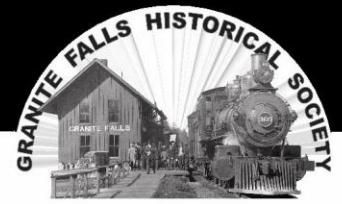


“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material to make it available to the greatest possible extent.”



A Year Older, and just as thought-provoking!

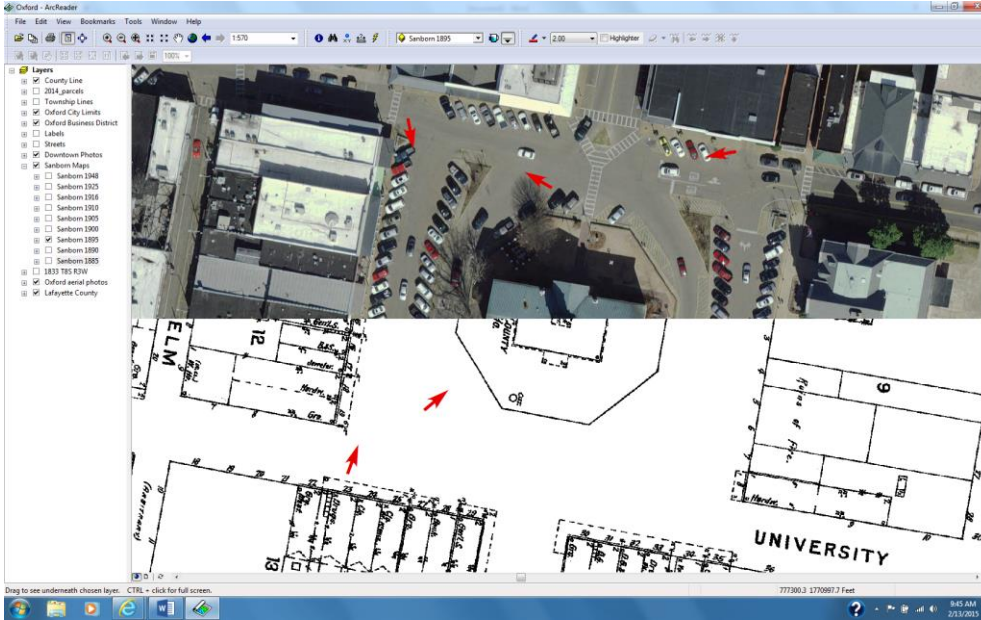


Once again, **THANK YOU!** Because of your help, our museum is informative, entertaining, free, people and pet friendly, engaged in the community, sought after by other organizations for help, and financially healthy! Our new T-shirts were worn proudly at training events and presentations involving heritage organizations across the county. We are a highly-visible community asset!

2015 was the year for GFHS civic government involvement!

The Oxford Lafayette County Heritage Foundation and the City of Oxford MS contacted GFHS because of an article they read describing our historical mapping system. Their economy is heavily based on tourism, thousands of people trying to find the “actual” locations described in the books of famous author (and Oxford resident)

William Faulkner. With maps and pictures supplied by the folks in Mississippi, we provided overlaid versions to serve as the basis for them to duplicate the historic mapping system we have for Snohomish County. They’re off and running, a cooperative mapping effort involving their city, historical society, and “Ole Miss” (their local university).



Upper portion 2015 aerial photo of Oxford town square, **Lower portion** 1895 map of Oxford town square. Arrows mark photo locations.

At almost the same time, our own city needed a compilation of historic structures to meet the requirements of the WA Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) while getting bids for water/sewer/power improvements downtown. We were able to use the inventory GFHS had already created for the 2015 Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan!

RED CIRCLE indicates extant public or commercial building	
Built as:	Serves as:
A Mountain View Hotel	Misc. small businesses
B GF Co-Operative Union	Grocery & Masonic Lodge
C Tavern	Pet Shop (closed)
D Shoe Store & Bakery	Driving School
E Movie Theatre	Hardware Store
F Drug store	Hardware Store
G Tailor	Restaurant (unused)
H GF Mercantile	Firehouse
I Bank	Bank
GREEN CIRCLE indicates replacement (but historic) public or commercial building	
Built as:	Serves as:
A Car Dealership	Gas & Convenience store
B Grocery	Restaurant
C Palace of Sweets	Realty Office
BLUE CIRCLE indicates extant residence	
Built as:	Serves as:
Residence	Residence

2015 was a year for interior/exterior decorating, as well!

The new Buzz Inn wanted some “uniquely Granite Falls” pictures, and our big printer made it possible. Their hallway depicts the entire side of the block on which they’re located, with vintage pictures in black and white, and the Buzz Inn in color.



Inside the museum, we added some attractive display items, perhaps the most unique of which is the 1912 Excelsior motorcycle. It’s on display right in front of pictures of the Ashe Garage taken in 1912, with several Excelsiors in their shop!



Halloween brought out some outdoor decorations, in particular a couple large pumpkins. The 150lb pumpkin carved in a Granite Falls railroad theme didn’t look like much in the daylight, but it sure lit up at night! It was another great evening of costumes, games, and treats, for kids of all ages.



2015 was the year to make Ice Cream, the new-fangled old-fashioned way!



Ed Littlefield’s kind donation of a 5-gallon ice cream freezer enabled us to really enjoy the hot weather this year. Mated with our Hercules hit-and-miss engine, it was a popular attraction at Show-n-Shine, Railroad Days, and our annual picnic. We mastered both chocolate and vanilla!

2015 was a year for the record books when it came to high temperatures, but we have definitely found a fun way to amuse lots of visitors, tempt them to exceed their recommended caloric intake, and leave with smiles on their faces. Not surprisingly, there were never any leftovers!

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 toward building displays, assembling physical and digital collections, funding scholarships for local students, and “matching” grant money for some of our larger projects. We are good stewards of all donations, staying “in the black” (2008-\$4, 2009-\$529, 2010-\$79, 2011-\$23, 2012-\$39, 2013-\$75, 2014-\$1150), while striving to put every dollar to work for our community, without risking our future as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. **But we fell short in fund-raising during 2015, and are about to end the year with roughly a \$3000 shortfall.** Our reserve funds are adequate, but plans are being laid to gain more traction in 2016.

We appreciate any contribution, large or small, should you be considering some year-end charitable donations. Please visit the museum online at www.gfhistory.org for the event calendar, newsletters, and articles, where you can search our pictures, documents, and newspapers for items related to the history in which you’re most interested. 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.

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

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

