June 30, 2020

The Granite Falls Museum will reopen the first Sunday after Phase 3 is in effect for our area.

Visit us online!  http://www.GFHistory.org
Like us on Facebook!  Granite Falls Historical Museum
Check out previous newsletters here:  http://www.GFhistory.org/Newsletters.html

1. Still on hold, but making plans
2. Maintenance
3. Museum expansion updates
4. HPC news
5. More research, getting info, sharing, and such
6. Visitors, helpers, online access for June
7. July calendar
8. Independence Day, 1891

1. Still on hold, but making plans - We are looking forward to opening the museum for visitors very soon, but we must wait until Snohomish County is cleared for Phase 3. That might be awhile, especially since there has been recent talk of some counties delaying Phase 3 or even going back to Phase 1. This is difficult for everyone. But, for your hometown museum it means that we continue planning and making decisions while the doors must remain closed for public entry. We continue to work and make plans behind the scenes.

2. Maintenance:  Mother Nature seems determined to keep us busy -- if you listen carefully late at night, you can hear the grass, moss, buttercups, and dandelions growing. Besides regular mowing and weedwhacking, we’ve even received extra help from Dennis Henshaw, the “night watchman”, who’s been doing some weeding for us! At the June 29th Zoom board/general meeting, discussions were held about some needed repairs and improvements to the Sharp House. A work party is scheduled to tackle items such as painting the north side of the Sharp House (where it was sealed off after removal of that back room), and making repairs and improvements to the front porch and access areas. This is a good time to do the work while waiting for the expansion project to begin. Decent weather permitting, of course!

3. Museum expansion updates:  On June 2nd, Tom and Fred met with architect Martin Reimers at the museum to discuss the changes needed to accommodate the east side terrain and pavement challenges for the new building expansion. He understood all concerns and committed to new drawings, which we received on June 10. The revised plans were reviewed to ensure all changes had been made. The electronic versions were forwarded to Van Overbeke Construction, the company which served as general contractor on the current building in 2006-2007. Travis Van Overbeke of Overbeke Construction then visited the museum on June 27 to get details associated with the revised expansion drawings. Travis said he would need a couple of weeks to assemble a credible estimate for construction costs. Once we have that number, we can safely proceed with our fund-raising efforts.

4. HPC news:  The June 23rd meeting of the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was cancelled, but the big news for the month was the approval of the 2020 Heritage Grants. Because all of the 2020 grants were delayed by the COVID issue, all grant deadlines have been extended from year-end 2020 to June 2021. Our grant request to support the mounting of the final Barn Quilts was approved, so Shawna Gould, the project manager, is in the act of finding the appropriate people/equipment to complete the project.

5. More research, getting info, sharing, and such:
   a. - Fobes Hill and Swan's Trail schools - On June 1, we embarked on a two-week research project using our maps and historic texts to help a patron investigate some background on the Fobes Hill and Swan’s Trail schools. Our tools came out looking like real hero pieces!
   b. - OnCell fee - On June 2nd, we received notice that the annual fee for the online Museum Tour hosted by OnCell would be due on July 2nd in the amount of $1404. It was confirmed with SnoCo Parks & Rec that they would again subsidize the expense. It covers all museums and heritage organizations in the county, as well as the Barn Quilt Tour (treated as a “distributed” museum).
   c. - Trafton Zoom meeting - On June 5, GFHS hosted a Zoom meeting with a property owner in Trafton (for which
we had provided some homesteader history) and with the Stillaguamish Tribe archeologist/historian, to learn more about the property itself. It was homesteaded by James Dorsey, a renowned member of the Stillaguamish tribe, and the current owner is working on a tribute. Surprisingly, Kerry Lyste, one of the participating Stillaguamish staff (as their THPO/GIS Database Administrator), was the Everett Community College (EvCC) instructor who started GFHS on its effort in computerized mapping. After learning of our recent online maps, he sent a note saying how they had de-railed his normal work, and how much he enjoyed them! 11.2

d. - Whittfield's 1926 History of Snohomish County - On June 9, we received a request from a Skagit County historian for a digital copy of the 1926 History of Snohomish County. We mailed him a thumb drive and received a nice donation.

e. - USFS and WTA survey - On June 11, we were invited to test the survey being sent out through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Washington Trails Association (WTA), for gathering public input on how to prioritize the funds set aside for the southern portion of the Mountain Loop. A Zoom review meeting was held on June 18th to discuss the results, and suggestions for improvements in the survey gathered. Tom and Fred provided inputs for Granite Falls.

f. - Boyd Lake - On June 12, we received a request for the history of the property at the south end of Boyd Lake. The requestor was happy with what we could provide, and we learned a little of the history surrounding the Bayh family at the same time. That was interesting, because the Mary newsletter had information on Mary Bayh, an early Granite Falls educator, and on the memorial scholarship in her name.

g. - Darrington Historical Society - On June 13, GFHS received a request from the Darrington Historical Society to potentially host an audio file on our web site (since they do not have one), that would allow them to present a recording of some early Darrington history. At the same time, we broached the idea of creating an online map much like the one we did for the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society, which would show significant items from the book on an easily-viewable map. No final word yet.

h. - Kinsey desk - Also on June 13, GFHS received an offer of an old roll-top desk that once belonged to photographer Darius Kinsey (and later to Arlington photographer John Boyd Ellis, owner of the Ellis Post Card Company). It's a beautiful desk, now sitting disassembled from its move, in the new City Hall until we can find a permanent place for it following our expansion.

i. - Everett Public Library videos - On June 18, the Everett Public Library released the second of three videos they asked Fred to make on “some heritage/historical subject”. This video covers the online map showing “Snohomish County - First 100 Years”. You can access the video here or you can just go to the museum maps page and select homesteads and maps from the first 100 years of the county.

j. - Nuhs School - On June 23, we received another inquiry about old schools, this time on how the old Nuhsie School came to be called School 83. Anyone want to guess? We do have a document detailing the history of each school district in the county, and it has been priceless for some of the research efforts we’ve been asked to complete.

k. - Old Yearbooks - During the month, GFHS has provided several sets of printed yearbook materials to folks looking for information on specific past students.

6. Visitors, helpers, online access for June: Helpers in any way for the Historical Society in June include these people: Tom Bergan, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Dennis Henshaw, Bob and Robin Ingraham, Regina Jones, Ted Peddycord, Tim Quillen, John Scherrer, and Tom Thorleifson. We have also hosted two sets of visitors who scheduled private visits to the museum on different days, and four sets of walk-in visitors that just happened to show up when someone was there to open the facility. All masking and social separation was appropriately observed.

Our online presence serves to keep us visible to many folks, with over 240 visitors since the beginning of June, from 6 international locations, 39 locations across Washington State, and 24 US locations outside of Washington. Our 2020 online visitors are at a pace to outnumber our highest annual in-house visitors from previous years!

7. July calendar

Sundays in July - The museum building is closed until Phase 3 begins in Snohomish County. You can always email, leave a voicemail, or visit us online (website or on Facebook).

All month - Practice good health all the time!

7/1 Wednesday - Canada Day (1867)
7/4 Saturday - Independence Day! (244 years!)
7/7 Tuesday - World Chocolate Day
7/14 Tuesday - Bastille Day (France)
7/19 Sunday - National Ice Cream Day
7/22 Sunday - National Hot Dog Day
7/27 Monday - July meeting (Zoom or at GenCare) 7pm
8/3 Monday - Museum summer work party (tentative)

8. Independence Day, 1891 - These excerpts are taken from On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, by Monika Teuscher-Schramm). This book is based on 39 years of meticulous diaries from the late 1880s written by Richard Roesiger, Monika’s grand uncle and homesteader on Lake Roesiger. First, from a letter Richard wrote to his parents in Germany, dated June 18, 1891, from Ortrand, WA (his post office at Lake Roesiger), translated into English by the author:

"...The next 4th of July, the biggest national festival in the USA, will be celebrated here in our settlement. Someone requested that I give the oration. Since most of the settlers in the region are born Americans, it's a big honor for me (a German). It proves that I'm a citizen and patriot and that I'm very far away from imperial and royal ideas.
"...The 4th of July is, namely, the birthday of the largest republic on this earth, for on July 4th, 1776 the settlers of the 13 colonies declared their independence from King George of England. The struggle for freedom followed, the English were trounced, and the Republic of the United States of America was founded...

"...I have a good home, good land, from which I can build everything on, I'm independent, have a school and post office on my land. I'm an orator, postmaster, and the devil knows what. Have good prospects and the goodwill of the settlers."

Explanations by the author, Monika: “Concerning the mentioned 4th of July party, Richard writes in his journal that there's going to be a picnic and he'll give a speech. In the local paper there's an article about the coming festival on the waterfront where Lake Roesiger is mentioned for the first time in an official publication.

"As appointee of the Common Sense Club Richard inspects the festival grounds at the end of June. He has a stage for music and dancing built and tables and benches arranged. He even has swings built for the kids. He buys a dozen U.S. flags for 50 cents. Primarily, he concerns himself with preparing his patriotic speech."

Fourth of July, 1891. Independence Day.

From Richard's diary: "Chas E. Kittleson's shooting 4 a.m. woke me up. I jumped out, grabbed my Winchester & revolver, and fired a volley of 19 shots. Chas E. Kittleson wouldn't stop - so I reloaded twice and fired 25 shots more. Jingo! Legte mich wieder in den Kahn and schlief bis 9 a.m. (Lay down again in the barge/tub [bed] and slept until 9 a.m.), shaved, dressed. Winchesters spike all over - - I couldn't keep quiet and fired 3 rounds = 33 shots out of my carabine. A Total of 77 shots. Holy smoke!"

Monika: “That's Richard Roesiger's commentary to the 'fireworks show' on Independence Day. It's the same kind of enthusiasm he showed for New Year just six months ago. Then he shot off a round, and to outdo CH who was also firing in acknowledgement, RR reloaded and shot into the air some more.

"Here are Richard's descriptions about the goings-on of the day's celebrations."

"I went back from the Postoffice to the picnic ground - they were dancing - over 100 people were there - all the young ladies from the Pillchuck, Woods Creek etc. Had free lunch, free lemonade etc, 2 swings etc. I was forced to make a speech and the first one on a long programme: Oration of the Union, reading of the Declaration of Independence, national hymn ("America"), Display of the Red, White & Blue of the Stars & Stripes - our national colors. sign of patriotism...; Da war Zug in der Kolonne (There was a surge in the gang. [Meaning the settlers were really into the celebrations]).

"Had a boat race for a pie - I between myself, Wm. Gehrke & M G Kittleson. We were all sweating. Wm Gehrke got the pie - I came out second and M G Kittleson last. We ate the pie in company and had great fun..."

***************

remembering history  making history  shaping the future

Black Lives Matter March
Granite Falls, Washington
Granite Falls High School to Granite Falls City Hall
June 7, 2020

Granite Falls Historical Society
June 2020 Newsletter