

“ . . . 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.”



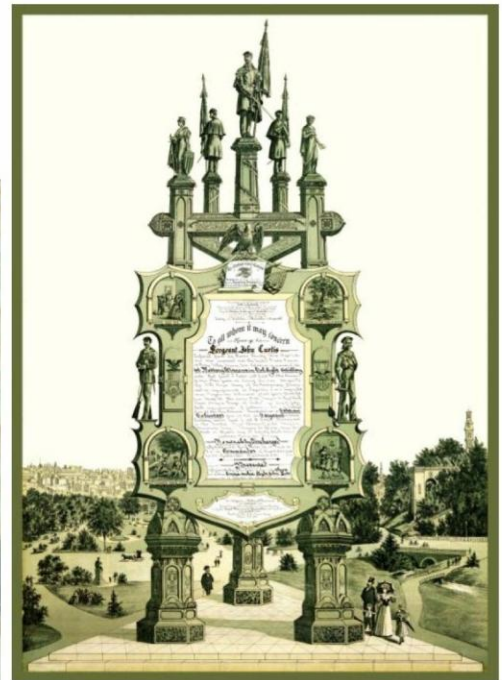
Another One Bites the Dust!



Is it possible that 2013 is almost over already?! There are still unfinished projects and plans hardly started. We haven't lost the weight we promised ourselves to lose, and we didn't get in all the exercise we planned, or read all the books we intended . . . well, that's why we have next year! We can still be proud of this year's accomplishments of the all-volunteer **Granite Falls Historical Museum**. Remember, in 2013 archeologist Jason Cooper delivered two standing-room-only presentations on the artifacts found during the construction of the "alternate route". In the tradition of "no one ever left a GFHS event hungry", we enjoyed a number of organizational events, including a great concert and picnic, and have had musical entertainment at every monthly meeting! The good food and camaraderie are reason enough to participate in the museum, *but even more "fun" comes in seeing Museum patrons enjoy the fruits of our ongoing labors!*

Can You Save It?

John Curtis Jr. was the owner and operator of the Granite Falls Creamery for many years, also serving in a number of other important business and civic roles. Imagine the surprise when Don Prigg discovered John Sr.'s Civil War service certificate in an Everett basement, and the disappointment to see the damage done by long-term exposure to dampness. Don asked, "Is there any way to restore something like this?" With a couple hours using museum tools, and the cooperation of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library (who had an intact original), a copy of John Curtis' certificate detailing his military career now hangs in the office of the GAR Cemetery in Snohomish, where he and his wife are buried.



He'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain . . .

We often get questions regarding our digitized collection, the County-wide mapping overlays, and/or our searchable newspapers. We've hosted a number of organizations and made presentations at a variety of meetings to describe the tools and techniques used to make our collection available to our patrons. When a group visited from a Marysville retirement center, one 93-year old gentleman said, "My name is Earl Brooks, and I used to work in the woods here." What fun it was to enter his name in our system, retrieve the available information, then point to a picture already hanging on our wall, saying, "That's you standing next to that one-log load!" The women in the group teased him unmercifully for still being a handsome ladies' man!



Mississippi and Massachusetts Calling!



Our web presence encourages people to contact us to both request and offer information. One note from a gentleman in Sumrall, MS said “My father, Bernie Smith worked partners with Ernie Anderson in the late 1940s falling timber for Wilmac. One of their buckers was Vern Castle . . . I skipped school one day and went to work with Dad. Vern drove the crummy . . . I hope to drop by to tour your museum.” Sure enough, Lew Smith spent an entire afternoon one Sunday, poring through the pictures and newspapers, was ecstatic with his experience, and left a very generous donation.

A lady from Massachusetts called, saying her family was involved in the Big Four Inn years ago, and that they’d heard there was a film made showing the Inn. She was thrilled to find that the film had been made into a videotape, and that the Museum had converted that into a DVD (which we mailed to her)!

Turnabout is Fair Play

We were approached in 2012 by the Wing Luke Museum of Seattle, where a number of their interns were researching the histories of Japanese rail workers on the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway. We loaned them a number of E&MC artifacts to display. When their display was finished, they in turn loaned us a number of the items they had specially created. Their “tatebanko” (all-paper moving dioramas, an old Japanese art form) have been on display at GFHS, honoring the mining, railroading, and farming history of the area.



NATIONAL AWARD



Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. At the 2013 meeting of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), the annual convention for a nationwide consortium of heritage organizations, the GFHS received an Award of Merit. It praised the ongoing value of the “technology journey” we undertook, and will be displayed with pride on our museum wall. The AASLH Regional Director (OR, WA, ID, AS) wrote an article that appeared in the most recent issue of History News magazine. She said GFHS demonstrated “vision, broad spectrum approach, collaboration, and mentorship” and thereby “excelled in their mission to be a heritage resource for their community and have become a heritage resource for the field of history as a whole.”

ZERO OVERHEAD, 100% EFFICIENT, and TAX-DEDUCTIBLE – BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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. We strive to be good stewards of all donations, with each year “in the black” (2008-\$4, 2009-\$529, 2010-\$79, 2011-\$23, 2012-\$39), showing we strive to put every dollar to work for our community, without risking our future. **But we focused more on “doing” in 2013 and perhaps less on “fund raising”.** With the additional burden of some unforeseen expenses in facility maintenance (including a broken water line), *we are for the first time running noticeably “in the red” as we near the end of 2013.*

Thank you for the support you’ve shown and the things made possible by your generosity. 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, large or small. Please stop by the Museum at 109 E. Union St. and witness the “fun”.

Granite Falls Historical Society
PO Box 1414
Granite Falls, WA 98252

