

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Individuals recognizing the need to maintain the 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 2022, the museum had 5,528 patrons to the museum, research center, and special programming.

2022 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum had a busy year. In February, we were open for the Roseau Winter Fest, with 206 visiting the museum for a scavenger hunt. In April, we provided a photography class that required attendees to take pictures of Roseau County. The result was a display with 24 photos depicting people's views of Roseau County through the lenses of their cameras. RCHS held its 95th Annual meeting with 57 attending the Fred Keller program. Keller entertained approximately 520 students and teachers at the Greenbush-Middle River, Badger, and Roseau elementary schools. We partnered with the Roseau Public Library in June and kicked off Summer Explorers youth programming with a magician. We continued creating kids' crafts through July with 349 youth participants. The last event of the year was the Christmas Tree Walk. Eighteen organizations donated their time to decorate a tree for the display. The Ellingsons from the Bemidji area entertained about 40 people for the open house.

School Educational Programs and Tours

The NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on April 27. Six area schools took a Minnesota history test at the Roseau City Center. The contest has occurred for 41 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, Marshall County Central (MCC), Roseau, and Warroad schools participated in the test.

The museum hosted several school field trips and numerous grades in 2022. We had approximately 260 children from Badger and Roseau schools.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

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

A grant from Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-up (\$2,000) allowed the museum to purchase Audio Spotlight Technology and IT Development. The IT Development has allowed us to hire an Information Technology Specialist to evaluate all the computers and the network in the museum. This project resulted in purchasing new computers, a secure network that will be continually monitored for threats. The Hartz Foundation granted the historical society \$5,000 to help fund our theater project.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology (continued)

In 2021, 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 results came in October 2022 regarding recommendations for handling/storing, disposal options, and contents found in the specimens.

Board of Directors

Twelve trustees govern the historical society. The 2022 board of directors were Glenn Holm (Roseau) – President; Harriet Heinen (Warroad) - Vice President; Karen Hagen (Wannaska) - Secretary; Sheila Winstead (Roseau) - Treasurer; Bruce Olson (Badger); Lola Grafstrom (Salol); Bob Granitz (Malung); Katie Hedlund (Roseau); Catherine Magnusson (Roseau); Harry Hamilton (Roseau); Don Miller (Malung); and Jim Christianson (Warroad).

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. Museum staff responsibilities include administration of all areas of museum management. They also organize and provide community and educational programs.

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 completed an online continuing education class through Ohio Museums Association.

Volunteers

In 2022, nineteen volunteers helped with filing, indexing, programming, 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 2021-22 fund drive was to raise funds to add educational technology components throughout the museum, such as touch screen kiosks where visitors can learn about specific exhibits through movie shorts, photographs, games, and additional historical facts.

Awarded grants in 2022 helped us acquire items that we would not otherwise be able to afford and helped us maintain the county's history.

Northwest Minnesota Arts Council awarded RCHS \$5,700 grant funding for four 2023 programming artists.

The Roseau County Historical Society Board of Directors apologizes for oversights of annual or financial report errors.

Glenn Holm, President, and Britt Dahl, Executive Director