



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!"



February 2022

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. Continuing from January...
2. Ben Lewis
3. Swedish Commune update
4. 1973 GF Museum building plans
5. Granite Falls Mercantile
6. Odds and ends throughout the month
7. More museum activities

1. Continuing from January... - These five items from the end of January were not included in the last newsletter:

1A. **STQRY webinar** - On January 28, we received a reminder that the **STQRY** (formerly OnCell) **webinar** will be held March 7-11, covering museum accessibility, tourism's digital transformation, content creation, education, and digital experience marketing. These are the folks that provide and maintain the tools we use for our cyber-tours (**LOSCHO Museum tour**, **Mountain Loop Tour**, **Granite Falls tour**, etc.) Register now. The **webinar is FREE** and open to the public!

1B. **Best Shingle Company** - On January 29, we received detailed information from **John Tylczak** about the **Best Shingle Company** and the bridge they used to cross the **South Fork Stillaguamish River** in the **Robe Canyon**.

1C. **Moving in strategies** - On January 30, a flow chart was created to describe how the piles of historical material received during our construction project would be processed (sorted, accessioned, filed, etc.). Shelves in the new room were set up and labeled accordingly, then filled with the boxes of material to be processed.



1D. **Everett & Monte Cristo Railway** - On January 31, we provided our **E&MCR** **simulation video** to folks in Everett

interested in the project. You can click on the link and watch part of the train trip from Granite Falls to Monte Cristo.

1E. **Smallpox and scarlet fever "sick house"** - On January 31, we provided assistance in researching a property in unincorporated Snohomish County on 87th Avenue that was long known as the "sick house", where patients with smallpox and scarlet fever were quarantined. There is some concern that a new road project may uncover grave sites there.

2. **Ben Lewis** - On February 1, **Chris Green** at **Pacific Coast Memorials** (Priceless Granite) received the go-ahead word to create the grave marker for **Ben Lewis** (see **January 2022 newsletter**). They knew we wanted to place the marker as part of Black History Month in February. He promised to get it done in time. Then on February 8, **The Everett Herald**



reporter **Jacqueline Allison** called for details surrounding all the research that went into **Ben Lewis'** story and the planned grave marker. Several calls were also received from officers of the **Masonic Lodge** in Seattle who were very much interested in participating in recognizing **Ben Lewis**.

Dues

GFHS is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. All monies are used for programs and paying our bills. We function solely on the dues and donations that we receive from our members and friends. 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

March 2022 Calendar

- Mar 6 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open
- Mar 7-11 - STQRY (OnCell) Webinar
- Mar 13 - Sunday, 2am, move clocks ahead for DST
- Mar 13 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open
- Mar 17 - Monday, St Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open
- Mar 22 - Tuesday, 6:30pm, Alumni meeting
- Mar 27 - Sunday, noon to 5pm, Museum is open
- Mar 28 - Monday, board meeting 7:00 PM Zoom
- Mar 29 - Tuesday, Windsor retirement group visit



Reporter Jacqueline was at the [Evergreen Cemetery](#) to witness the marker placement for **Ben Lewis** on February 23. The marker was placed by the cemetery folks in the exact location where Ben was buried in 1904. A beautiful flower arrangement provided by the cemetery enhanced the occasion. Also witnessing the marker placement were historian **Louise Lindgren** from [Index](#) who found the original information about **Ben Lewis**, and **Fred Cruger**, **Sarah Mach**, and **Tom Thorleifson** from the [Granite Falls Historical Society](#), and [Snohomish Black Heritage Committee \(SCBHC\)](#) founder **Marilyn Quincy**, and current president **DanVonique Reed** and her daughter. **The Herald** photographer **Olivia Vanni** took some excellent photos of the Wednesday event. Two days later on Friday, February 25, a number of **Masonic** leaders from the greater **Seattle** area held a small ceremony at the gravesite. **Ben** was a Master Mason in Lodge 49, which evolved into today's [Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington \(MWPGLWA\)](#) and we were privileged to have **Gilbert E. McClary, Sr.**, the **Most Worshipful Grand Master** of that lodge and others share in



the upbeat ceremony. You can see the story of **Ben Lewis** at www.gfhistory.org/Lewis.pdf and read **The Herald** front-page article about the marker placement and ceremony [here](#).

3. Swedish Commune update - On February 1, information was added to the end of the "Swedish Commune" story (see [January 2022 newsletter](#)), covering the memories of a young girl growing up in the commune and her detailed memories of what we know as "**School 83**", both the original one-roomer (now part of [Sarvey Wildlife Center](#)) and the 1910 two-roomer "School 83" (later the Burn Road Bible Church and now a private home on Burn Road). The full article can be found at www.gfhistory.org/Commune.pdf.

Granite Falls Historical Society Board Members for 2022

Bob Ingraham, President
Scott Bower, Vice president
Fred Cruger, Treasurer
Robin Ingraham, Secretary
Jamieson Haverfield
Angie Rosenkranz
Regina Jones
Lisa Schmidt
Tim Quillen
Marcia Day

4. 1973 GF Museum building plans - On February 19, we received a set of [Granite Falls Historical Society](#) building plans from 1973, found by historian **Louise Lindgren**. Louise recovered the plans while sorting through the many historical papers left by [Forrest Johanson](#), who passed away too young in 2019 at the age of 56. He left a wealth of information behind for us to "rediscover". Forrest loved hiking and exploring the **Washington Cascades**, and developed an enormous amount of knowledge about history, geography, and the mines in the area. GFHS was planning a new building back in 1973, but those plans likely fell by the wayside when the **Sharp House** was given to the Historical Society.

5. Granite Falls Mercantile - On February 4, we received an autobiographical article from **Dick Kelly** written by his great-aunt **Frances Morgan**. The Morgans ran the **Granite Falls Mercantile** at the beginning of the 1900s and built a house on the southwest corner of Kentucky Avenue and Union Street, and it's still there! We provided Dick with maps and



pictures (both historical and current) that clarified her story, along with other details that covered Dick's granddad (tailor in Granite Falls) and home. Dick sent additional photos of early Granite Falls!

6. Odds and ends throughout the month - During February there were a variety of opportunities that came our way:

6A. Marysville High School yearbooks: On February 3, we received an offer of some **Marysville Pilchuck High School** yearbooks (1969-71), and **Tom Thorleifson** pointed the person toward the school district and/or [Marysville Historical Museum](#) as the first places to look. Did you know that the **Granite Falls High School** yearbooks in our collection have

Docents and volunteers for February 2022 Thank You!

Angie Rosenkranz	Regina Jones
Bob Ingraham	Robin Ingraham
Dennis Henshaw	Ron Chew
Fred Cruger	Sarah Mach
Jamieson Haverfield	Scott Bower
Lisa Schmidt	Tom Thorleifson
Marcia Day	

all been digitized and are word searchable? We have made use of that capability quite a few times during the last few years with some of our research. You can search the yearbook collection from outside the museum on any device that can connect to the internet. Just follow this path, which actually is much easier than it looks.

GFHistory.org → Research → "ArchiveInABox" → "Enter" → Library (Books & Booklets) → School Yearbooks.

Or, you can [click here for a shortcut](#). By the way, we are missing a few yearbooks from the earlier years. If you happen to come across one of these years, please consider allowing us to add it to our archives. We will return it to you

Granite Falls High School yearbooks still needed
(The oldest yearbook known is from 1919)

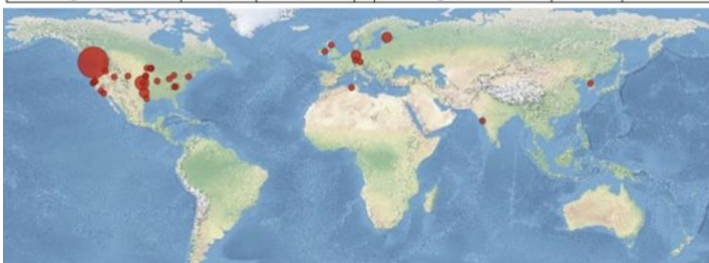
1920	1921	1922	1925	1926	1927
1928	1929	1931	1932	1933	1934
1935	1936	1937	1938		

in just a few days once we have scanned it.

6B. Monte Cristo at Monte Cristo: On February 6, **Ron Chew** and **Scott Bower** were looking through several boxes of old photos from the [Granite Falls School District](#). They found a few great photos of **Monte Cristo** historian **David Cameron** teaching some fifth-grade students in **Granite Falls** about why their new school was named "**Monte Cristo**" and what they would see and experience when they take the day-long trip hiking into the **Monte Cristo** townsite, located 40 miles east of **Granite Falls**. [Monte Cristo Elementary](#), dedicated in 1995, was named after the **Monte Cristo** town-site, which prospered as a mining town from 1889 to 1907, then later as a resort area until 1893. Today, this **Monte Cristo** area is a popular hiking destination. Even though there are property owners who live in the area (including some throughout the harsh winters) it's now considered a ghost town. For more information on Monte Cristo you can read **David Cameron's** "[History Link](#)" article.

6C. Zoning and Aerial Maps - On February 9, we were asked to print a zoning map for the [City of Granite Falls](#) on our wide-format printer, and did so. The City has been very good to us by occasionally providing paper and ink along the way. A few days later on February 18, we received another request from the City regarding historical aerial photos of some property involved in a right-of-way dispute. We were able to provide pictures to the City Attorney, and the City prevailed in the subsequent court case. "Thanks" go to the [Snohomish County GIS](#) folks with whom we've worked in the past and who came through for us again!

January 2022 Visitors					
Online Visitors			In-person Visitors		
location	places	# visitors	location	places	# visitors
Washington State	45	164	Washington State	6	44
15 other states	28	64	0 other states	0	0
7 foreign countries	9	21	0 foreign countries	0	0



6D. LOSCHO - On February 12, we received a greeting from **LOSCHO** Treasurer **Meg Engelter**, reminding us that the **League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSCHO)** hasn't been able to meet during all the COVID restrictions, but that it's about time to re-convene. Among other things, there are a couple years of **Malstrom Award** recognitions to provide. **Tom Thorleifson** and **Fred Cruger** are responsible for putting things into motion again.

6E. Washington State Historical Society - On February 15 - The [Washington State Historical Society](#) hosted a Zoom meeting to facilitate regional networking among historical organizations around the state. **Tom Thorleifson** and **Fred Cruger** participated, representing **LOSCHO (The League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations)** and the **Granite Falls Historical Society**. Regional websites were shared, and another meeting is being planned for the near future.

6F. More maps - Also on February 18, we provided historical maps and information to **Joni Smith** regarding **Lake Riley**. She is a certified history nut, so she visited the museum on the 19th and she became another person to join GFHS as a Life Member!

6G. Late winter yardwork - On February 19 and 20, **Tom Thorleifson** made headway on trimming the large bushes and two trees at the museum while **Fred Cruger** was busy digging out the nastier weeds in the planting area. Frequent visitor **Dennis Henshaw** was available to help and did a good job assisting in the general cleanup of the debris and raking the lawn. Tom then finished with a dump run on the following day. It's a little early for Spring Cleaning, but every little bit helps. Thanks to these three for their work that day.

6H. Swedish Genealogy - On February 22, we received an invitation from the [Old Mill Museum](#) to a virtual workshop on April 2, 2022 from 9AM to 4PM Central Time. It will cover *Swedish Genealogy*. You can find more [information here](#).

7. More museum activities - 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). During February, great progress was made in sorting, accessioning, and storing donated books and papers. We have received much-needed assistance from **Sarah Mach**, who is using the experience as training for a museum-oriented career. The new shelves initially filled with material are now reaching a point where over the next two weeks we can bring in some

Donating to the museum

The Granite Falls Historical Society (GFHS) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. GFHS is registered and in good standing with the Washington State Secretary of State and with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. You can financially help the museum in five ways:

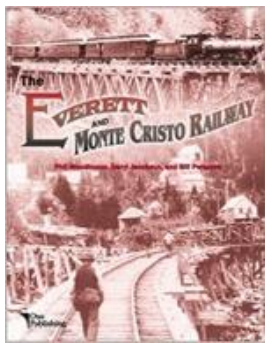
1. online - use our [PayPal link](#)
2. by mail (check), PO Box 1414, Granite Falls WA 98252
3. at the museum (cash or check), Sundays noon - 5PM
4. shopping at **Amazon**, **Fred Meyer**, or **IGA** - a portion of your purchases can be directed to the museum at no extra cost to you. Click [here](#) for the link.
5. NEW! [Mail Zone Auto Licensing Center](#), (SR 92 at 84th Street NE) has a donation box for the museum.

of the items currently clogging up the **Sharp House**. Once some of the bulky seasonal items from the **Sharp House** get moved into the attic, it will be easier to take care of the files and documents that will get absorbed into the new layout in the addition. In our meeting room, most of the extra items have been removed so it is once again starting to look more like a meeting room than an overfilled storage unit. **Scott Bower** trimmed the door into the meeting room, so now (for the first time since the building was completed) it opens easily! On the same visit, Scott drilled a hole in the wall and ran a hardwire line into the new room to hook up our new WiFi router. This enabled us to get the rolling workstation out of the main display room, arrange the furniture in the

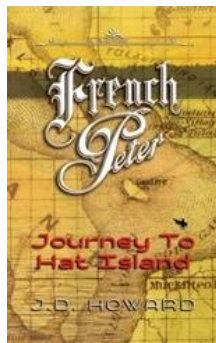
new room, and have great internet access throughout the building! Our heating system seems to be working well with the new duct added. Upcoming projects include a detailed budget and the ever-more-complex 2021 tax return (we must now complete a full Form 990). At our February 28 monthly meeting, we were excited to start planning for the 2022 **Show 'n' Shine** and **Railroad and Reunion Days**. **Show 'n' Shine** will be on August 6, and **GFHS** will have a "**Rusty Stuff**" garage sale. For **Railroad Days** (1st weekend in October) we will once again host the **Alumni Dinner** on Friday evening. Last year we had to cancel due to COVID restrictions. Things are looking better, and we are anxious to have these events.

Books on local history

Available at the **Granite Falls Museum** and/or on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



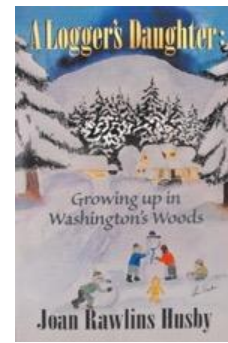
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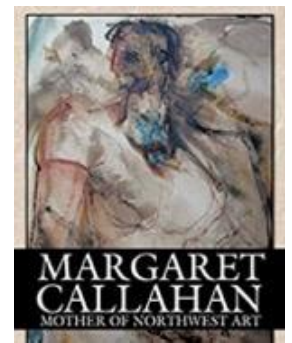
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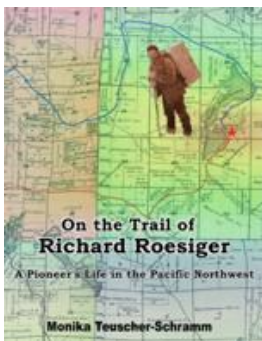


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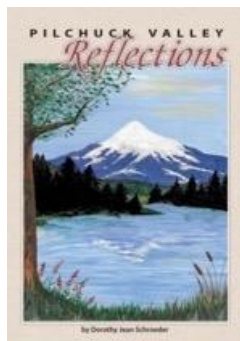


5.

1. [The Everett and Monte Cristo Railway](#), by **Woodhouse, Jacobson, and Peterson** (historical non-fiction), \$40 paperback at the 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 paperback at the museum



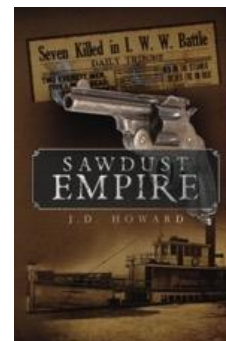
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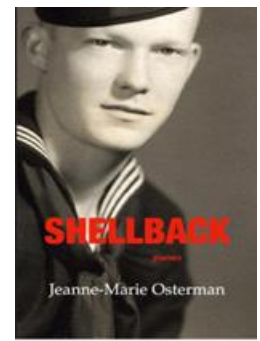
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6. [On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, A Pioneer's Life in the Pacific Northwest](#), by **Monika Teuscher-Schramm** (biography, historical non-fiction) \$30 paperback on Amazon.com
7. [Pilchuck Valley Reflections](#), by **Dorothy Jean Schroeder** (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