

ROSEAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2023 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 is the hub for the society's activities.

Visitors

In 2023, the museum had 5,381 patrons to the museum, research center, and special programming.

2023 Programs/Events and Exhibits

The museum had a busy year. In February, the museum was open during Roseau Winter Fest and held a Snowshoe program; 141 took in the scavenger hunt, and 20 snowshoed the river. In April, the museum partnered with the Roseau Public Library to bring the Bell Museum Exploradome to the Roseau School's third and fifth-grade students (180 students). RCHS held its 96th Annual Meeting with 61 attending entertainment by Chad Filley and Renee Vaughn. In May, Ross Sutter visited to sing and tell family history. June kicked off Summer Explorers youth crafting events, and 148 youth participated. Fred Keller visited in August on his Northern Minnesota tour. He was the kick-off program for the upcoming "We Are Water" exhibit. The Minnesota Humanities Center exhibit opened on August 17 with an open house, and 32 people attended. The exhibit ran through October 6. Several visited along with students from Badger, Greenbush-Middle River, Roseau, and Warroad.

In conjunction with the "We Are Water" exhibit, we hosted a watercolor painting class with Debbie Aune, a photo contest, and a brewery tour with a paint party. Gangspil, a Danish musical group, also entertained in October. The last event of the year was the "Light Up The Museum" tree decorating contest, formally the Christmas Tree Walk. Thirteen organizations donated their time to decorate a tree for the display. Kathy Magnusson and Kim Hrubka with Toastmasters delivered touching holiday stories for the program.

School Educational Programs and Tours

The NW Minnesota Sixth Grade History Contest was held on May 3. Six area schools took a Minnesota history test at the Roseau City Center. The contest has occurred for 42 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, Grygla, Lancaster, Marshall County Central (MCC), Roseau, and Warroad schools participated in the test.

The museum hosted several school field trips and numerous grades across the county in 2023.

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology

Forty-four individuals, families, organizations, and businesses donated approximately 300 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.

Two grants from Roseau Electric Cooperative Operation Round-up (\$1,000 each) allowed the museum to purchase media presentation equipment and supplement the theater project. The media equipment allowed

Collection Care/Acquisitions/Technology (continued)

us to purchase an updated projector for off-site presentations and a mini PC for the theater television, which allowed us to run the TV as a computer when needed.

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 2023 board of directors was 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. The museum staff's responsibilities include administering 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 that provides collaboration and educational training for its members. Britt attended the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museum conference for museum professionals for a two-day workshop on learning and networking. Dahl also attended several free webinars regarding pertinent museum content.

Volunteers

In 2023, nineteen volunteers helped with filing, indexing, programming, exhibit design, mailings, and word processing.

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 2022-23 fund drive asked for donations to supply a cash match towards the shelving grant. The shelving grant was awarded through the Minnesota Historical Society Legacy funds for \$275,599. We also received Legacy grants for a Long-Range Preservation Plan (\$7,290) and a Collection Management System (\$7,693). Other grants awarded in 2023 were through the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, which provided \$5,700 in grant funding for musical artists. The Hartz Foundation awarded us \$5,000 for exhibit barriers, and the Roseau Area Community and Educational Fund granted \$1,000 for video production.

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