



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!"



August 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.

RAILROAD DAYS 2023



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Railroad Days Here Again!

(The following is from the "Back in the Day" webpage article "Railroad Reunion Days . . . Again!" written in 2015.)

It's October, and that means Railroad Days in Granite Falls. Many have heard how the celebration started, but it's always worth one more telling of the story. Let's go back to the Oct 3, 1968 issue of the Granite Falls Press, and extract the details of how it started (almost by itself) in 1966, how it quickly expanded in 1967, and how in 1968 (the date of the article) it had gained full traction as "Railroad Reunion Days". What follows is taken directly from the newspaper in 1968:

In 1966, a high school class was studying the history of Granite Falls. During the same year, the old brick schoolhouse, long out of use, was being torn down to make way for the new medical clinic. A tin box was discovered in the cornerstone of the old school building and this, possibly containing messages from the past, became an object of intense interest to the present-day students who were looking into their community's history.

The brick school stood from 1910 to 1966, razed to make way for medical clinic.

The box was of interest to many other persons as well, so the class agreed to stage some kind of special event for the ceremonial opening of the box.

*October 16 was selected as a significant date, that being the anniversary of the date that the train first came into **Granite***

Falls back in 1892. The train had created a spirited era in the old town, carrying it far on its way toward being a special place, and it was evident that the building of the new clinic marked the beginnings of a new era of community development.

"Railroad Day" was declared to celebrate this spirit of the community. A parade through town was scheduled, special events were staged, and a public meeting was called for the box opening ceremonies.

It was a somewhat spontaneous affair in which both old- and young-timers participated, and everyone who was there had a marvelous time. The box contained some items of interest, particularly the signatures and some notes from students who were at the school in 1910 when the cornerstone was sealed.

The only adverse criticism was that more people, particularly out-of-towners, had not been contacted to take part. The sponsoring high school class then took on the project of compiling a list of all former graduates of the Granite Falls Schools, with an attempt to get current addresses, so that contact might be made for any future events.

A second "Railroad Day" was staged in 1967, with a much larger parade and with many more community groups and individuals participating. A meeting was held at the high school, and on the basis of the lists compiled, the formation of an Alumni Association was proposed, accepted, and a list of officers elected. The Alumni Association is now operating

on an impressive scale, and will hold its meeting in conjunction with the third annual "Railroad and Reunion Day" this coming Saturday, October 5, at the high school auditorium.

The day is now established as a time when the town can celebrate and take pride in the unique spirit that has existed in the community since the days when the trains used to come through here, stirring the town in its activities. The train no longer runs to Granite Falls, it is true, but with our awareness of the past and our concern for the future, the spirit and pride of community still runs strong."



The brick school stood from 1910 to 1966, razed to make way for medical clinic.

Back in 1966-67, **Richard Fallis** taught the new course/workshop in "History of Granite Falls". He was also named "Teacher of the Year" and commented in a newspaper article that, "One more item that will have to have community help to succeed is the need for a historical museum for Granite Falls. A great many things have already been lost or thrown away because there was no place to put



them and no one to recognize their value. As the old timers pass on and the memory fades, these items from the past become ever more valuable."

He is shown in the picture above holding "the tin box" with students holding other local artifacts. John Petty (great grandson of Granite Falls' first doctor, Dr. Chappell) is shown holding some surgical instruments, while the two girls are holding a basket woven by the well-known Pilchuck Julia and an early Granite Falls Post (the original town newspaper). Mr. Farris would be particularly proud of the award-winning museum Granite Falls has today!

By 1968, the event had grown to include the Grand Parade, annual Alumni Meeting, Community Dance at Legion Hall,

Community Potluck Dinner, and a Sunday open house at the Grange.

In 2023, we are proud to hold the 58th Railroad Days celebration, and proud of the community in which we live!

1. Railroad Days! – To find out more about this Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce event, [click here](#).

Railroad Days highlights:

- Alumni Dinner** - Friday, October 6, 5:30 pm, Civic Center, [RSVP](#) by September 20, honoring the Class of 1973, open to all Granite Falls & Crossroads High Schools Alumni, former and current GF School District staff, and all the community. Menu: roasted turkey breast, ham, potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls, and Lyla's Café cookies. Coffee, tea, water, and soft drinks are provided (no alcohol). This is hosted by the Granite Falls Museum as their fundraiser. \$35/person.
- Alumni Coffee Hour** - 7:00 to 9:00 am, Saturday, October 7, \$2 all-you-can-drink coffee and juice, The Father's House (TFH, formerly Konnerup's). Questions? [email Jeanne](#).
- Alumni Breakfast** - 9:00 am, Saturday, October 7, TFH, \$10 for quiche, coffee cake, fruit, coffee/juice. **RSVP** before September 30 to **Jeanne Moen**: [email Jeanne](#).
- Annual Alumni Meeting** - 10:00 am, Saturday, October 7, following the breakfast at The Father's House. The anticipated guest speaker is **GF School District Superintendent Dr. Josh Middleton**. The Coffee Hour, Breakfast, and Annual Alumni Meeting are hosted by the **Granite Falls Alumni Foundation**. Saturday morning volunteers [email Jeanne](#).
- Kids Parade** - 11:30 am, Saturday, October 7, [register here](#)
- Grand Parade** - noon, Saturday, October 7, [register here](#)
- Vendors** - Saturday, October 7, all day, [register here](#)
- Volunteers needed** by the GF Chamber, [register here](#)
- Sponsors needed** by the GF Chamber, [register here](#)
- Museum is open!** - 10:00am - 3:00pm, Saturday, October 7

September - October 2023 Calendar

- Sep 3 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open
- Sep 4 - Monday, Labor Day
- Sep 10 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open
- Sep 11 - Monday, Patriot Day, remembering 9/11/2001
- Sep 17 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open
- Sep 24 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open
- Oct 1 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open
- Oct 6 - Friday, 6:00 pm Railroad Days Dinner
- Oct 7 - Saturday, 9:00 am annual Alumni Breakfast
- Oct 7 - Saturday, Railroad Days
- Oct 8 - Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm, Museum is open

2. Docents/helpers/volunteers for August – To start August we participated in the **Chamber's "Show 'n' Shine"** by having the museum open and having our "**Rusty Junk**" yard sale. In addition to the four August Sundays we were regularly open, we also had a hiker's group and several "walk-ins" and special appointments during the weeks when we hosted individuals or small groups at the museum. With the efforts of our group of volunteers we were able to be open for all these special events. If you would like to help as a docent or volunteer, please email or leave a voicemail (see heading on first page). Docents, custodial work, outdoor/yard maintenance, as well as archiving always need routine upkeep. On-the-job training is provided for free. For the busy month of August, special thanks go to these docents and volunteers: **Regina Jones, Angie Rosenkranz, Marcia Day, Fred Cruger, Tim Quillen, Lisa Schmidt, Tom Thorleifson, Ed and Thora Boede, Bob**

and Robin Ingraham, Dennis Hayek, and Scott and Sara Bower. Setting up and cleaning up for the “Rusty Junk” sale along with our summer picnic were handled smoothly by our volunteers!

3. Visitors – During August our in-person visitors totaled closer to 200 than the 130 shown with our guest book, mainly for the crowd from **Show ‘n’ Shine** who came to the yard sale or just wandered into the museum. For the month of August, our in-person guests came from these places: **Arlington, Bothell, Edgewood, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lake Tapps, Marysville, Olympia, Mill Creek, Seattle, Snohomish, Tulalip, and from Folsom, CA; Tehachapi, CA; San Antonio, TX; Australia, and Finland.**



From the **August 2023 Visitors** table below, you can note the contrast. Also, we started keeping track of our online visitors at the start of COVID, and at the end of August we reached

| August 2023 Visitors | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|--|------------|------------|
| In-person Visitors | | | Online Visitors | | |
| location | places | # visitors | location | places | # visitors |
| Washington State | 14 | 133 | Washington State | 55 | 176 |
| 2 other states | 2 | 5 | 16 other states | 37 | 68 |
| 2 foreign countries | 2 | 2 | 8 foreign countries | 9 | 9 |
| TOTALS: | 18 | 140 | TOTALS: | 101 | 253 |
| Tehachapi, CA; San Antonio, TX Australia, Finland | | | Germany, Finland, South Korea, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Canada, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia | | |

our 30,000 visitors in less than 4 years, covering every U.S. state, 51 foreign countries, and all five continents (with the exception of Antarctica).

4. What happened in August? – We always keep busy with visitors, questions, researching, and keeping up with what is going on in the community and historical aspects of the greater community. Below is a sampling of what we do.

• **ESRI** - At the beginning of August we received our annual renewal for our mapping tools licensing from **ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.)** licenses. They allow us to maintain, update, and add to our internal and online map collection.

• **You are here** - Also to start the month, **Tom Thorleifson** was able to update the museum contact info on the front door of the museum. With our many "walk-up" visitors that often



stop by during non-scheduled hours, this info is used to arrange a special visit. We discovered a couple outdated and incorrect pieces of information that were then fixed.

• **City Hall Map** - On August 3rd, we provided an updated wall map to **City Hall** that included a soon-to-be-made change to the city's new limits. It serves as a point of reference for discussions in the central office area.

• **Mary Bayh Scholarship** - Also on August 3rd, **Tom** updated the descendants of **Mary Bayh** on the impact the **Mary Bayh Scholarships** have continued to have in the community. We learned that **Mary's** daughters (**Ruth**, GF High School Class of 1948, and **Billie**, Class of 1949) had recently passed. **Mary's** granddaughter (**Ruth's** daughter) was interested in knowing if the scholarship started by **Ruth** in **Mary's** name was still viable. Yes, the scholarship is still active, and a compilation of facts determined that there have been a total of 19 recipients in 19 years, with more than \$30,000 total monies disbursed.

• **“Rusty Junk”** - On August 4th, we set up the outside shelter for our **"Rusty Junk"** yard sale held during **Show-n-Shine**. We had tools, baskets, furniture, decorations, equipment, pictures, and assorted odds and ends. The window-mounted swamp cooler for an old automobile sold rather quickly and for a really good deal. A few framed pictures left over from the Eagles event were made available and sold. The next day **Treasurer Scott Bower** reported that we netted a nice amount of money for our efforts. There were over 300 cars in town for **Show-n-Shine** which made for quite a crowd for the day. We were glad to find new homes for a lot of material from the sale. A few pieces were left over, but most of them were adopted in the following days. We actually received donations for three separate items left over from last year! Kudos to **Dave Griggs** and the **Granite Falls Chamber** for organizing the **2023 Show ‘n’ Shine**". What a success!

• **Melangs and Scotts research** - On August 6th, we hosted a museum visitor researching the **Melang** and **Scott** families. We found dozens of articles mentioning the well-known **Granite Falls Melang** stonemasons, and a great tribute to **Granite Falls** town clerk **Clara Scott!**

• **HistoryLink updating** - On August 7th, we provided a number of high-resolution pictures and a short written correction to the **Granite Falls** history maintained by historylink.org, a free online encyclopedia of **Washington State** history. Their system had been going through a changeover and **Margaret Riddle** requested some improved images and a quick factual review. Since the history was over 15 years old, we added some current information, as well. Check out their website and do a search for **“Granite Falls”** to find some interesting stories, such as the following:

• *Canyon Creek Lodge in Granite Falls opens in 1918.*

• *The Granite Falls Bridge spanning the Stillaguamish River opens in Snohomish County on July 17, 1934.*

• *Fire destroys the Big Four Inn (Snohomish County) on September 7, 1949.*

• **Snohomish Tribune digitization** - Also on August 7th, we received an expedited contract from the county to enable reimbursement for the digitization of the **Snohomish Tribune** (\$19,000). The total actual expense was about \$600 higher, the overage paid by donations from two generous museum members.

• **Family history** - Finally on August 7th, we provided some pictures and historic details to a museum visitor interested in

the history of her father, who died locally in a small cabin years ago. The current property owner offered a tour of the area, and his brother provided a short written history of the cabin and its occupant. The visitor and her brother were then able to visit and tour the site on August 22nd.

- **Happy Hikers** - August 8th, we hosted the **Happy Hikers**, a group of retired folks that hike every Tuesday, who had just made the trip to **Heather Lake**. They enjoyed an hour or so at the museum on their way home.

- **Edelweiss** - On August 9th, we mailed a description and a picture of our museum player piano to a fellow who collects pictures of old and unique pianos in museums across the country! A video was also posted online of the piano playing "**Edelweiss**", and even doing so without any mistakes!

- **Old railroad maps shared** - On August 10th, we provided information to an individual doing research for the **Everett Station District Alliance** about the **Everett Station Neighborhood**. He was wondering if it was possible to find a map showing the **Snohomish to Everett Interurban Rail Line**, the **Milwaukee Railroad**, and other rail lines that go to **Everett**. He had been referred to us by the **Everett Public Library**. We shared what we had.

- **Annual Museum picnic** - On August 13th, we held our annual picnic/barbecue outside the museum. Food was great! Weather was great! We had a great time. We did have a short business meeting afterwards, during which we approved the replacement of our three aging TVs inside the main building that all started failing just recently. Then on August 20th, **Fred Cruger** purchased one new TV, and testing at the museum showed it had the functionality needed, so two more were purchased the following day. **Treasurer Scott Bower** ordered a couple wall mounts for permanent installation, but the new units are already functioning in the museum.

- **Grange Logo** - On August 16th, we created a large logo for the **Grange** and printed a couple copies to be carried in the **Railroad Days** parade on October 7th. They were delivered for the **Chamber of Commerce** meeting on August 21st, held



Willys engine and transmission head to new home.

item from the "rusty junk" sale, and we are glad it's going to a good home!

- **Archive-In-A-Box** - On August 22nd, we were notified by the folks maintaining [Archive-In-a-Box \(AIB\)](#) that a new feature has been added to the database. When entering an item now, you can link the item to a location on a map - particularly useful for historic items associated with a specific location! Later that day, **Tom Thorleifson** provided a list of **Malstrom Award** winners from the recent **League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO)** 2023 awards luncheon to the folks at **AIB**, who were going to mention their **Malstrom Award** in their upcoming newsletter.

- **Historic Tourism** - On August 23rd, Fred attended the meeting of the steering committee for the **Snohomish County Strategic Tourism Plan**. The draft plan will be published for review in September. Since "**Historic Tourism**" is a thing, it is mentioned in the plan.

- **Butcher block** - On August 24th, we received an offer of an antique butcher block from some long-time area residents. Butcher blocks are REALLY heavy, so plans are being put in place for a careful move. A COVID infection delayed the first attempt, but the move should be completed in September.

- **Snohomish Tribune** - On August 25th, we received a note from the current **Snohomish Tribune** editor, who is going to write an article on the digitization of the **Tribune** that has been conducted by the partnership of the **Granite Falls Historical Society** and the **Snohomish Sno-Isle Library**.

- **Model T gaskets** - On August 27th, we printed a large **Model T Ford** gasket display chart for the **Model T Ford Club**, receiving a nice donation in return.

- **Middle School images and presentation** - We received a request from the music teacher at the middle school for a live presentation on "**Granite Falls Railroads**" and some wall display material to generate some excitement about our area railroads. Her students will be singing railroad songs during **Railroad Days**, and she is working to build some serious enthusiasm. We assured her that the **GF Museum** would provide both an in-person presentation, perhaps using our railroad simulation video, as well as some images. A set of large wall maps and pictures were printed, and she arranged to pick them up on September 3rd in time for the start of school.

- **Edmonds Tribune digitization** - On August 29th, we received word from the **Sno-Isle Genealogy Society** that they are still pursuing digitization of the **Edmonds Tribune**. They hope to have a partnership with us, as was done with the **Snohomish Tribune**, but they had hit some temporary delays. Things are moving again.

- **Western Tuskegee** - On August 31st, we received a request from **Lisa Labovitch (Everett Library Northwest Room)** to aid in research for a **HistoryLink** article about the proposed



Scouts next to the new Grange logo

at the **Grange**. **Tom Thorleifson** and **Fred Cruger** attended that meeting of the **Chamber**, with **Railroad Days** being the focus of the most current activity.

- **Willys** - On August 17th, **Tom Thorleifson** and **Fred Cruger** helped a fellow from **Edmonds** load the old **Willys** engine and transmission into his truck. He left a nice donation to the museum in return. That was the largest and heaviest

Western Tuskegee settlement that was to be north of **Sultan**. While she had some possible leads on its proposed location, she had yet to pin it down. A quick newspaper search combined with our 1910 maps provided the answer!

5. Other things - 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). For instance, **Chew's Landscaping Service** continues to maintain the appearance of our lawn with regular mowing and edging, the front landscaping area and the **Sharp House** have been weeded, the lawn/garden watering season has finally ended, and **Marcia's Home Decorating** has altered the museum interior once again!

Activities are well underway supporting the **Railroad Days Dinner!** Our Facebook page and website have been updated, and **Sara Bower** is counting platters, utensils, cups, pots, pans, silverware, etc. to prepare everything. Make sure you get your reservation sent as early as possible to ensure a good headcount - we don't want anyone to leave hungry or disappointed.

Email: RRDaysDinner2023@gmail.com
Voicemail: (360) 691-2603

10. Books on local history

Available at the **Granite Falls Museum** and [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

Check these out!

Over the last few months several presentations have been made. Here are some online links to explore:

Passport Office Tour

<https://fusion.realtourvision.com/139488>

Everett "Time Travel" Tour

<https://fusion.realtourvision.com/174670>

Bush House Tour

<https://fusion.realtourvision.com/186042>

Saving Bridge #102 (the "Falls Bridge")

<http://www.gfhistory.org/bridge102.mp4>
(be patient for this one to load)

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!