

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Individuals who recognized the need to maintain a county's history organized the Roseau County Historical Society in 1927. 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 by 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 2021, the museum reopened January. Visitations was 4,495 patrons to the museum and research center.

2021 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum reopened on January 19 after the Covid-19 shutdown and was entirely remodeled, with 48 new exhibits created after the lighting project. RCHS hosted the Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit *The Way We Worked* at the beginning of the year. The staff created an exhibit at the fair again in 2021. Also, in July, the museum and Roseau Civic & Commerce teamed up for *Business After Hours*. It was an open house with a museum tour; over 100 people attended the event. A 2019 Arts Grant obligation hosted Jane Curry with 36 people attending in September. The year's final program was the annual Tree Walk with the opening program by the O'Neil Family; 77 people attended the event.

School Educational Programs and Tours

The NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on May 5. Seven area schools took a Minnesota history test at the Roseau City Center. The contest has taken place for 40 years and is compiled by the Roseau County Historical Society. Trophies and cash awards were presented to the top six students. The cash awards are sponsored by Border Bank – Roseau County area, Citizens State Bank – Roseau, and Security State Bank of Warroad.

Students from Badger, Greenbush-Middle River (GMR), Grygla, Lancaster, Marshall County Central (MCC), Roseau, and Warroad Schools participated in the test.

The museum hosted several school field trips and numerous grades in 2021. We had approximately 400 children from Badger, Roseau, and Marshall County Central (Newfolden) schools. Unfortunately, the *Summer Explorers* program was still on hold in 2021.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Fifty-eight individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated well over 1,500 three-dimensional objects, photographs, and archival items to the museum. Each item donated to the historical is assigned a number, photographed, and entered into the computer system for inventory.

A grant from Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-up (\$1,000) allowed the museum to purchase a touch screen kiosk to be added to the gallery area to enhance the visitors' experience.

A Hartz Foundation granted the historical society (\$3,000) to purchase a new copy machine. The old copy machine was over 13 years old and out of date.

A Roseau Area Educational Fund granted us \$1,000 towards adding technology components to the museum. County High School Yearbooks (1950-89) was digitized by the Oklahoma Correctional Institution, preserving the yearbooks and creating a searchable database.

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2021 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), Catherine Magnusson (Roseau), Harry Hamilton (Roseau), Don Miller (Malung), and Jim Christianson (Badger/Warroad).

.Jim Christianson was elected to fill Jolene Juhl's position at the 2020 annual meeting. Catherine Magnusson (Roseau), an interim board member, was elected onto the board also.

Board members serve three years and may serve consecutive terms.

Administration and Training

RCHS staff includes one full-time employee, Britt Dahl, Executive Director; and one part-time employee, Linda Wojahn, Museum Assistant. In addition, Marie Kompelien, Research Specialist, resigned from her position in January 2021. 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 temporary employee, Edith Swanson, cataloged incoming artifacts and inventoried past donations to the collection. Her wage were paid through grant funding (2019).

RCHS is a member of Minnesota's Historic Northwest Consortium, an organization for historical societies and museums in Northwest Minnesota, providing collaboration and educational training for the members.

Britt Dahl also attended online continuing education classes for social media posts and engaging with patrons on the web.

Volunteers

In 2020, we had nine volunteers who helped with filing, indexing, and exhibit design. In addition, one volunteer worked from home, sending out our mailings.

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 2020-21 fund drive helped procure funds for a shelving project in the storage area.

Awarded grants in 2020-21 helped us acquire items that we would not otherwise be able to afford (see Collection Care/Acquisitions paragraph).

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant Program is made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans. Through this grant program, we received grant funding for a museum lighting project (2020-21), \$146,099. Additionally, the City of Roseau provided a \$10,000 cash match. The project replaced all lighting throughout the museum areas with LED fixtures with new and retrofitted lighting. The Lake of the Woods County Historical Society wrote a Partnership Grant (\$18,975) through the Minnesota Historical Society that included RCHS and Warroad Heritage Center to have the taxidermy tested by the Midwest Art Conservation Center. The result will come in May 2022 regarding how to proceed with older taxidermy in the museum.

The museum received a loan through the Payroll Protection Program to help pay for employees' wages. In addition, another grant (Cares Act) provided us with \$800 to assist Roseau County businesses that suffered uncompensated losses due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Additional information is available in the 2021 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