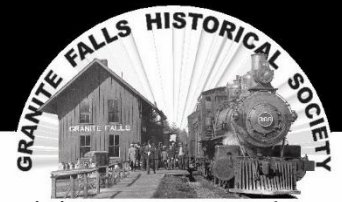


“ . . . to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region . . . to protect and interpret that material . . . . to make it available to the greatest possible extent.”



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! The City and citizens of Granite Falls have helped us live up to our claim to the title of “The Little Museum that Could”. Of course this year-end letter is intended to brag about what we’ve accomplished, and we encourage you to donate whatever and whenever you can, but once again we’re asking for mindshare during the coming year. Sure, money . . . sure, artifacts . . . *but just as important, mindshare* . . . in 2024.

### **COVID seems to be behind us . . .**

Foot traffic in the museum has picked up, although perhaps not to pre-COVID levels. We had the opportunity in 2022 and 2023 to host hundreds of local students, many of whom have returned with their parents in tow. We have converted “piles” of donated-during-COVID documents and artifacts into organized “files”. We worked “live-in-person” with partners in Darrington, Snohomish, Lynnwood, and Arlington. We expect to embark on similar partnering efforts in 2024 to preserve log books from Three Fingers lookout and to digitize early newspapers. The pandemic hampered all organizations, damaged many, and destroyed some. Yet our collective willpower has prevailed, and we are entering a new year with great goals and opportunities.

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

A local collector came across a piece of Shenango china, and wondered who might have used this unusual brand. An electronic search of our collection turned up a 1938 letter from the Canyon Creek Lodge owner, describing her Shenango china! A local genealogist wondered if we had ever heard of movie producer Cecil B. DeMille owning property along the Stillaguamish. We pointed her to our online maps, showing that he once owned property ultimately involved in the Oso Slide disaster, an odd coincidence considering his involvement in blockbuster movies! Many local citizens have enjoyed the history depicted in the “time-travel” videos we made as a result of our cooperation with the Everett Library, letting people experience the past in [Everett](#), [Index](#), and [Granite Falls](#).

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

We offered guidance on details of the latest County Strategic Tourism Plan, promoting the idea of partnering with local citizens, the Forest Service, and Washington Trails Association (WTA). We hosted the [Malstrom Awards](#), offered by the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO) to recognize the greatest contributions to county historic preservation, displaying banners from [all member organizations](#).



We worked with the USFS and WTA to create the recently published “[Mountain Loop Highway Trail System Vision: South Loop](#)”. We partnered with Sno-Isle Libraries and with Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, enabling them to digitize the Snohomish County Tribune and the Edmonds Tribune. We are active in the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission, hosting



meetings and helping manage the historic preservation grant program. Of course, we make our most important financial investment each year by providing scholarship help to outstanding Granite Falls seniors. In 2022, the recipients were Evan Campbell and Jamieson Haverfield; in 2023, Alexa Mace and Alyssa Johnson. All of this was possible only because of the generous support offered by our community and patrons.

## **In 2024, we need your “mindshare” as much as your financial help to pursue our basic mission!**

Given their typical comfort with digital technology, students needing community service hours are great candidates for helping the museum operate. But we also need Sunday museum docents . . . free training cheerfully provided! *Got any mindshare for such tasks?*

## **In 2024, 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 has yet to name a new regional ranger who might address the issue. 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!*

## **The County received a tremendous grant, but the official plan doesn’t seem to value history or tourism!**



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. 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](#) and if kept in place, would save the \$2M in demolition costs, 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. If the plan were altered, the approved \$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.*

**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. Contact us if you’d like an electronic version of this letter, to enjoy the links highlighted.

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

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

