



GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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To our friends and members
 throughout the community, state, and across all borders:
 "Thank you for your support!"



January 2017 NEWSLETTER

February 3, 2017

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1. Managing Finances - The 2016 year-end letter was mailed on December 1, summarizing 2016 and reminding folks that we run on donations alone. By January 1, the response was outstanding, and our "Operating Funds" finished the 2016 year \$2,286 "in the black" according to our five-year financial summary. Final results that include any changes in our Endowment Fund will be made available as soon as we receive a final statement from Snohomish County Community Fund. That final statement will also include Scholarship Fund changes, although those are no longer legally on our books.

2. GFHS 2017 Officers - At the January 30 monthly meeting, our 2017 Board Officers were elected:

President - John Scherrer	Marcia Day
Vice-President - Ron Chew	Bob Ingraham
Secretary - Robin Ingraham	John Kuntz
Treasurer - Scott Bower	Tim Quillen
	Tom Thorleifson

Bob Ingraham stepped down after serving a one-year term as President because of pending work-related constraints this year. Our sincere appreciation goes to Bob for his leadership this last year. John Scherrer has moved into the President's role, and Ron Chew agreed to be this year's Vice-President. We are fortunate that Robin and Scott have volunteered to continue as Secretary and Treasurer. Their routines are key to GFHS functioning.

3. Museum Bequeath - On January 3, we received notice that Lois Ashe Jorgensen, who recently passed away, left three properties in the Granite Falls area to the Historical Society and the Alumni Association (60/40 split, respectively). One of those properties is the lot on which the "One Spot" sits (the southwest corner of Stanley Street and Cascade Avenue). Unfortunately, a 10' x 60' portion of that lot is inappropriately fenced in by a neighbor. He has been contacted, and the issue will be resolved before official title transfer can be completed (sometime in 2017). Final disposition of the properties will be a joint decision of

the two non-profit organizations. Constructive suggestions would be appreciated. ([See December 2016 newsletter.](#))

4. British TV and Monte Cristo - On January 6, (at their request) we provided several Monte Cristo images to a British television company doing a "special" feature on the ancestors of President Trump – specifically, they were interested in pictures of Monte Cristo that showed the hotel that Frederick Trump, Sr. (the President's granddad) built and owned. Grandpa Trump moved to Monte Cristo in 1894 and became the first Trump landowner in the U.S.

5. Ground Observer Corps - On January 8, a young author from Spokane visited the museum to complete research on the Ground Observer Corps, bomb shelters, and other civil-defense-related activities in the 1940s and 1950s. Did you know that Granite Falls had a "lookout" in the top of City Hall?



6. Maps to the Fiske - On January 11, Tom and Fred visited the [Fiske Genealogical Library](#) near Madison Park in Seattle to deliver a presentation on our historic mapping system. Over twenty people attended, and they asked questions well beyond the planned two-hour period. The



old Washington Pioneer Hall is quite the building, with its sturdy brick structure anchoring the past to nearby modern high-rise buildings.

7. HPC's RFP a "do over" - On January 17, Fred attended the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting, where it was decided that the 2016 RFP (Request For Bid) originally released for the historic asset inventory would be re-released in coming months. Any past proposals were null and void, new proposals will have to be made.

8. LOSCHO and AKCHO's 4Culture - On January 18, Fred and Tom met with [the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations \(LOSCHO\)](#) President Kevin Stadler, and Cheiko Philips and Brian Carter (both who represented "4Culture" which is a member of the [Association of King County Heritage Organizations](#)) to discuss possible cooperation in the future. Since we met at the Alderwood Manor Museum, GFHS also supplied updated

mapping disc drives to both [Sno-Isle Genealogical Society \(SIGS\)](#) and the [Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association \(LAMHA\)](#).

9. The Floyd - On January 21, the LOSCHO annual meeting was held at the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center in Stanwood. New officers for 2017 include GFHS members Tom Thorleifson as President, and Fred Cruger as Vice-President. Karen Prasse will be taking over as Treasurer, and Kay Bishop will remain Secretary.



Much information is shared countywide with the efforts of this all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

10. Sky Valley tourism at the Thumbnail Theater - On January 23, Tom attended another meeting of the Sky Valley tourism group (covering from Skykomish to Snohomish and Everett) at the [Thumbnail Theater](#) in Snohomish. The group is putting together a self-guided tour of points of interest along the "river trail", basically following US 2 from Stevens Pass into Snohomish.

11. Six Degrees of Separation - On January 29, Ted and Nancy Cleveland of Skykomish donated to GFHS an original (and likely the only remaining) labor union ribbon from the Western Federation of Miners, from Monte Cristo. Ted's dad was the first child born in Monte Cristo, and his granddad was a union member. For an interesting read, check out the latest entry on our web site, which is titled ["Six Degrees of Separation"](#). Ted and Nancy recently published an enjoyable book called "Remembering When", a personalized history of railroading on the Great Northern (Ted's a retired engineer). The special ribbon will be soon displayed in the museum so both sides can be viewed.

12. Fulfilling GFHS's mission - Providing history to the community, GFHS answered a large number of requests during January, some online, some by phone, some "in person". They included:

- Assistance to Monroe Historical Society regarding scanning and OCR of yearbooks
- research into the Bannister family history
- research into the history of Nelson's Distributing tank farm property (for a hydrogeologist involved in the environmental cleanup)
- research into William Stewart (African-American Civil War veteran; and homesteader in Snohomish County)
- provision of a wall-size map of Whitehorse Trail (superimposed on 1910 maps) to Snohomish County Parks and Recreation
- provision of large pictures of early Granite Falls for the grand reopening of the Spar Tree Tavern
- assistance to [Lake Stevens Historical Society](#) regarding newspaper digitization and grant funding, and other simpler requests.

13. January docents, helpers, and visitors - We always are looking for Museum docents to help on Sundays. Take a moment to sign up for Sunday duty – it's fun, and you get to meet interesting people! One Sunday afternoon every 4-6 months is all that it takes to make a difference. New docents are welcomed, with on-the-job training available. Right now there are a few Sundays still available in March as we look forward to the filling the sign-up calendar into

July. An organization cannot exist without the people who help out in some way. In January we had these people helping as docents or other volunteer work, some more than just one time:

Norma Anderson, Tom Bergen, Thora Boede
Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger
Penny Cruger, Marcia Day, Bob Ingraham
Robin Ingraham, Rosie Miller, Tim Quillen
John Scherrer, Tom Thorleifson

In January we had 74 visitors from these places: Granite Falls, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Seattle, Skykomish, and Sooke, BC.

14. Odds & Ends -

- Two folks from Arlington are scheduled for training at GFHS on Wednesday, February 1, at 10:00 AM, regarding our historic mapping system. Anyone interested from GFHS is welcome to join (announced at the January Board and General meetings).
- Also on February 1 at noon, Snohomish County Tourism has scheduled a gathering of the folks participating in the tourism marketing efforts for the Stillaguamish-Sauk River Valleys (a continuation of last year's program).
- Snohomish County Tourism is sponsoring a seminar on February 7, delivered by Thomas Dunne, the CEO of OnCell (the company who hosts [our cybertours](#)). It's free, and should be quite informative regarding the latest technology and tools for such cell phone tours. Tom and Fred have reserved their spots to attend this seminar.
- calendar alerts for 2017:

2/5, 12, 19, 26 - Sundays - Museum open, noon - 5PM
2/14, Tuesday - Valentine's Day
2/20, Monday - Presidents' Day
2/27, Monday - GFHS Board Meeting, 6PM, The Village
2/27, Monday - GFHS General Meeting, 7PM, The Village
3/5, 12, 19, 26 - Sundays - Museum open, noon - 5PM
3/27, Monday - GFHS Board/General meetings
4/16, Sunday - Easter
4/22, Saturday - Museum "Spring Cleaning"/potluck, 9AM-noon
5/13, Saturday - Dessert Auction
5/14, Sunday - Mother's Day
5/29, Monday - Memorial Day
8/5, Saturday - Show 'n' Shine
10/7, Saturday - Railroad and Reunion Days
10/31, Tuesday - Halloween at the Museum
12/2, Saturday - Community Christmas Tree Lighting

- in the planning stages:
 - a July silent auction
 - rusty junk sale, book sale, yard sale
 - T-shirt/postcards/pictures sale
 - dinner at the Eagles on 12/11
 - museum expansion

• Donations and dues can be paid online using our [PayPal](#) account. Dues for the **GF Historical Society** are only \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and free for students in high school and above. Now is the time to renew or join!

Check out our [website](#) and all of our ["Back in the Day"](#) articles.



City Hall with "lookout" on top