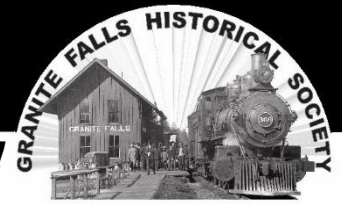


“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material to make it available to the greatest possible extent.”



2018 Another Year of Heritage Community Involvement!

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! We are actively engaged in helping fellow heritage organizations, and in helping steer the future of historic preservation in Snohomish County. The Granite Falls Historical Society lives up to the “Little Museum that Could” description.

Some efforts are visible . . .



GFHS led the organization and decoration for the annual Malstrom Award celebration held at the new Marysville Museum in March. With custom placemats, colorful organizational banners, and a serious green-and-orange St. Patrick’s Day theme, everyone enjoyed themselves! At the Centennial Trail history event in



July, the banners produced last year by GFHS made the trailhead at Machias a particularly colorful place to be. It was fun bringing the museum to the public for a day, rather than expecting the public to come to the museum! Finally, needless to say, one of the most visible museum moments comes with the lighting of the Christmas tree to start the holiday season! This year several hundred people enjoyed Santa and the Grinch, along with hundreds of new LEDs on the tree!

. . . but the museum is temporarily less visible . . .



Serious construction has been underway for months now, and the new Civic Center is really taking shape. The Museum played a part in its design, as well as in the details of parking, landscaping, etc. The entire building is designed to fit well with the Museum, and will appear much like a vintage railroad depot! Building construction, combined with significant Union St improvements, has made museum access difficult at times, but cooperation with the crews has continued. Sidewalks, curbs, alley, parking . . . all better by February!

County Historic Preservation program was rejuvenated . . .

Snohomish County decided to place responsibilities for both Historic Preservation and Tourism within the Parks and Recreation Department . . . *bringing new life and vitality to both programs!* To say “thanks”, GFHS created a wooden replica of a 1911 County Fair token and presented it to Hal Gausman, who oversees the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The huge piece of walnut came from Darrington. The HPC provided \$200K in community heritage grants in 2018, a record amount, and is planning for \$100K in 2019.

One of those 2018 grants went to the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO), of which GFHS is an active member.



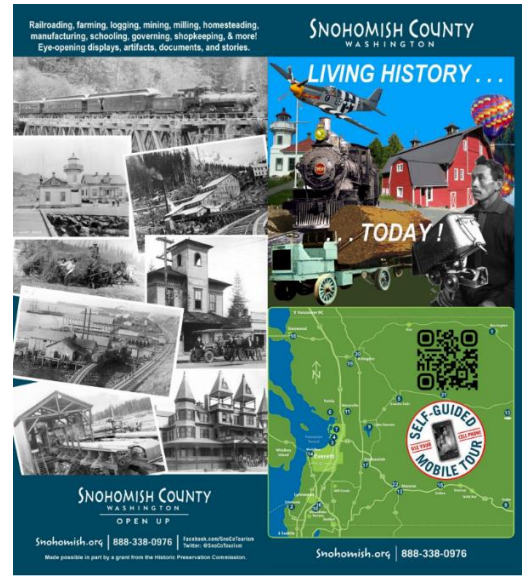
... and yielded a new grant to make heritage groups more visible!

The LOSCHO grant paid the expenses for GFHS to develop an online “museum tour” and brochure, advertising all the historic museums and genealogy societies across the county. Using your PC, pad, or phone, you can click on any of the organizations marked on a map, and receive the details of operating hours, web site, Facebook page, etc., along with a slide show of pictures and driving directions! The online guide and brochure have been adopted by County Tourism for future maintenance.

Meanwhile, County Tourism conducted a number of workshops in 2018, designed to refine the details of an entirely new tourism theme.

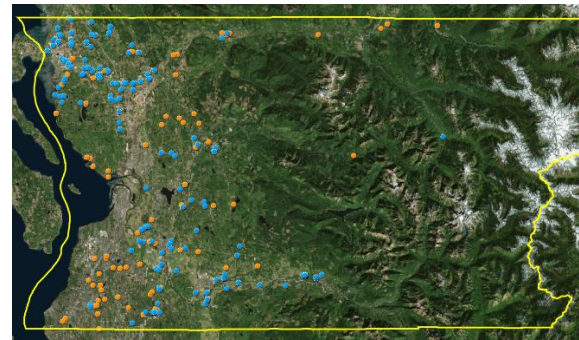


GFHS members and members of the Granite Falls City Council attended and offered a number of suggestions to benefit that portion of the program dedicated to tourism around the Mountain Loop. The new tourism website, along with updated promotional tools, will be released in very early 2019.



“RESEARCH” is still our middle name

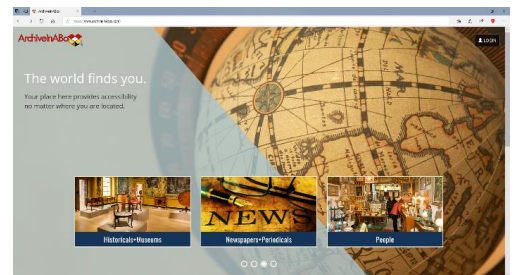
Our future depends on our visitors, patrons, and friends from all generations. This year we fielded research requests related to ancestors, railroads, businesses, graveyards, graduations, homesteads, property boundaries, . . . even local resorts and old T-shirts! We hosted many classes of elementary school student visitors, and benefited from four different high school student interns who helped enter items and information into our computerized



collection. GFHS won the **2018 State Historic Preservation Officers Award in Education** from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). Our maps showing historic homes and civic buildings were used as the reference for the new county archeologist to seek a consultant contract to provide an updated county-wide Historic Asset Inventory in 2019.

Perhaps the longest-term investment we’ve made has been in the testing of a new online database

being offered to all non-profit museums, that they can put their collections and information online . . . for FREE! “Archive-in-a-Box” is a complete toolset and online storage capability developed by SmallTownPapers (the folks who digitized our newspapers), and is now ready for use by other organizations. Our interns and members have spent dozens of hours providing test files and offering feedback on system usability. It will provide world-wide visibility to the heritage organizations that take advantage of it.



ZERO OVERHEAD, 100% EFFICIENT, and TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

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 operating the museum. We are good stewards of all donations, *staying “in the black” every year*, while striving to put every dollar to work for our community, without risking our future as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Hopefully, constructions costs will come down and labor availability will rise next year, allowing us to pursue museum expansion construction.

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**

