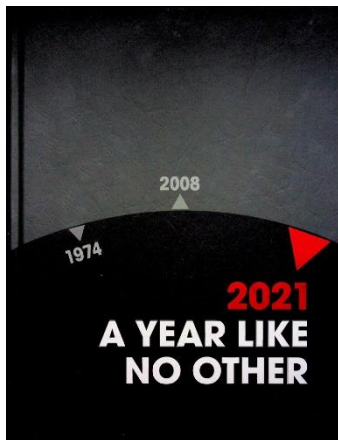


“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material . . . . to make it available to the greatest possible extent.”



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 City and citizens of Granite Falls have helped us live up to our claim to the title of “The Little Museum that Could”. But this year-end letter is a little different from those of the past. We’ll brag only briefly about what we’ve accomplished, and of course we’ll encourage you to donate whatever and whenever you can, but mostly we’re going to ask for your mindshare during the coming year. Not money, not artifacts, . . . *mindshare!*

### The 2021 Granite Falls High School Yearbook said it all . . .



It was a year like no other, replete with uncertainty/angst, change/learning, victories/defeats, disappointments/hope, and history-making in every respect. It was an awakening to our personal, organizational, and national vulnerabilities. It was a revelation of our strengths and commitments, and an opportunity to learn from history . . . to learn real history . . . and thus to make positive changes in our lives.

The pandemic hampered everyone, damaged many, and destroyed some. Yet our collective willpower has moved us forward, and we are entering a new year, with great goals and aspirations. We have new skills, new tools, new relationships, new insights, and renewed purpose!



### We completed (among other things) a five-year task . . . a much-needed extension on our building . . .



We worked from May to December to create space for preservation and digitization work. We paid our share with volunteer labor and a split between savings/contributions (60%) and non-profit grants (40%) to cover contractor and material costs.

The interior is finished, furniture is in place, and we’re about to move in!



### We continued to partner with County Tourism, County Historic Preservation program, and heritage groups across the county, as well as our local school district . . .

We helped several museums in their search for new technology, answered dozens of online research requests, enjoyed hosting dozens of visitors after re-opening in February, and participated in meetings with the Forest Service, Washington Trails Association, Snohomish County, and City of Granite Falls in guiding tourism investments around the Mountain Loop. We stepped up to make the most important investment we make each year by providing scholarship help to two outstanding Granite Falls seniors: in 2021, the recipients were Taylor Mace and Zoii Vogt. All of this, of course, was possible only because of the generous support offered by our community and patrons.

### In 2022, we need your “mindshare” even more than your financial help to pursue our basic mission!

COVID has been a cruel disruption, but during the shutdowns, people cleaned out their (and their parents’) basements and attics, finding tons of artifacts and documents. We need to convert many stored “*piles*” into organized “*files*”. That calls for arranging the piles so they can be processed in an organized manner. It calls for hours of digitization, record entry, and physical filing. It will be a months-long task that will be tedious at times, but will ultimately provide the research capability for which we have become known. We have a new intern scheduled to start in February, but additional help will be welcomed. (Students needing community service hours are great candidates in this area). We also need Sunday museum docents, free training cheerfully provided! *Got any mindshare for such tasks?*

**In 2022, you have an opportunity to positively impact historic tourism in our region with your mindshare!**

Perhaps the biggest threat to historic tourism in our region is the loss of access to Monte Cristo. Mother Nature has made the original railroad/trail route untenable, forcing people to skirt a landslide and actually ford the river. Given the safety issue, the Forest Service curtailed their informative “host program” at Monte Cristo and eliminated the vault toilets. Visitors thereby face both safety and health threats, property owners have lost necessary access, and the river is being violated . . . but the problems could all be avoided by simply authorizing restricted use of the road that was put in while the environmental cleanup program was being conducted! The Monte Cristo Preservation Association has [volunteered to control access and maintain the road](#), much as they have done for decades along the old route (and to maintain the toilets at their own expense), but it requires a change to the default “official plan” for the cleanup route. The [county has taken the position](#) that the cleanup route should be used, but the Forest Service is strapped financially, and seems unable to accept help. The Everett Herald [published an article](#) on the issue, to which [a response](#) was offered. [Read this](#) for even more details and maps if you think you might like to protect the educational and historic value of Monte Cristo and *offer your support, opinion, and/or mindshare!*

**Snohomish County received a tremendous grant, but the official plan doesn’t seem to value local history!**

Bridge #102, generally called the “Falls Bridge” is considered by all to be too narrow to support the heavy traffic to which it is subjected. Happily, the county has received grant money to replace it! The default plan is to remove the existing bridge after constructing a new bridge immediately adjacent to it. Unfortunately, that will eliminate existing parking for the Falls and the fish ladder, forcing folks to park across the street and run across traffic to enjoy those historic sites. Many feel that an [appropriate plan could easily preserve the existing bridge](#) and accommodate a path beneath both bridges to allow safe visitor access to the bridges, Falls, and fish ladder.



Bridge #102 was [built in 1934](#) with a design live load limit of 15 tons. We have for years sent hundreds of truck daily across the bridge, each of which weighs in excess of three times that load limit! There have been no structural problems, but it is definitely too narrow for trucks travelling in opposite directions to pass safely. If the old bridge were kept in place, it would save the \$2M in demolition costs, it would provide a beautiful pedestrian and bicycle crossing and overlook, and (in the unlikely event of a problem on the new bridge) could provide a temporary alternative. It has been evaluated as eligible for the National Historic Register due to its age and architecture and if the plan were altered, the recently-received \$22M grant could improve both traffic and enhance a multi-faceted historic attraction.

Take a moment to [read this](#), and *consider offering your support, opinion, and/or mindshare!*

**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 with our operational spending*. We used some of our savings to complete construction in 2021, but still finished under budget.

**Please visit the museum online** at [www.gfhistory.org](http://www.gfhistory.org) for newsletters and articles. Search our newspapers, documents, and pictures for items related to the history in which you’re most interested, then decide if you’d like to make a **contribution of any kind that we could use to further our mission** (see the title of this letter). 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**

