GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
109 E. Union Street, Granite Falls, WA 98252
(360) 691-2603 http://www.gfhistory.org

To our friends and members
throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
“Thank you for your support!”

April 30, 2020

The Granite Falls Museum remains closed until restrictions are eased.  But, you can visit us online! And like us on Facebook!

http://www.GFhistory.org Granite Falls Historical Museum

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1. Museum closure continues - Because of the COVID-19 virus, the museum building continues to remain closed. The Museum Board voted to keep the museum closed until the Governor lifts the restrictions on museums and similar venues. However, our online presence to the Granite Falls community and beyond have continued. You can still visit us online, follow us on Facebook, leave a voicemail, or send an email. Even though the doors to the museum remain closed for health reasons, the museum still is active and responsive while we follow all recommended health guidelines. Voicemail (we will get in touch with you): (360) 691-2603 Email: info@GFhistory.org Web: http://www.GFhistory.org

GFHS uses "ArchiveInABox" to make our entire collection accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime!

Pictures . . . . . . . (5000+ of the Granite Falls region)
Documents . . . . . . . (2000+ of Granite Falls region)
History Texts . . . . . . . (State, County, and Local)
High School Yearbooks . . . . . (1919 to 2015)
Local Newspapers . . . . . . . . . . . (1922-1970s)
Local History Articles . . . . . . . . . . . (dozens of local topics)

2. Business as normal almost normal continues - During the month of April, a few online web hosting decisions were completed. At the beginning of the month, Fred met online with Dan Rael regarding a PastPerfect replacement product being offered by a new company called Catalogit. It’s based on more modern database software than PastPerfect, and it has a more attractive user interface. It allows you to catalog your items according to whatever organization you wish, much like AIB (Archive-in-A-Box), but it does not include the automatic optical character recognition (OCR) that AIB includes. AIB’s OCR capabilities allow a person to use a keyword to search the entire collection. Catalogit also does not include the “organizational” features included in the PastPerfect software. Cost would be approximately that of PastPerfect Online. A decision was made by the Board at their end-of-month Zoom meeting to keep PastPerfect as our in-house database, but won't use PastPerfect Online. GFHS will continue to use AIB for our online web presence. GFHS contacted Catalogit about our decision, and PastPerfect was informed that we would not be using PastPerfect Online.

3. Maintenance as normal almost normal - On April 11, Fred attempted to mow the museum lawn, unfortunately shearing off the bolt holding the blade on his mower. Tom followed up by completing mowing the east side of the museum. He unfortunately forgot about the back edge along the parking lot. Through a mixup in communications, Ron came and he finished mowing that back part, thinking that was all that was needed anyway! One job completed by three mowers. Soon it’s time to start again. So then the next week, Fred drove by and saw that the lawn needed mowing again and decided to come in the next day. When he arrived in the morning, closer inspection looked like it didn’t seem as bad as he thought. Fred had an easy time mowing (the mower and weed wacker had been fixed from the previous week). When leaving, he saw Ron doing a little outside work at Legion Hall and discovered that Ron was the reason the Museum's grass didn't look as bad - - Ron had mowed it right after Fred had driven by the day before! So, last week’s yard maintenance was one job (done twice) by two mowers. Thanks to these three guys for keeping the place looking good.

4. Online not normal! - On April 21, the GFHS website had a serious failure. At first, any access was simply denied, but much of the site returned quickly . . . but with none of the control buttons on any of the pages, and many of the images missing on various pages! It required extensive manual
5. Scholarships - In April and May, the Museum Scholarship Committee screens the applications from the high school seniors from both Granite Falls High School and Crossroads High School. Because of the school closures and uncertainty as to when public gatherings will be allowed, some things will be a little different this year. The Historical Society was informed earlier by the Community Fund of Snohomish County that we earned enough through investments to again offer two $2,000 scholarships - - the Mary Bayh Memorial Scholarship (preference for a student going into teaching), and the Granite Falls Historical Society Scholarship (for a student pursuing a 2- or 4-year college, or obtaining a trade certification or skill). The committee this year consists of Regina Jones, Bob Ingraham, Tom Thorleifson, and Fred Cruger. The school district informed us of the deadlines and logistics. We learned that the presentation will be videotaped later in May, then the scholarships will be announced online with the video. GFHS is very happy to once again provide these scholarships.

6. More preparation for classroom visits - Even though the 5th-grade field trip in March had to be cancelled, work still continues to make museum visits (by classes and by the general public) an informative and enjoyable event. On April 8, Tom and Fred attended an online session by OnCell to see what might be suggested for re-structuring our Granite Falls cybertour for spring and summer use as the community begins recovering from COVID-19 confinement. A number of good ideas were broached, but no action has yet been taken. OnCell is the platform GFHS uses for all our virtual tours, which of course have historical content for our town and the surrounding area. Over the years, the town tour has been used by some school groups when on field trips to the museum.

7. Online meetings -
   •a On April 16, Fred attended an online meeting sponsored by Snohomish County Parks & Recreation (who also control all of the heritage activities) to discuss major “wants” by the citizens. This first meeting was really used to help identify which parks could most use help, and what types of help would be most appreciated.
   •b On April 20, the “cadre” assembled by the USFS met online to discuss the planned effort to improve the Mountain Loop between Granite Falls and Barlow Pass. The focus was again on “What questions do we want answered by the public in any public engagements?” but was still clearly biased toward hiking/biking with little interest in "heritage tourism". (See March 2020 newsletter #11.)
   •c The Museum used Zoom for their monthly meeting on Monday, April 27. There was a quorum present and updates were given on our finances, when to reopen the museum, scholarships for 2020, and the continuing efforts to "bring history to the people" using our online capabilities, among other topics. The May monthly meeting will be on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day), 7:00 PM via Zoom unless group meeting restrictions have been lifted.

8. Research assistance -
   •a On April 3, we provided a list of the yearbooks we had scanned by ODOC (Oklahoma Department of Corrections) to a genealogical researcher. She wanted to list them in her references so she could point people in the right direction for their own research.
   •b On April 5, we received a call from Mike Prentice, who was searching for some Lake Roesiger information he had seen in a Herald article mentioning GFHS. He’d found a quilt among his mother’s items that referenced several initials, "1953" and "Lake Roesiger", and was trying to establish the provenance of the quilt. We forwarded that information to the Lake Roesiger homeowner’s association and they are pursuing it further. Searching for 1953 weddings failed to turn up any clues, thus far, but the search continues.
   •c Also on April 10, GFHS received a request from Margaret Lee regarding who homesteaded her property near Trafton. This turned into quite a research effort, and uncovered the fact that her property was homesteaded by a member of the Stillaguamish Tribe. He later became quite well-known, and Tracy Boser (Stillaguamish historian) has offered to provide some background information on a Zoom meeting in May.
   •d On April 12, we received a request from Keith Zylstra (California) for three of the images in our collection. After learning the cost of printing them locally, he instead sent GFHS a generous donation to do the printing for him!
9. Other research -

• a On April 10, GFHS released a new online map that shows the details of the ongoing efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission to establish a robust Snohomish County Historic Register. You can go to this map here to see all houses and civic buildings already evaluated, their eligibility (if any) for County/State/National registers, and those items already chosen for the County Register.

• b On April 17, GFHS received a request from Lisa Labovitch (Northwest Room, Everett Public Library) for any short (3-6 min) videos we would like to create for them to publicize Snohomish County Heritage. Fred submitted three videos using Zoom – the videos cover three of our online maps (“Exploring Early Snohomish County”, “Snohomish County First 100 Years”, and “Snohomish County Historic Register”). Lisa accepted them and will let us know where/when they are published and available.

10. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) - On April 17, we received word from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee regarding their 2020 grants. They said “The COVID-19 outbreak has created a lot of questions and uncertainty so we’ve created a short list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that pertain to LTAC and TPA grants. The FAQ link can be found on the LTAC web page. Embedded within FAQ document is a Change Proposal application form which you may submit should changes be necessary. We encourage you to check it out.” Fortunately, we submitted our reimbursement request in January and have already been paid (for the online Mt. Loop Tour). Grants from the Heritage Preservation Commission for 2020 are still held up for approval by the County Council. Given the deficits being incurred due to the COVID pandemic, funding in future years is certainly in jeopardy.

11. Expansion update - On April 1, Marty Reimers (architect) confirmed they would start work on the final plans, including the suggested changes (pull-down stairs, load-bearing ceiling for attic space). At the museum meeting at the end of the month it was reported that the plans would be ready by mid-May. With the plans in hand, it will be possible to get a few competitive bids. With the bids, GFHS will have a good idea for financing options (loans, grants, fundraisers, saved funds, etc). See the two images below.

12. May calendar

Sundays in May - The museum building is closed until restrictions are relaxed. You can always email, leave a voicemail, or visit us online - - website or Facebook. All month - Practice good health all the time!

5/10 Sunday - Mother's Day
5/25 Monday - Memorial Day
5/25 Monday - 7PM Historical Society online meeting

13. Visitors, helpers, online access for April -

• a Helpers: Fred Cruger, Tim Quillen, Ted Peddycord, Bob Ingraham, Robin Ingraham, Regina Jones, Ron Chew, Marcia Day, Tom Thorleifson, John Scherrer, Scott Bower. Thanks to these (and others) who keep the museum ready to open, hopefully sooner than later.

• b Building visitors: none (last year in April, 76 visitors)

• c Online visitors, by the numbers:
  90 Past Perfect research searches
  109 online visitors in April to our "Research" page
  198 total online visitors in April
  9 places within Snohomish County, 49 visitors
  17 places in Western Washington, 107 visitors
  2 places in Eastern Washington, 2 visitors
  26 places in 13 other states, 30 visitors
  10 places in 8 countries, 10 visitors

And for the really curious, here are the actual places:

Snohomish County: Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood, Marysville, Monroe, Snohomish.


Eastern Washington: Republic, Moses Lake.

Other states: Peoria and Vail, AZ; Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oakland, Rancho Mirage, Redondo Beach, San Francisco, Burbank, and Whittier, CA; Middleton, ID; Chicago, IL; Wichita, KS; Minneapolis and North Branch, MN; Morganton, NC; Omaha, NE; Las Vegas, NV; Boardman, Damascus, Eugene, McMinnville, and Portland, OR; York, PA; Dallas, TX; and Woodbridge, VA.

International: Ajmer, India; Ålborg, Denmark; Breda, Netherlands; Chur, Switzerland; Collado-villalba, Spain; Kampala, Uganda; Milan and Bergamo, Italy; and Paris, France.
14. What is it? - Throughout the month, GFHS has offered items from the museum on a “What is it?” basis on the Granite Falls Discussion Page on Facebook. Participation has been pretty good, and folks got to see everything from an egg cleaner and a food processor to an ore crusher and a train car mover. Guess what each of these are:

- tattoo and/or body piercing machine?
- old record player?
- time-out closet? confessional?
- whiskey holder at the shop? fuel holder for a miner's lamp?

15. Gold in the Scherrer Hills
   by Carl Hemstrom, submitted in 2005

   A small creek flows out of the hills onto Scherrer ranch and into Menzel Lake. An Indian would come up every summer and prospect a small mine. He would make enough to go back to California where he would winter. He kept the small mine hidden and no one could find it. Hans Scherrer, oldest of the clan, told me that one day he walked up the track with the Indian, who told him that was as far as he could go. He told Hans that one day climbing up the hill, his foot slipped and he tore off the roots and debris underlying and revealed the seam of ore. The railroad track is now Menzel Lake Road.

   Pete Logan was an amateur gold miner and in his later years he told me that he knew the Indian well and searched for his mine, to no avail. He and his partner even bought 40 acres in that vicinity as did Hans Scherrer.

   Pete said that the Indian promised to show him the mine next year when he came up from California. That Spring, he was found dead along the railroad tracks as he was coming up from California.

   Pete realized their mistake in later years and told me -- had they started at the creek where the broken up chunks of ore were located and then worked out in circles there was a good chance of finding the source of the hardrock, but by then he was an old, old man.

   So the gold still lies in the hill above Menzel Creek. This creek flows into Menzel Lake and then into the Pilchuck River. There is very little gold on the Pilchuck watershed; not like the Sultan or Stilly watersheds. The old prospectors found very little gold along the Pilchuck River.

Answers next month, or find out sooner on Facebook.