



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 2023

**Our mission:** to collect, preserve and share the history of the Granite Falls region to foster better understanding and appreciation of the values that built our city and contributed to our County's rural heritage.

**Our purpose:** to locate and identify appropriate material, to protect and interpret that material, and finally to make it available to the greatest possible extent.

1. Taking care of business
2. Collecting and preserving
3. Researching and sharing info
4. Community outreach
5. Books on local history
6. To be noted
7. "Railroad Day in Granite Falls"

### 1. Taking care of business -

**1A.** On April 4, we received invitations to planning sessions for the Snohomish County Strategic Tourism Plan. Zoom meetings are planned for both "Outdoor Recreation" and "Attractions" with the following times:

Outdoor Recreation

Wednesday, April 26

3:00 to 4:40 pm

7:00 to 8:30 pm

Activities

Wednesday, May 10

3:00 to 4:30 pm

7:00 to 8:30 pm

If you are interested, RSVP to Katherine Woodhouse at [Katherine.Woodhouse@otak.com](mailto:Katherine.Woodhouse@otak.com).

**1B.** On April 10, we received word from Snohomish County that engineering and design work has been resumed on the replacement for Bridge #102 (the Falls Bridge), with construction expected to take place in 2026. There will be an analysis under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to determine if there are any affected historic properties in the area of the project.



### May 2023 Calendar

May 7 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open

May 14 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open

May 21 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open

May 22 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open

May 27 - Saturday, 2pm, Celebration of Life for Penny

May 28 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open

May 29 - Monday, Memorial Day

May 29 - Monday, 7pm, Board meeting, City Hall

May 31 - Scholarship Night, 6:00 PM, GF High School

**1C.** On April 14, we received an invitation to participate in a May 17 webinar on "Mobile Museum", a concept of assembling a compact portable display. Fred is registered.

**1D.** On April 17, our 2022 Form 990 was completed and made ready for submission to the IRS.

**1E.** On April 18, Tom Thorleifson and Fred Cruger participated in the March meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. The primary topic of conversation was a "History Day" to be held at the Monroe Fairgrounds on July 15th. All LOSCHO organizations are invited to set up displays in the longhouse or outside on the immediate grounds. It should be a "high traffic" day due to a planned antique swap meet to be held that day on the grounds.

**1F.** Also on April 19, we received word from Snohomish County that work has resumed on the Index-Galena Road, and the project is on schedule for a Fall 2023 opening!

### Dues

GFHS is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We function solely on the dues and donations that we receive from our members and friends. All monies (100%) are used for programs and paying our bills. Dues are very reasonable. Consider joining our museum!

**\$100 lifetime** membership

**\$20 family** membership

**\$15 single** membership

**\$0 student** membership (free!)

1. online - use our [PayPal link](#)

2. by mail (check), PO Box 1414, Granite Falls WA 98252

3. at the museum (cash or check), Sundays, noon - 5PM

**Docents and volunteers for April 2023**  
**Thank You!**

**Angie Rosenkranz**  
**Regina Jones**  
**Bob Ingraham**  
**Fred Cruger**  
**Scott Bower**  
**Tim Quillen**

**Marcia Day**  
**Tom Thorleifson**  
**Robin Ingraham**  
**Ron Chew**  
**John Scherrer**  
**Lisa Schmidt**

for Lilian Scherrer used by all four Hemstrum children, a great local artifact, officially donated by Erik Carl Scherrer.

**2G.** On April 29 and 30, Tom Thorleifson and Fred Cruger brought two CZUR scanners and two computers to the Darrington Ranger Station to kick off a large project of preserving old paper records from the USFS. Since they have lots of material covering the south side of The Loop, this is a mutually beneficial effort for both Darrington and



Granite Falls Historical Societies. The effort went well, but there's still lots of material to scan.

### 3. Researching and sharing info

**3A.** On April 7, Taylor Russell (member of the county Historic Preservation Commission and founder of "Snohomish Walks") visited the museum. She asked if it would be possible to schedule a "Snohomish Day" at our museum, when she could bring her followers to our site (she believes most of them have yet to experience it). That will be scheduled in the near future. She'd also like to have access to our CZUR scanner to digitize a bunch of Snohomish postcards.

**3B** On April 16, two museum visitors were researching their property just east of Verlot. We helped them trace the early ownership and got some firsthand knowledge of previous owners from Bill Rawlins, whose close boyhood friend lived on the property.

### 4. Community outreach

**4A.** Also on April 4, Tom Thorleifson forwarded throughout LOSCHO an invitation to participate in a Historic Preservation Field Survey in Everett. This is a pilot effort to determine which buildings have been constructed without modern earthquake resistance, and involves a short training followed by walking tours of downtown by pairs of people, looking for specific items. The initial effort occurred on April 15, results not yet publicized.



**1G.** On April 24, we confirmed with Craig Burgess (Granite Falls Sno-Isle Library) that the Historical Society still provides opportunities for students to earn community service hours.

**1H.** Also on April 24, Tom Thorleifson forwarded this year's Granite Falls Scholarship applications to the Scholarship Committee for review and ranking. There were 13 applicants for the scholarships we offer. Then on May 1st, the Scholarship Committee met and chose the two recipients for 2023. Thanks to Lisa, Regina, Bob, Tom, and Fred for their efforts in reviewing and ranking the applications.

### 2. Collecting and preserving

**2A.** Also on April 5, we received a call from Steve Mayer asking if we're interested in some mining car rails and in having his doctor's buggy on display.

**2B.** Also on April 10, we received word that our grant request for digitization of the Snohomish Tribune from 1920 through 1941 was approved and work could begin. Jude Anderson immediately initiated shipping of those issues to SmallTownPapers for scanning.

**2C.** Also on April 18, Tom and Fred made a commitment to Darrington Historical Society to assist them in a huge scanning task designed to preserve much of the historic material currently sitting in the USFS archives in Darrington. Special permission has been granted by the Forest Archeologist to scan as much as possible before an official "records strike team" arrives in June to determine which items should be kept in place, which should be thrown away, and which should be sent to the National Archives. The Darrington HS has purchased the latest CZUR scanner as part of this effort!

**2D.** Also on April 22, we received a significant number of books, articles, and historic records from folks attending the LOSCHO Malstrom awards ceremony. The materials will be added to our collection.

**2E.** On April 22, Louise Lindgren confirmed that the output of our CZUR scanner will meet her needs in preserving years of "Perspectives of the Past", a series of articles that appeared in the Everett Herald. We are planning a mass scanning project in the near future.

**2F.** On April 26, we got an offer from Jacob Scherrer for the donation of a 1913 Norwegian rocker built by Karl Hemstrom

April 2023 Visitors					
In-person Visitors			Online Visitors		
location	places	# visitors	location	places	# visitors
Washington State	9	43	Washington State	46	143
1 other states	1	2	18 other states	24	54
0 foreign countries	0	0	8 foreign countries	9	16
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>213</b>
Lincoln, CA			Ireland, Finland, Germany, Poland		
			Pakistan, Thailand, Namibia, Canada		



**4B.** On April 19, we received confirmation that GFHS is again registered as a "Blue Star Museum", which means we provide free entry to military families.

**4D.** On April 21, the Everett Herald published an article on the Malstrom Award luncheon sponsored by the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO) to be held at the Granite Falls Civic Center on April 22. Normally an annual event, COVID shut everything down the week before the 2020 gathering, and 2023 is the first time it has been held since then. Planning, setup, conduct, and cleanup has consumed most of Fred and Tom for the past month. Over 50 folks enjoyed the event, most of which were incredibly impressed at the facility and at the volume of folks flowing through our local passport office! Special thanks go to Marcia Day, Lisa Schmidt, and Robin Ingraham for their help in greeting, serving, and cleaning up after the many guests!

**4E.** On April 20, we received the unfortunate news that Betty Lou Gaeng, long an active participant in Snohomish County historic preservation, passed away on April 17th.

**4F.** On April 25, we received a "thank you" note from Tower Engineering for passing on the history of an area in which they are planning to erect a new cell tower. We did not ask to continue as a "consulting agency", but did offer details on the immediate area.

## **5. Books on local history - Available at the Granite Falls Museum and/or on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).**

1. [The Everett and Monte Cristo Railway](#), by **Woodhouse, Jacobson**, and **Peterson** (historical non-fiction), \$40 museum
2. [French Peter - Journey to Hat Island](#), by **J.D. Howard** (new, historical fiction), \$17 paperback on Amazon
3. [Heart's Gold](#), by **Joan Rawlins Husby** (historical fiction), \$16 paperback at the museum
4. [A Logger's Daughter: Growing Up in Washington's Woods](#), by **Joan Rawlins Husby** (biography, historical non-fiction), \$16 paperback Amazon
5. [Margaret Callahan "Mother of Northwest Art"](#), by **Brian Tobey Callahan**, (biography, historical non-fiction, art), \$28 museum
6. [On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, A Pioneer's Life in the Pacific Northwest](#), by **Monika Teuscher-Schramm**, (biography, historical non-fiction), \$30 paperback on Amazon
7. [Pilchuck Valley Reflections](#), by **Dorothy Jean Schroeder** (historical non-fiction), \$20 paperback at the museum
8. [The Pride of Monte Cristo](#), by **J.D. Howard** (historical fiction), \$16 paperback, at Amazon
9. [Sawdust Empire](#), by **J.D. Howard** (historical fiction), \$15 paperback Amazon
10. [Shellback](#), by **Jeanne-Marie Osterman** (poetry), \$15 paperback at the museum

## **6. To be noted**

As in previous months, the items above are extracted from dated email contacts with outside organizations, but there are other museum activities that don't necessarily involve email (or involve too many emails). The front planting area got weeded (kthanks to the City crew for hauling off the remnants), Ron Chew power washed the concrete walks, so the place looked really nice for whoever visited during the April 22 Malstrom event! **Marcia Day** has replaced Easter

decorations with more generic Spring items to keep a welcoming look to the inside of the museum.



**7. "Railroad Day in Granite Falls"** - The following poem was sent to us by Joe Beckett (Granite Falls High School Class of 1977) written by his mother in '67 or '68 titled, "Railroad Day in Granite Falls". The "Tin Box" time capsule was recovered in 1966 by Richard Falls, GF High School history teacher, and "Railroad (and Reunion Day(s))" began.

### **It's Railroad Day in Granite Falls**

by Norma A. Beckett, ca 1967

In October of every year  
people come from far and near  
when they hear we're celebratin' Railroad Day.

If they hope to see a train  
they'll be waiting all in vain  
'cause we ain't had one thru here in 60 years.

If you look around I'm told  
you may find someone who's old  
who can show you where the depot used to be.

And there are others who'll declare  
they know someone who was there  
when they tore the tracks out in thirty-three.

But they'll never bring 'em back  
'cause they've taken up the track  
and the railroad men have gone to their reward.

And we had to say goodbye  
to the whistle's lonesome cry  
and the guy who used to holler "All aboard!"

So don't come in to our town  
if you hope to hear the sound  
of the one that used to gallop like a goose.

You won't hear that today  
since the trains have gone away  
from the engine all the way to the caboose

Without prejudice or malice  
we salute you Mr. Fallis  
just for pointing out how callous was our fate.

For the simple fact remains  
we commemorate the trains  
'cause we don't have nuthin' else to celebrate.