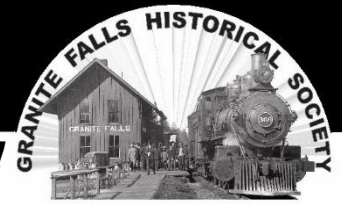


“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material . . . . to make it available to the greatest possible extent.”



## 2019 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 were visible . . .

GFHS hosted the annual Malstrom Award celebration held at Legion Hall in March (and won the Malstrom Award for “best project”!). With custom placemats, colorful banners, and (once again) a green-and-orange St. Patrick’s Day theme, everyone enjoyed themselves! At the Centennial Trail history event in July, the banners again made the trailhead at Machias a particularly colorful place to be. Heritage organizations from across the county joined to share both sides of the Centennial Trail and the shelters. Later in the year, we exceeded our wildest expectations of “visible” when over 900 folks took time to enjoy the museum during the 2019 Frightening Falls event on Halloween! We’re ready for the beauty of Christmas lights and the upcoming tree-lighting and music in downtown Granite Falls.



### . . . and with a visibly attractive new neighbor (City Hall & Civic Center), we had to spruce up, too!

We started the year hoping the new City Hall and Civic Center would be open by Spring, but we had to wait until early Fall. Through the talent and generosity of *Art by Nature*, museum landscaping was entirely rejuvenated . . . even the gravel! We contributed a number of items to the “railroad depot”, including an outdoor switch-stand and a number of indoor pictures and original railroad schedules. If you haven’t toured City Hall yet, please stop in to enjoy the results. GFHS hosted 95 folks at the 2019 Alumni dinner in the new Civic Center; great food, and Eldon Kirstein as the earliest graduate – Class of ’42!

### We continued to partner with County Tourism, County Historic Preservation program, and heritage groups across the county!

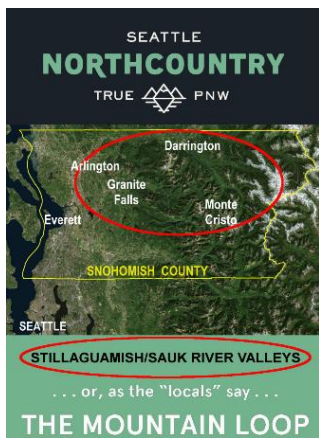


Snohomish County re-designed its entire tourism program, with new slogans, logos, and website. GFHS took part in the many strategy meetings, then re-vamped the online Museum tour with new graphics and the addition of new items like the Stillaguamish Barn Quilt Tour and the Sauk-Suiattle Museum and Cultural Center.



 **Sauk-Suiattle  
Museum &  
Cultural Center**





Likewise, the Mountain Loop Tour was updated, and then *made into a downloadable app for iPhones or Androids*. Once downloaded into your smartphone, it works anywhere on The Loop (even though there is no cell service), alerting you whenever you're close to an historic site, campground, trailhead, etc., and provides pictures and descriptions. We already received word that a 2020 tourism grant will pay the web hosting fees next year!



Of course, our local school district is a strong partner, and we continued to enjoy both classroom visits and smiling museum tours!

**“Making historical information available to the greatest possible extent” is an important part of our mission**

Our future depends on our visitors, patrons, and friends from all areas and generations. This year we fielded research requests related to ancestors, railroads, businesses, graveyards, graduations, homesteads, property boundaries, . . . patrons from as far away as Atlanta found us online, researched their ancestors, then visited our museum! We conducted field visits that found and identified a bridge lost in the 1897 flood that forced the residents of Monte Cristo to walk out to civilization. GFHS provided maps marking historic buildings in Monroe, Everett, and Stanwood, enabling them to conduct historic surveys. We printed large maps for the City and our Police Department to aid in planning and operations. GFHS provided the historical information necessary to present a proposal to preserve the Falls bridge when its replacement is built. We provided real-time ancestry search during the 2019 Genealogical Conference sponsored by the Stillaguamish Genealogy Society.



After the 1938 Granite Falls High School bass drum was discovered in eastern Washington, GFHS presented it (along with its history) to the high school band for their enjoyment (it'll stay in our collection). We presented historical preservation information to the Riverside Community Club, resulting in the successful nomination of their building for the Snohomish County Historic Register. We fostered serious “tablecloth envy” when we participated in the outdoor “Look What’s Local” event, introducing many folks to the museum. We even tracked down the long-



lost burial site of Martin Comins, the “Duke of Monte Cristo”, and arranged for a beautiful grave marker. We will shortly introduce a new database that makes available our



pictures, articles, yearbooks, historical texts, newspapers, and artifacts worldwide, in a form that is readily searchable by name or key words. We’ve spent over a year testing and refining that capability!

**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.

**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](http://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**

