Council, \$9,900.

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 in May with students from Badger, Grygla, Lancaster, Lake of the Woods, Marshall County Central, Roseau, and Warroad participating 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

Fifty-four individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated over 2,231 three-dimensional objects, photographs, and archival items to the museum.

A grant from Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-up allowed the museum to purchase a computer server with secure back-up to keep our information secure and backed up.

Two grants were received from the Minnesota Historical Society through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Grant program. One grant was for \$9,990 to hire a temporary staff person to complete an inventory of all museum objects, photographs, and archival material. The next grant was for \$146,099 for lighting restructure. The project will replace all lighting throughout the museum and storage areas with LED fixtures with new and retrofitting lighting.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2019 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President, Harriet Heinen (Warroad)- Vice President, Lola Grafstrom (Salol)- Secretary, Sheila Winstead (Roseau) - Treasurer, Karen Hagen (Wannaska), Bruce Olson (Badger), Jolene Juhl (Greenbush), Bob Granitz (Malung), Katie Hedlund (Roseau), Aaron Magnusson (Roseau), Harry Hamilton (Roseau), and Don Miller (Malung).

Long-term board member Irene Olson (Roseau) retired from the board after 25 years. Colleen Lorensen (Greenbush) also decided to not renew for another term. The Roseau County Historical Society thanks them for years of service on the board.

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. This worker met the *Experience Works* time line and was hired for the temporary worker to finish the inventory. *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 30 volunteers provided assistance with collection care, exhibits, programs, and research during 2019. 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 2018-19 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication as well as assisting with general operation.

The historical society was awarded several grants in 2019 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 received grant funding for lighting restructure for the museum.

The historical society received funding through Roseau Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up to upgrade our computer server 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, one program will be held in 2020.

Additional information is available in the 2019 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