

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2020 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 2020, we were able to open January, February, and most of March. In that timeframe 1,174 visitors visited the museum and research center. The museum was closed to the public through the remaining of 2020.

2020 Programs/Events and Exhibits

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we had to cancel the programming and events for the year. The staff is working a rescheduling programming in the future.

The historical society worked with Northern Resources to obtain photos for the new store. The photos they choose are on display in the C-store.

School Educational Programs and Tours

All school related activities were cancelled for 2020.

The museum helped the Roseau County 4H create a scavenger hunt for the 4H youth. The scavenger hunt consisted of locations and photos of historical places around the county. The museum obtained the photos and information and the 4H Education Educator, Kelsey Emery, created the mapped scavenger hunt.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Twenty-two individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated 125 three-dimensional objects, photographs, and archival items to the museum.

A grant from Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-up (\$1,795) allowed the museum to purchase a plotter printer. All the exhibit posters are designed and printed in house. Our old printer was out of date and had quite working.

A Hartz Foundation grant was awarded allowing the historical society to purchase a Square® Register Point of Sales System, additional surveillance cameras, a paper folding machine, and a phone system.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2020 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), Bob Granitz (Malung), Katie Hedlund (Roseau), Aaron Magnusson (Roseau), Harry Hamilton (Roseau), and Don Miller (Malung).

Jolene Juhl (Greenbush) choose not to renew her terms. Her position was not filled in 2020. Aaron Magnusson submitted his resignation Feb 2020, his position was filled by Catherine Magnusson (Roseau).

Board members serve a period of three years and may serve as many terms as they desire.

Administration and Training

RCCHS 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.

RCCHS 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 RCCHS staff and consortium members with various types of information related to the care of museum collections.

Volunteers

In 2020, we had 5 volunteers that helped with typing from their homes. One volunteer worked from home with sending out our mailings and another volunteer came to the museum to file when she was able.

Financial Information and Grants

General operating funds for the historical society come from county allocations, memberships, donations, gift shop sales, research requests, the RCCHS Endowment Fund, a yearly fund drive, and grants.

The 2019-20 fund drive helped with the cost of exhibit design and fabrication.

The historical society was awarded several grants in 2019-2020 to help us acquire items that we would not otherwise be able to afford (see acquisitions paragraph).

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 in 2019, one program is rescheduled for 2021.

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program is 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.

Two grants were received in 2019 that continued into 2020 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.

Additional information is available in the 2020 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