Granite Falls Historical Society
March 2020 Newsletter

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!”

March 31, 2020

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<th>The Granite Falls Museum will be closed through the month of April.</th>
<th>Visit us online! <a href="http://www.GFhistory.org">www.GFhistory.org</a></th>
<th>Like us on Facebook! Granite Falls Historical Museum</th>
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1. Museum closure - The museum's last open day was on Sunday, March 8. The following Sundays were the first time the museum was not staffed on a Sunday afternoon since the new building was opened in 2007 for Railroad & Reunion Days (and since records of this sort were recorded). At the Granite Falls Historical Society's March meeting held online on March 29, it was unanimously approved to keep your local museum closed through the month of April. You can still visit us online, follow us on Facebook, leave a voicemail, or send an email. Even though the doors to the museum remain closed for health reasons, the museum still has a presence while docents remain quarantined at home.

2. Business as normal almost normal - At the beginning of the month, Vice-President John Scherrer did yeoman duty in delivering and spreading about 25 cubic yards of nice clean fill to make sure the recently demolished area of the Sharp House. A member of the City crew (who happens to be an avid woodworker, as well) removed the lumber that had been salvaged from the house, saving us the problems associated with transportation to a reclamation site. Thanks again, John, and also to your two helpers, Ron and Fred. For more information see newsletters January item #18, and February #6. Painting weather is almost here!

3. "New" pictures and crucifix from Monte Cristo - On March 2 Robert Marshall of Anacortes contacted GFHS to offer a small crucifix that his brother Arthur found during the summer of 1974 in Monte Cristo. Arthur was logging cedar trees at the time and noticed something shiny in the middle of the South Fork of the Sauk River. He reached down and picked it up, revealing to him that it was a crucifix. Arthur continued to explore the ruins around Monte and recovered other artifacts (whiskey bottles, tobacco tins, crosscut saws, etc) with only the crucifix left today. Arthur put it on a piece of cedar shingle and presented it to his mother. He died 10 years later in 1984, but their mom proudly hung it on a wall in her home until 2017. Robert brought the crucifix to the museum on March 8 (our last open Sunday before the
coronavirus closure) along with the history of its discovery. Later in the month GFHS received a number of interesting "new" Monte Cristo pictures from Gordon Day. Some we already had, while others we had not seen before and were new to our collection. One image shows this man with two boys, labelled "Dad", "Joe", and "Dan", with Joe identified as Joe Cook. The picture was taken in 1902. Notice the man and woman in the lower left background. This image and the others from Gordon will be accessed into our collection as soon as we can, and will then be available online for you to see.

4. Prepping for the 5th grade - On March 3, the finishing details were scheduled for Stephanie Jones's 5th-grade classroom visit to the Museum on March 12. Needless to say, that event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. A later visit is anticipated, including a tour of the museum, the town's historical sites, and hopefully a visit to the fire station.

5. Archive-in-a-Box nominated for the Malstrom Award - Also on March 3 we received an inquiry about submitting the Archive-In-a-Box (AIB) activity as a nominee for the Malstrom Award. That was done, making a total of four nominations, but the Malstrom event was cancelled before its March 14 date. The Malstrom judge, Michelle Sadlier, will make her choices known when the meeting is rescheduled.

6. Big Four makes headlines - On March 4 we received a request from Philip O'Connor of the Everett Herald for some historical information and pictures of Big Four for an upcoming article. The article with pictures was published in the Herald on March 7.

7. Johnson-Dean logging inquiries - Also on March 4 we received a request from documentary photographer John Tylczak for information on the logging companies active along Menzel Lake Rd in the early 1900s. Tom and Fred provided some detailed info along with guidance on how to use our maps of the area. John came out to the area from Tacoma to explore on his own, then contacted the Museum. On March 15 we received another inquiry from John, this time regarding some details around Sand Hill and the Johnson-Dean logging company.

8. 2020 Northwest Genealogy Conference - On March 6 GFHS officially signed up as vendors at the 2020 Northwest Genealogical Conference hosted by the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society in Arlington. The SVGS sent word on March 16 that they would be closed until further notice. Their website, however, indicates that they are still planning and accepting registrations for the conference.

9. Historical images displayed in City Hall lobby - The City of Granite Falls and the Museum worked together to finalize a project in the new City Hall entryway. Historical photos were displayed in the lobby which depict the logging, railroading, and mining history of the area. Stop by City Hall during their business hours for a free look! Charles White, the Public Works Director, did all the work! We strove for an "industrial look" for the mounting system . . . and it came out fairly well. If you want to know more about one of the nine pictures, a short audio description for each will be found on the web. A visitor in the Civic Center lobby can simply point his/her phone at a QR code on the wall and get information on what each image shows! Unfortunately you will have to wait until it's safe to go out and about, but in the meantime, you can search our collection online by going to our research page found here: http://www.GFhistory.org/Research.html
10. FatCow - On March 8 we received notice from FatCow (home of "Udderly Fantastic Web Hosting") that our three-year website hosting fee is due in April for a total of $466.60. That might sound expensive, but it pays for the massive amounts of storage and visibility we gain through the site. It’s probably the most effective expense we have, since we are able to share so much of our data openly with the public.

11. Granite to Barlow Pass USFS Mtn Loop study - On March 10 the “cadre” assembled by the USFS met by phone to discuss the planned effort to improve the Mountain Loop Scenic Highway between Granite Falls and Barlow Pass. The focus was on “What questions do we want answered by the public in any public engagements?” and “How do we ask those questions?” There were many good suggestions regarding various areas of information, but surprisingly few examples of how to ask open-ended questions without biasing the results. Monthly meetings have been scheduled.

12. AIB article about Granite Falls Museum - On March 13 we received advance copies of a nice article written by the Archive-in-a-Box (AIB) folks, but featuring the results garnered by GFHS using the AIB system. The article was published to their email list on March 23. You can read the article at the end of this newsletter. For some background information, check out the February newsletter item 15.

13. Community Foundation of Snohomish County - In mid-March we received a request from Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) to submit any information we had on cancelled fundraising events, impacts on our non-profit organization, etc. While we will certainly feel the impact of loss of foot traffic in the museum, nothing was submitted to CFSC that would quantify that. CFSC is coordinating with other institutions in the county to help with the crisis caused by COVID-19. We later received an email from them on March 26 saying that the displays we currently have at CFSC in their windows in downtown Everett will stay in place until the “social distancing” requirement subsides. The good news is that we are getting extra display time . . . the bad news is that there isn’t much foot traffic. CSFC is located in downtown Everett at 2823 Rockefeller Avenue.

14. Blueprints for the expansion project - On March 23 we received a bid from Marty Reimers (architect of our main museum building from 2006-2007) to complete blueprints for the actual expansion construction. Those blueprints are needed to get construction bids and plan final expenses.

15. Granite welcome sign re-installed - On March 24 Chris Green and his crew from Priceless Granite re-erected the big granite sign in the roundabout entrance into town. They had to replace some of the granite and re-letter a portion, but it looks fine from the street, once again. The original design came from the Granite Falls Historical Society and one of our student interns. You can find out more in the February newsletter item #1.

16. Adapting: GFHS met online - Also on March 24 GFHS made a move to schedule its first online meeting! Because of the COVID-19 we avoided a face-to-face meeting and instead used our computers, smart phones, or regular phones on Monday for our normal monthly Board/General meeting. We figured it was worth a try! We had a quorum, enjoyed seeing each other, and were able to conduct some important and timely business. It was a great success, and we are already looking forward to the April online meeting.

17. OnCell support - On March 27 OnCell contacted us to say they have enabled new functionality for virtual tours and would like to suggest some ideas for updating the Museum tour. It hasn’t been updated for a couple years, other than to be brought into their new tool set (which actually makes it kind of clunky to use). We met online with them on March 30 to discuss some ideas that would make it attractive for the “virtual tours” for students/classes. They shared quite a few interesting possibilities in the 45+ minute meeting.

18. Catalogit - maybe improving GFHS data handling - We are scheduled for a meeting with the folks from Catalogit (advertised as a modern replacement for PastPerfect) on Wednesday April 1. This was mentioned last month at item #12 in February’s newsletter.

19. Visitors, docents, and helpers in March - Many thanks to our docents and helpers this month. Even though there were five Sundays in March, we were only open for the first two...
Sundays, closing for the final 3 regularly-scheduled openings because of COVID-19. Despite that, we still had the following volunteers: Tom Bergan, Ed and Thora Boede, Scott Bower, Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Bob and Robin Ingram, Ted Peddycord, Jamie and Annie Ross, John Scherrer, and Tom Thorelson. Despite the museum closure for most of the month, we still had 38 people at the museum from these nine places: Anacortes, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood, Snohomish, Oak Harbor, Lake Forest Park, and Mount Vernon. However, our online presence had 226 total visits from 32 places around the state, from 30 places in 19 different states, and from 4 countries (Brazil, Finland, France, Italy). Across the street or around the world, you can always visit us online.

20. April calendar
Sundays in April - The museum building will be closed through April. You can always email or leave a voicemail.
4/12 Sunday - Easter Sunday
Practice good health habits all month, all the time.
4/27 Monday - 7PM Historical Society online meeting

21. "Two Against One"
written by Fred Moore and submitted in 2005

It wasn't until my seventieth year that the realization came to me that when I was a small child, probably when I was seven years old and thus too young to spot the wiles of women, I was the innocent tool in an uneven match of two against one. The two were Granny and Mother. Grandpa Joe Moore was the mere male.

I did know that I had been used by my mother but I thought she was going one against one to score a victory over her father-in-law for Granny. I had a reason for believing that to be a match between two wills, Mother's and Grandpa's. After all Mother took great relish in later years in recalling how she had scored a couple of victories for Granny.

It wasn't until a conversation with cousin Vivian Robe that I realized that Granny had to be in on the conspiracy and, no doubt, was the instigator of the plot against Grandpa, who wanted what she called necessities and what Grandpa regarded as luxuries. What was good enough for Grandpa's mother was good enough for his wife.

When I revealed my innocent role in the devious undertaking Vivian brought me to my senses. "Fred, you certainly know that Granny was not afraid to speak for herself. Gosh, Granny had the sharpest tongue in Granite Falls. If she wanted anything she wouldn't be afraid to ask for it."

I shouldn't have needed Vivian to set me straight, not having seen, - - heard is the right word - - Granny in action. She was the town's recognized champ in shooting from the lip and she never feared to fire. Her pungent pronouncements had a wider town circulation than the weekly Granite Falls Post of which Grandpa Joe and Frank Niles were co-founders shortly after the turn of the Twentieth Century. Grandpa Joe lost interest in the paper and sold his share. He never took an active part in putting out the Post, being content to devote his time to running the store, assisted by Roy, my father, who moonlighted as a lawyer whenever he felt so inclined. Father wasn't inclined to do much of anything.

The Post managed to hold on for a number of years, probably 15 years after Grandpa sold his partnership but it didn't enjoy the readership of the Granite Falls column which appeared in the Herald's social page. And what both papers feared to print was aired by Granny, sometimes in over-the-fence communications, but more often over the telephone.

For a time the town was served by two telephone companies, Puget Sound Telephone Company and Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. After all these years I can't recall which company pulled out, but it wasn't the one which carried Granny's newscasts.

Technological progress in time put Granny out of business but it was great while it lasted. The old crank-operated telephone provided an intimacy lacking from life today. In Granny's day anybody's business was everybody's business.

As my mind drops back into my childhood years I hear and see Granny hush up the rest of us at the dinner table as the telephone rings out two shorts, a long and a short. "My goodness! Why would anyone ring Maggie Griffith at this hour? Let the poor woman get a chance to down a hot meal! Maggie must be all worn out what with sewing all day."

Mattie was the town's dressmaker. It was probably some woman phoning in for a fitting. Granny got up to see. It can be said without contradiction that Granny would not be the only one to listen in on the conversation, and before the call was completed Granny, and others, would enter the discussion. "Didja hear that the new school teacher is being sparked by that _____?" Even after all these years the writer can't bring himself to reveal the names aired fearlessly, and recklessly, by Granny, who made it perfectly clear that she disapproved. "Someone should tell the poor girl that the lout she's going with is a lazy, good-for-nothing who spends every day at Miller's saloon."

Some how the "poor girl" got the message.

There were times when the small fry were puzzled by what they heard. Like little cousin Keith Boring. He would pursue the matter the next day.

That was when Ed Willoughby strolled from out the door of his hardware store to chat with the town's male oldsters sitting on the bench in front of the store as they whittled aimlessly long enough to create a fire hazard with the pile of shavings on the plank sidewalk.

While the men talked - - women would call it "gossiping" - - little Keith move from side to side, staring at Willoughby from all angles until the hardware dealer, perturbed by the close scrutiny he was undergoing, demanded of Keith, "What is it, Boy?"

"Granny," explained Keith, "says you ain't got long to live."

Granny had been discussing Willoughby's coming marriage with the widow of Beatty Gallagher, his former partner. He had been one of six husbands of the recently bereaved Rene Gallagher. She had bad luck with husbands. All six died.

From that day on Granny continued to be the most quoted of Granite's eight hundred inhabitants.

Certainly it would not be in character for the fastest and brashest tongue of the town to be afraid to ask Grandpa Joe to provide modern conveniences, such as an electric washer and vacuum cleaner. It seemed Grandpa figured the washer with a stick which created a fire hazard with the pile of shavings on the plank sidewalk.

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small grandson lugging the big basket. Why else would an electric washer arrive unheralded at the residence of Joseph and Catherine Moore?

A week later Granny enjoyed another expected surprise. That was three days since a small boy passed in front of the store, lugging a vacuum cleaner to grandmother’s house. Not one word on the subject from Grandpa Joe to admit he had been defeated by two conniving women.

Attention PastPerfect™ Customers:

New app lets you open online free

GFHS uses "ArchiveInABox" to make our entire collection accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime!

Pictures . . . . . . (5000+ of the Granite Falls region)
Documents . . . . . . (2000+ of Granite Falls region)
History Texts . . . . . . . (State, County, and Local)
High School Yearbooks . . . . . . . (1919 and newer)
Local Newspapers . . . . . . . . . . . (1922-1970s)
Local History Articles . . . . . . . (dozens of local topics)

Particularly at times like this, it’s important to the museum that people be able to research historic collections from the convenience of their homes.

“We created the PerfectXport app to help museums maximize their PastPerfect experience which allows users to export databases and images for complementary purposes such as online publishing,” explains ArchiveInABox founder Paul Jeffko.

The app creates a backup of all indexes and content -- including images -- in a CSV spreadsheet which can be used to publish in other database applications like ArchiveInABox, which creates a visually appealing way for people to explore archive collections online.

"AIB includes OCR which facilitates searching items by their content rather than merely by their description,” Cruger noted. "And that is a giant leap forward in information accessibility."

The powerful combination of PastPerfect and ArchiveInABox is making it possible for people to search and discover content online in your virtual museum where you can continue to safely engage your community at a distance.

Historical stakeholders are invited to contact ArchiveInABox to learn more about how PerfectXport can help achieve your museum's publishing goals.

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Export content and images for undiscovered publishing freedom

Even before the northwest became one of America's epicenters of Covid-19, Fred Cruger at the Granite Falls Historical Museum just outside of Seattle wanted his community history to be accessible, its stories to be discoverable, and the community to be engaged. To that end, the historical society invested in the PastPerfect™ museum software to help catalog collections and manage donor and member relationships.

"PastPerfect has been an invaluable tool in helping us organize our historical collections but we have discovered a challenge when it comes to extracting information," notes Cruger. "We wouldn't abandon what we have with PastPerfect but have discovered an increasing need to export data, including images, in spreadsheets for various purposes."

The museum selected ArchiveInABox to digitize its newspaper archive collection and was delighted to discover that the company also has an application that 'perfectly' complements PastPerfect and creates an opportunity for them to make their digital artifacts even more accessible to the public online.

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