

**" . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material . . . to make it available to the greatest possible extent."**

**WE APOLOGIZE!** We got so busy we forgot to say "thank you" often enough, and we forgot to share with you, one of our true supporters, some of the rewarding success stories that make the Granite Falls Historical Museum so much fun. The Museum is an extraordinary display of local history, and always delights new visitors. With your support we've even added capabilities that enable "visiting" by folks who cannot always make the drive. High school students have invested hundreds of hours of Community Service in digitizing and cataloging pictures and documents. Others have spent weeks working to electronically overlay maps ranging



from original homestead lines to modern aerial photographs, including maps of many vintages (1910, 1927, 1934, 1940, etc.). Volunteers have sorted through 10,000 pages of local newspapers, so that they could be scanned and then processed in-house, enabling anyone to search for articles using family or business names, key words, etc. Our all-volunteer workforce has arranged tools, equipment, pictures, clothes, furniture, instruments, mine and railroad artifacts, and other items to capture the spirit and values that built our city and created the cultural heritage of our rural County. *The "fun" comes in seeing Museum patrons enjoy the results . . .*

### **I've been up all night!**

A recent email from a lady in Lynnwood asked, "My grandparents got married in Granite Falls in 1949, but we've lost all records. Can you help? Their last name was Gatherers." As it turns out, the County can provide copies of old marriage licenses and we provided that information to her in an email. However, since we have "searchable" newspapers, we quickly went to our Museum web site, clicked on "Search Old Newspapers" and entered the name "Gatherers". Up popped quite a number of articles, including a front-page article from Dec 29, 1949. So, we included instructions in our email to the lady in Lynnwood how she could do exactly the same thing from home.

At 5:10AM the next morning, we received an email. It didn't open with "Dear Museum" or anything like that. It started out, "I've been up all night! I made my 22-year old son stay up with me, because he could capture the article images better than I. We've sent them to relatives across the country interested in our family genealogy. This is unbelievable!"

### **Local Couple Married Here**

Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Gatherers announce the marriage of their son Lee Alfred Gatherers to Miss Virginia Kay Crabtree formerly of Lake Stevens, Wash. The family and close friends witnessed the ceremony in the Christian Missionary Alliance Church, Granite Falls Wash. The ceremony was performed by the family minister Rev. James Thompson. The attendants for the bride,

### **In every legend is a piece of truth!**

A fellow came in one Sunday and asked, "Can you confirm that my ancestors homesteaded the property in Stanwood on which the Twin-Cities Food factory sits today?" We zoomed in around Stanwood on our



historical maps, turned on "Homesteads", and entered his ancestor's name (Peter Harvey). Two homesteads popped up, but both were a mile or more from downtown Stanwood, where we know the factory to be. We had just destroyed his family "legend" . . . bummer! . . . but we looked a little further. Zooming in on the 1910 map of downtown Stanwood, property belonging to Peter Harvey was clearly visible. We then "peeked" underneath the 1910 map at the aerial photographs, which clearly showed that Harvey's .68 acres, although not a homestead, sat exactly on the east end of today's factory! Every legend has a basis in truth ☺



## He did what?!

A gentleman with a pleasant accent drove up one day and said, "My name is Parr. I just flew in from New Zealand this morning and am on my way to visit a cousin in White Rock, BC. We knew that a matriarch in our family died in Everett, but the kind folks there told me she's buried in Granite Falls. Would you happen to have any information on the Parr family? My cousin said that I couldn't find much in an old logging town, but we're in a friendly competition when it comes to family genealogy." He had the names of Parr ancestors believed to have lived in the area.



Entering "Parr" into our collection catalog, we found eight or nine pictures and documents that showed his ancestors. Entering "Parr" into our mapping system showed four homesteads, with owner names, and he exclaimed, "That's my great-uncle and his three sons!" We found that Steven Parr had homesteaded 160 acres, near the center of which was THE Granite Falls! Since then, we've found that Parr built the original Granite Falls Electric Company (power dam on Coon Creek), and some early City ordinances granted him and his heirs the right to establish electricity, water, and gas distribution systems throughout the city of Granite Falls.

Mr. Parr left with pictures, documents, a 2' x 3' aerial photo of Granite Falls overlaid with the homestead boundaries showing four Parr homesteads, a great picture of the GF Electric Company dam, and tears in his eyes, saying "The best part about this is showing my cousin what I couldn't find in Granite Falls!"

## ZERO OVERHEAD, 100% EFFICIENT, and TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

There is no "overhead" in the Museum – 100% of your contributions have gone to building the displays, assembling both the physical and the electronic digital collections, funding scholarships for our local students, and used as "matching" money to obtain grants for some of our larger projects. This 501(c)(3) is an institution in the community, hosting several thousand tourists, students, and local citizens each year. We competed successfully for grant money four times in the past two years, strengthening Snohomish County tourism and heritage preservation, and delivered a highly-ranked workshop at the national museum convention in Oklahoma City last year. Planning and projects are carried out by unpaid volunteers, committed to preserve our heritage.

Thank you for the support you've shown and the things made possible by your generosity. We appreciate any contribution, large or small. We strive to be good stewards of all donations, our IRS returns always show us "in the black" (2008-\$4, 2009-\$529, 2010-\$79), showing we strive to put every dollar to work for our community. We wish you a healthy, happy New Year, and we'd like to say "THANK YOU" in advance for any further support you care to offer. Please stop by the Museum and see what the "fun" is all about.

*A heartfelt "THANKS" to you, from the Historical Society Board!*

*Carolyn Davison Caroline R. Farley Bill Rawlina*  
*Shora Boede Kevin Gabriel Eldon J. Girstein*  
*Jack Peddyard GENE FULMER Fred Cuyler*

Visit us live at 109 E. Union St. or online at [www.gfhistory.org](http://www.gfhistory.org)

