The Granite Falls Museum will remain closed through June until restrictions are eased.

Visit us online!  [http://www.GFhistory.org](http://www.GFhistory.org)  
Check out previous newsletters here:  [http://www.GFhistory.org/Newsletters.html](http://www.GFhistory.org/Newsletters.html)

1. Research, getting info, sharing, and such
2. Scholarships 2020
3. Expansion project update
4. Mountain Loop App getting noticed
5. Taking care of business
6. Historic Preservation Commission
7. A new face at the Forest Service
8. June calendar
9. Visitors, helpers, online access for May
10. Mary Bayh

---

1. Research, getting info, sharing, and such - With the Museum closed for the entire month of May, we still keep busy with a variety of things. We are happy to assist others with research, eager to get new information, continue to keep our online access available for sharing, and everything else in between. The items below are most, but not all, of the pleasant encounters we have had during May:

   a. **What is it?** Throughout the month, GFHS has offered items from the museum on a “What is it?” basis on the [Granite Falls Discussion Page](http://www.GFhistory.org) on Facebook. Participation has been pretty good, but we’re running out of items that are easily photographed and presented. We have also been involved in answering a number of questions regarding “Where was it?” that arose on a few different Facebook group pages. Answers to the April “What is it?” images (you will have to match the answers): shoemaker/repair, lubricant bottle for crosscut saws, Morse Code training device, rail-road soundproof telephone booth (ca 1894). The first three items are located in the museum, while the Brownell Soundproof Telephone Booth is located in the new City Hall entry.

   b. **Bogardus** - On May 4th, we provided background information on “Bogardus” to an online patron. This was a listed stop on the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway schedule between Hartford and Monte Cristo, located between Robe and Gold Basin. Mileages and the maps don't quite match up, but it appears as if Bogardus was about ¼ mile downstream from where the current Blue Bridge is now located.

   While researching this, extra information was provided by David Cameron regarding the naming of “22 Creek”. Any guesses how it got it’s name? Answers free online anytime, or you can wait until the June newsletter.

   c. **Campbell Robe home** - On May 11th, we received a request for the history of the house at 3710 Robe Menzel Road. A little research showed that property once belonged to Campbell Robe (a well-know Granite Falls personality). The current owner was pleased with what we could provide.

   d. **Pilchuck Valley Reflections** - On May 9th, we received a package of information and pictures from author Dorothy Schroeder. She wrote Pilchuck Valley Reflections, which chronicled two pioneer families -- the Frederick Gemmer family and the Thomas family. These two families came to the Pilchuck Valley in Snohomish County when Washington State was still a territory. They cleared the timber from the land, raised their families there, and in the process they left for us a rich heritage. Dorothy's packet included great pictures of Machias, along with detailed historical data on the area. She also mailed us a copy of her book, which details the history of her family, Machias, and the Monroe Logging Company.

   e. **Videos to EPL** - Also on May 15th, the [Everett Public Library](http://www.eppl.org) released the first of three videos they asked Fred to make on “some heritage/historical subject”. This first video covers the online map of the current Snohomish County Historic Register, and the buildings surveyed to-date for their eligibility. You can view the video [here](http://www.eppl.org).

   f. **OnCell**, our go-to tourism app that we use ([Mtn Loop Tour, Snohomish County Museum Guide, Granite Falls Museum Tour, etc](http://www.eppl.org)) started weekly online meetings to share their new updated system. The updates will start soon and will expand the capabilities of their app while they make it easier for us to produce useful interactive information for the public.

---

Granite Falls Historical Society
May 2020 Newsletter
g. CFSC webinars - On May 15th, GFHS received an invitation from Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) to a number of free webinars they are providing in June. The webinar subjects include:
1) Reimagining Your Fundraising: Navigating the Challenges Presented by Coronavirus, and
2) Nonprofit Financial Strategy in Response to Crisis.
They also arranged for organizations like ours to participate for free in three workshops by Washington Nonprofits. The workshop subjects include:
1) Understanding the Nonprofit Lifecycle – A Key to Delivering on Your Mission  Tuesdays, June 2 - 16, noon to 1:30 PM,
2) Ask, Thank, Report, Repeat  Thursday, June 25, 9:00 -11:00 AM
3) Strategic Planning in Nonprofits  Thursday, June 15, noon - 3:00 PM.

h. Moss/grass - The warmer temperatures, rain, and sun have made a great early growing season. The moss and grass and weeds at the Museum have done well, but they have been beaten into submission along the way by our volunteers before they get unbearable. The planted area was actually weed-free . . . for about 24 hours. Then it started to rain (again)! And, as you all know, the cycle repeats! The weed fairy reportedly now has a sore back.

2. Scholarships 2020 - On May 5th, Tom picked up the scholarship applications at the school and distributed them to Bob, Regina, and Fred. We ended up with a total of 27 applicants to evaluate, choosing two of them for museum-sponsored scholarships. Then May 14th, the committee met online to discuss and rank-order the candidates. The process went quickly, and two very deserving students were chosen to each receive a $2000 award. Thanks to that team for a job well-done, and particularly to Tom for leading and coordinating the effort with the school district!

Because the schools and in-person gatherings are closed, no “in-building” Awards Night could be scheduled. The high school staff did an absolutely amazing job arranging for the Awards Night as an online presentation. Ron and Tom were invited to be videotaped at the high school for that online event. While that often is an error-prone repetitive search for perfection, everyone there agreed Ron won the title of the “One-Take Wonder!” The scholarship award video was premiered on May 28th at 6PM. It can still be viewed by going to this link: https://youtu.be/8ih6EvJYJqA. Fred and Tom created the appropriate award certificates, which were delivered by Ron and Tom to George FitzGerald ($2,000 Granite Falls Historical Society Scholarship) on Thursday evening, and to Cosette Kroeze ($2,000 Mary Bayh Memorial Scholarship) on Friday afternoon. Congratulations to both!

3. Expansion project update - On May 6th, GFHS received an inquiry from Dean VanOverbeke, the general contractor used on the main building in 2006-2007. He’s interested in bidding on our expansion, if we move forward. Then on May 22nd, we received drawings from Martin Reimers, the architect who has been working on the expansion design. Once we approve what he has done, the drawings will go to the engineer for detailed design and blueprints. Approval came at the online Zoom board/general meeting Monday, May 25. We had discussions on attic storage, outside
access routes to include maybe stairs and/or a ramp, and overall grade transitions from the new building to Wabash.

4. Mountain Loop App getting noticed - On May 7th, the weekly Snohomish County Tourism electronic update spoke well of us: "On the Seattle NorthCountry destination Facebook page, our most-shared post was an invitation to use the Mountain Loop Highway app. Produced with Snohomish County Lodging Taxes in partnership with the Granite Falls Historical Museum, this downloadable mobile app can also be used in a computer browser. While at home, the app allows users to virtually explore the Mountain Loop through photos and historical information about attractions. When it's time for non-essential travel, the downloadable app offers a self-guided tour of the historic, scenic, and mountainous byway for drivers who will range out of cell service during the journey."

5. Taking care of business - Finally, on May 15th, our Form 990EZ was filed with the IRS, covering the details of 2019. Our total asset change for the year was $22,741, 99% of which was investment gain in the Endowment Fund. Not very exciting, but so very necessary for all non-profits to do.

6. Historic Preservation Commission - Also on May 19th, Tom and Fred attended the May meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. The Zoom meeting addressed the status of grant funding for 2020 (delayed by the COVID crisis, but expected to complete) and the status of the SnoCo Historic Register. It was decided to enlist the help of LOSCHO to advertise what has been done to-date (i.e. survey of 207 homes and civic buildings) and to enlist the participation of the various property owners. Tom, as president of LOSCHO, sent out letters and information to all LOSCHO members on May 21st.

7. A new face at the Forest Service - On May 22nd, we received word from Anniqe Bennett at Snohomish County Parks, Rec, & Tourism of a change: "I wanted to introduce you to a new face at Forest Service! Dan Kipervaser is stepping in for Tracey O'Toole, and is the Shared Stewardship Coordinator. Tracey was Communications and Public Engagement but things are changing and now Dan is our contact." It’s always good to be kept in the loop about personnel changes with the local US Forest Service.

8. June calendar
Sundays in June - The museum building is closed until restrictions are relaxed. You can always email, leave a voicemail, or visit us online (website or Facebook).
All month - Practice good health all the time!
6/6 Saturday - D-Day (1944)
6/7 Sunday - National Chocolate Ice Cream Day
6/14 Sunday - Flag Day
6/21 Sunday - Father's Day
6/29 Monday - June meeting (Zoom or at GenCare) 7pm

9. Visitors, helpers, online access for May
a. Helpers: Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Bob Ingraham, Robin Ingraham, Regina Jones, Scott Bower, Marcia Day, and Tom Thorlefson. Thanks to these (and others) who keep the museum looking good and ready to host the public inside the building again.
b. Building visitors: none (last year in May we had 70)
c. Online visitors: We had 237 visitors from all over! We always wonder how they found our site and what they were researching. Snohomish County visitors totaled 78, with 102 more from around the state. Nationally there were 43 people from 31 places in 19 other states, and there were 14 visitors from 6 different countries (Algeria, China, France, India, Netherlands, and Switzerland) on 3 other continents.

10. Mary H. (Watson) Bayh - This background information about the Mary Bayh Memorial Scholarship is to remember Mary and the life that she led. Because Mary Bayh (pronounced “by”) was so successful and well-liked in the teaching profession, preference is given for a student preparing for a career in the field of education. Main sources of information include the collection of Granite Falls
yearbooks and the historical area maps found online on the Granite Falls Museum "Research" page, an interview with Norma Scherrer Anderson (classmate of Mary’s daughters Ruth and Billie), other anecdotal notes, and her obituary published by the Everett Herald.

100 years ago, Mary was a freshman at Granite Falls High School.

Mary Harriett (Watson) Bayh
Granite Falls High School Class of 1923
b. October 9, 1906  Fowler, CO
d. March 31, 2004  Bellevue, WA

Mary was the oldest child born to Thomas and Mabel Watson. The family moved from Colorado to Granite Falls in 1913, the year Mary turned 7 years old. The 1923 Pilchuck, the Granite Falls High School yearbook, shared this information about Mary:

"Mary Watson first saw the light of day in the sunny state of Colorado. She came to this place in 1913, and in 1919 entered the class with the other freshmen. She brought quite a lot of sunshine with her, and since that time has been dispensing it among her acquaintances. Mary is an honor student."

Mary graduated at the age of 16 at the top of her class.

Since school starts in August or September, Mary was still 13 years old when she began high school as a freshman. Further reading in that same yearbook tells us more about her achievements while enrolled at Granite Falls High School:

"She is not afraid to give others the benefit of her own hard work."
"Vice President Student Body (4)  Secretary Student Body (4)
Editor-in-Chief Annual (4)  President Glee Club (4)
Class Reporter (4)  Librarian (4)
Class Play (4)  Class Secretary (3)
Operetta (2) (3) (4)  Salutatorian"

The 1923 yearbook under "Class Prophecies" predicted this about Mary:

"Then we go to the middle states and find Mary, our quiet, shy, demure, little Mary, directing a class in home economics in the town of Buckhannon, West Virginia. She has become a famous cook but prefers to remain in a small town, and to live her life in peace and contentment."

Since we see her accomplishments listed in high school and know that she was editor of the annual, one can imagine how a "quiet, shy, demure" person was able to do what she did in school and her life afterwards - - including her long teaching career and even longer life in retirement.

Because of her late birthday and early start to high school, Mary was still 16 years old when she graduated at the top of her class as Salutatorian. The graduating class in 1923 had 10 students, even though 20 students started as freshman.

She earned her teaching certificate at 18 and began teaching that year.

In the 1924 Pilchuck the following year, Mary was noted as a student of "Bellingham State Normal" school, which later became Western Washington State College, then Western Washington University. She always loved teaching children, and her long career began in 1924 after receiving her teaching certificate at the age of 18. Her first work was at the Lake Roesiger School just south of Granite Falls. She transferred to Granite Falls, then Langley, and finally finished with 21 more years in the Shoreline School District. She earned more certificates and a master’s degree while teaching.

Mary was married before her 21st birthday and first lived in town.

Along the way she met Wilfred (Bill) Bayh while working at Canyon Creek Lodge, just east a few miles from Granite Falls toward Verlot. They dated and were married on March 18, 1927. They built their first home in Granite Falls on East Pioneer street just a couple of blocks from the current "The Father's House Church" (formerly Konnerups and The International Order of Odd Fellows). Their two daughters, Ruth and Billie, spent their early years at that house, and also attended Granite Falls High School (Ruth, Class of 1948, and Billie, Class of 1949). They later moved to a house on some property along the Menzel Lake Road south of present day Boyd Lake.

In 1954 after their daughters were finished with school and Mary was nearing the end of her career, she and Bill moved to Seattle where they enjoyed their hillside Ballard home. In retirement Mary maintained her affiliations in several professional organizations.

More decades were busily spent in retirement than while working.

In retirement, Mary had many years to enjoy extensive travel, gardening, sewing, reading, playing bridge and meeting with her bible study group. She particularly enjoyed her church activity as deaconess, ordained elder, Sunday School superintendent, president of the Dorcas Society and as a teacher in her "Circle Group" at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle. At home, she always had a card game or word game ready to be played or a jigsaw puzzle in some stage of completion.

Mary always trusted in the Lord for strength and guidance each and every day, was thoughtful, kind, helpful to others and tried to live as Christ would have her live.

The class of 2020 were toddlers when Mary's long life ended at 97 years.

When Mary passed away in 2004 her family established this scholarship. Through their efforts Mary would continue to help people, and she would be remembered for the impact her life had on so many. Instrumental in this are her two daughters, Ruth Brenner and husband Donald, and Wilfreda "Billie" Bayh of Bellevue; her two stepsons Karl Bayh of Seattle and Gibson Bayh of San Francisco; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and four great-great-grand-babies, nieces, nephews and friends (and probably many more family members by now). Mary's husband and granddaughter Dawn preceeded Mary in 1966. Mary's interment is at the American Legion Cemetery, Granite Falls, WA.