



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!"

November 2021 Newsletter



November 30, 2021

**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. Gravy Falls
2. Distinguished Service Award (A-I)
3. Museum expansion progress (A-I)
4. Researching and sharing info (A-N)
5. Collecting and preserving (A-D)
6. Taking care of business (A-C)
7. Granite Falls Bridge #102 replacement
8. Visitors
9. Docents/helpers/volunteers
10. December Calendar
11. Books on local history
12. Donating to the museum
13. "Fall", by Joe Beckett, GFHS Class of '77, part 3



continued to actively engage the community with various aspects of receiving, processing, and sharing historical information from our neck of the woods.

**2. Distinguished Service Award (A-I)** - Congratulations to **Ron Chew, Marcia Day, and John Scherrer**, the most current recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, for their service to the Granite Falls Historical Society over the last several years! The Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize those volunteers who have dedicated their time, energy, leadership, and ideas in a substantial manner during a significant length of time. Nominations are not competitive,



Distinguished Service Award Recipients  
L-R: **Marcia Day, Ron Chew, John Scherrer**

**1. Gravy Falls** - November started with "Gravy Falls" greeting people at the SR 92 roundabout, and ended with Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Shop Local Saturday, Cyber Monday, finishing up the final details to the expansion project, huge rain totals for the month, and getting ready for the Christmas and holiday season in December with a new greeting at the roundabout (images courtesy of the [Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce](#)). Even though in-person guests at the museum were small in number for November, they were very curious and appreciative visitors. Online contacts remain over 200 per month. The Granite Falls Museum



nor are they required on an annual basis. If someone is eligible, they are nominated with a narrative explaining why. The previous nominations for this award were four years ago



during the summer of 2017. At that time, **Norma Anderson, Thora Boede, and Tom Thorleifson** were added to the list consisting of **Fred & Penny Cruger, Bill & Carolyn Davisson, Eldon & Elsie Kirstein, Ted Peddycord, Bill Rawlins, Jerry Acton, Bob & Rosie Miller, and Dean Steinke**. Here are highlights about our current recipients:

**Marcia Day** has been a museum member for roughly eight years. She has served on the board during this time, including as vice president and president. **Marcia** is always there to decorate and take down decorations inside the museum for all occasions - Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and special dinners/events. She has worked diligently as the docent scheduler, keeping the calendar filled with volunteers for the Museum's Sunday openings. When there is a docent opening that cannot be staffed, **Marcia** graciously fills them herself. She shines a positive light on the museum, always showing a desire to serve all visitors in a kind, caring, and welcoming way.

**Ron Chew** has served on the Board as a member, vice president, and president. He has volunteered with museum activities such as Show 'n' Shine, Railroad Days, Halloween, and Christmas Tree Lighting. He has been involved in the upkeep of the museum by helping with mowing and other yard work and with structural work as well. **Ron** is involved with other clubs ([Alumni Foundation](#), [Tractor Club](#), [American Legion](#)) that have resulted in benefitting the museum by helping or coordinating with more events, such as the



Railroad Days Alumni Dinner, pulling the People Carrier with his antique farm tractor, helping with the [American Legion Cemetery](#) (especially for Veterans Day and Memorial Day), and with Christmas benefits. He is also a Granite Falls High School alumnus, Class of 1964. **Ron's** sense of humor, knowledge of Granite Falls history, willingness to help with any needed task, and his reliable service as a docent are definitely strong aspects of having him as part of the museum. **Ron** is a positive role model for the Board members, general members, and our visitors.

**John Scherrer** still lives on the 1895 homestead on the Menzel Lake Road just outside of Granite Falls where he continues to farm. He has a very good knowledge of Granite Falls history because of his family's long-established roots in the area. **John** and his wife **Barbara** and son **Ray** played important roles in the construction of the new museum building 14 years ago. He has quietly helped in various ways around the museum over the years. In addition to helping as a docent, **John** always helps at special events like Railroad Days, Halloween, and Christmas. He has hosted GFHS summer picnic and Christmas dinner at his homestead, and most recently donated fill dirt for the start of our museum addition. He has provided hay and straw bales for Halloween and Christmas, given tractor rides, and has helped with outdoor maintenance at the museum. **John** is a 1962 graduate of Granite Falls High School and was inducted into the Granite Falls Hall of Fame in 2018. He has been a museum member for at least 14 years. During that time, he was a Board member for five years, serving as vice president in 2016 and president in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In addition, **John** is also a 59-year member of the [Granville Grange](#) and has served as president of the [Granite Falls Alumni Association](#). Involvement and interest by **John** have made the museum a great place to volunteer or visit.

**2. Distinguished Service Award (A-I)** - The month of November saw the completion of so many tasks. The biggest thing - on November 18, **we passed final inspection** for the expansion! There are still many things left to do, but here is what has happened in November as we are preparing to fill the new space:

**2A. Sidewalk poured:** On November 2, the sidewalk and ramp were poured for the new addition. They came out looking well and will make it easy to take large items into the building.



**2B. Gutters installed:** On November 9 the gutters were installed by [Mark's Gutters](#) from Marysville, and they look great! No more sloppy mess on rainy days!



**2C. Final billing:** Also on November 9, we received our “final billing” from **Travis Van Overbeke** and promptly paid same.

**2D. Interior concrete floor stained, sealed, and waxed:** After some extensive preparation, the floors in the new extension were finished from November 11 to 14. The first staining was on the 11th, stained again on the 12th, sealed twice (13th, early and late), and waxed twice (14th, early and late). They looked pretty good, so we decided to push on.



**2E. Thermostat relocated:** On November 23, **Fred Cruger** and **Tom Thorleifson** started a thermostat “adventure”, attempting to re-wire the meeting room thermostat (which controls the furnace in the rear of the museum) and relocate it in the new expansion room. They were thwarted by a heavily-insulated interior wall, and had to disengage from the project until early on November 27, when a sewer snake and a coat-hanger crafted tool overcame the obstacle. The relocated climatic control was established. It was a pleasure to have a warm room the next day when the museum opened! Temperatures had been hovering in the low 60°s.

**2F. Getting furniture:** On November 27, it was decided to pursue the purchase of cabinets, files, tables, and shelves for the new addition. An order placed with [ULINE](#) will be shipped by truck from Lacey, WA. The items are scheduled for delivery on December 1. The new furniture should be sufficient for us to start moving our collection back into an organized form, although future storage items will likely be needed (most likely in the form of storage shelves). We will then start an orderly transfer of material.

**2G. Finishing the thermostat task:** On November 28, **Tom Thorleifson** patched the holes in the meeting room left by the

thermostat and screwed the thermostat to the wall at its new location in the expansion. Museum foot traffic that Sunday was light, but with interest and enthusiasm.

**2H. Baseboards installed:** From November 15 to 17, the baseboards in the small sink area and foyer were quickly fit and cut, but the single large baseboard piece in the main room (~85 feet long with 7 corners) took a little longer. Fred Cruger and Tom Thorleifson glued them in place in much less time, giving the room a much more “finished” look.



**2I. What's next?:** Kudos to contractor **Travis Van Overbeke** and his crews! Since the official groundbreaking on May 6 (see May 2021 newsletter), contractor **Travis Van Overbeke** and his crews have done an excellent job in making this project happen, despite increased material costs, labor shortages, supply-chain delays, weather problems, and a lack of support by Puget Sound Energy. [Van Overbeke Construction](#) is through and has been paid, so we are in the process of preparing the interior for our use to fulfill our purpose and mission (to locate, identify, preserve, protect, and interpret and share appropriate material to the greatest possible extent about the history of the Granite Falls region)

**4. Researching and sharing info (A-N) -** Fulfilling our mission and purpose during the month of November:

**4A. Lime Kiln Trail image:** On October 28 (after the October newsletter was being processed) we received a great picture from **Joe Brown** taken on [Lime Kiln Trail](#), hopefully to be used on one of the tourism banners being developed.

**4B. Little Pilchuck Creek:** On November 1, we received a request from a local resident on some early creek re-routing that might have occurred during construction of the Everett and Monte Cristo (E&MC) Railway. He praised our online mapping system, and we were able to provide a little additional information to help his investigation.

**4C. Family history research:** On November 2, we received a request from **Kim Lyon** in Arizona for help in doing some family research. Her ancestors included early Granite Falls names like **Hanson** and **Messner**. While she had great “family tree” information, she was hoping for items like “where they lived, and perhaps pictures”. Our maps provided some great detail, even how the original Hanson homesteader sold out then established the **Maples Farm** (which is now part of **Suncrest Farms** development) on the original Messner homestead. The original **Messner** homesteader (his father-in-law) downsized and moved into “downtown” Granite Falls on Pioneer Street . . . plus, we had some pictures!



**4D. Museum as training site:** On November 8, we received a request from [Technology and Employment Connections](#) in Marysville whether we might be a training site for someone interested in how museums use technology in their operation. **Fred Cruger** spoke to the representative and explained that it would be a few weeks before we would be ready to provide serious hands-on training, primarily because of our need to get the new addition furnished and set up, but that we'd be happy to help someone interested after that.

**4E. "Trailhead Ambassadors":** Also on November 8, we received an invitation from **Patrick Shannon**, Pacific Northwest and Alaska Director, [National Forest Foundation](#), to attend an educational session on the "[Trailhead Ambassadors](#)" program, where volunteers are stationed at really busy trailheads and provide information to hikers, direct them to other locations if the parking lot is full and be a presence to reduce car break-ins. He wanted to know if people have an interest in setting up a program like this at a couple locations on the Mountain Loop Highway. Fred attended the webinar, no decisions were made, but a number of regional folks asked questions and expressed interest.

**4F. Still working on Ben Lewis:** Finally on November 8, we asked again, and received word from **Bryan Bechler** that he's still hoping to hear from the Grand Masters of the [Grand Lodge of Washington](#) and the [Grand Lodge of Prince Hall](#) to ferret out any interest in joining us to recognize **Ben Lewis** with a grave marker at [Evergreen Cemetery](#). No further news has been received.

**4G. Mountain Loop Highway cadre meeting scheduled:** On November 9, we received an invitation from the Mountain Loop Highway cadre team sponsored by the [Washington Trails Association](#) (WTA) and the [U.S. Forest Service](#) (USFS) to gather on December 8 to discuss their plans focusing on the trails on the south side of The Mountain Loop Highway. The December 8 meeting will be online.

**4H. Everett & Monte Cristo Railway:** On November 10, we provided an article published by the E&MC Chief Engineer **S.B. Fisher** in October 1893 that detailed the building of the railway to several folks involved in researching some of the obscure details in the construction. There are four related articles in our website "[Back in the Day](#)" section and can be found here: [E&MC part 1](#), [E&MC Part 2](#), [E&MC part 3](#), and a little more at [Tunnel #1](#).

**4I. Quantified Ventures consultants:** Also on November 11, **Fred Cruger** and Granite Falls City Manager **Brent Kirk** met with representatives from [Quantified Ventures](#) (a USFS consultant) to discuss the second phase of their planning project for the enhancement of the Mountain Loop. They are moving forward, because the next phase of their work with the Mount Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF) on the Mountain Loop Highway was selected for funding by the [Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program](#) (IFNF). They are considering the "history" of The Loop as well as hiking, camping, etc.

**4J. Sauk-Suiattle Museum event:** On November 11, we got a note from **Slobodan Mitrovic** announcing an event on November 19 at the [Sauk-Suiattle Museum](#) in Darrington, featuring music and art of Pete Selvig. **Tom Thorleifson** sent an electronic notice to our [League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations](#) (LOSCHO) contacts.

**4K. County Historical Preservation Grants 2022:** Finally on November 16, **Fred Cruger** attended the November meeting of the [Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission](#) (HPC). The primary topic of discussion was the funds for the 2022 [HPC grants](#), for which applications will open November 29 and are due no later than 5:00 PM on January 17, 2022. The final decision was to again limit grants to \$15K maximum, with \$100K to be the expected amount available. This info was emailed to our **LOSCHO** contacts on November 29 by **Tom Thorleifson**.

**4L. Forest Stewardship:** On November 20, **Patty Smith** spent time at the museum learning to search our databases, looking for material on forest stewardship. The following Tuesday, we were able to send her some additional information extracted from the [Illustrated History of Snohomish County](#) by **David Cameron**.

**4M. Everett and Monte Cristo Railway:** On November 21, we obtained ten copies of the [Everett and Monte Cristo Railway](#) book from **Daryl Jacobsen**, one of the original three authors. Please remember these make excellent Christmas presents for anyone interested in the adventurous developments in the early days of Snohomish County. It covers not just railroad history, but also the complex set of financial driving factors.

**4N. Stanley Street and Jordan Road:** On November 22, **Fred Cruger** delivered a set of detailed historic maps (with explanations) as part of a legal declaration to the [City of Granite Falls](#) and the City Attorney, to support their efforts to straighten out ownership of land at the west end of town.

**5. Collecting and preserving (A-D) -** Also part of our purpose and mission, and for the month of November:

**5B. Local images:** On November 8, we received some interesting local images from **Larry Raisch** that could be used on the tourism banners.

**5C. Rosie Miller items:** On November 11, **Elaine Henske** contacted us to say she and her mom **Rosie Miller** would love to donate a few items to the museum and would be out to visit



the following Sunday. It was great to see **Rosie**, who due to the COVID restrictions, has not been able to do her regular monthly docent duties, and **Elaine**, who in recent years has done yeoman duty at the Halloween "donut dangle" event (cancelled this year due to COVID)! They brought a couple unique rocking chairs and a beautiful 1903 dictionary on a stand from early Granite Falls.

**5D. Electric motor controller and pipe thawer:** The old pipe thawer rescued from old City Hall cleaned up nicely, so we sent pictures to the manufacturer and placed the unit next to our power panel in the museum. Then **Fred Cruger** finished cleaning up the old electric motor controller from our early City

Hall. It was used to prevent a simple power outage from blowing the fuses, requiring the user to start the motor



gradually but then quickly breaking the connection in the event of a power outage. The user would then have to restart the heavy load gradually.

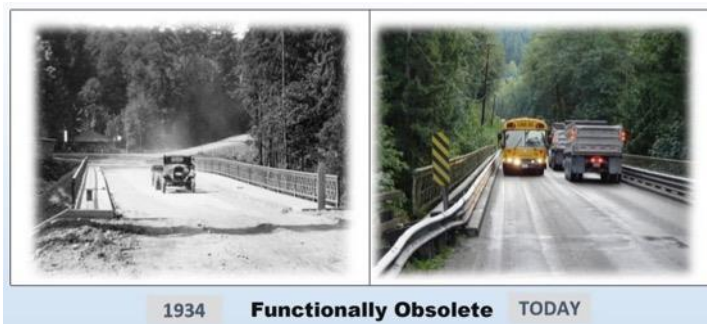
#### 6. Taking care of business (A-C) -

**6A. Investments:** On October 29 (after the October newsletter was being processed), we received our third quarter financial report from [Community Foundation of Snohomish County](#) (CFSC). Our Endowment Fund and our Scholarship Fund continue to do well under their investment policy.

**6B. Scholarship preparations:** Then on November 16, we confirmed with Beth Morrison, Registrar for [Granite Falls School District](#), that we would once again be providing scholarships to two 2022 graduating seniors, from [Granite Falls High School](#) and/or [Crossroads High School](#).

**6C. Docent Scheduler needed:** We need a volunteer to take on this task of arranging docents for our Sunday openings. This position is very important, and should be for a longer commitment such as a year or more. The docent scheduler will be mentored by **Marcia Day** (the previous scheduler) with support from the board members.

**7. Granite Falls Bridge #102 replacement** - On November 24, the [public announcement](#) was made that \$22M had been granted for the replacement of Bridge #102 in Snohomish County (the "Falls Bridge"). Given the accelerated schedule due to the firm funding, it is now in our best interest to raise the issue again of potentially keeping the existing bridge as a pedestrian walkway rather than removing it (a multi-million-dollar expense). The new bridge will eliminate the existing parking at the Falls and fish ladder, thereby inhibiting access of an important historical and tourist attraction. We have approached the County before, and will do so again, hopefully with additional public and community support. For those with



Facebook accounts, you can go [here](#) to find out more. Others can go [here](#) or to these Archive-in-a-Box links: [here](#) and [here](#).

**8. Visitors** - Our **in-person guests** for November numbered 41 people, much lower than other previous COVID months, yet the enthusiasm and appreciation from visitors were quite high. Visitors came from these places: **Bothell, Everett, Kirkland, Lake Stevens, Granite Falls, Seattle, Louisville, OH; Prineville, OR; and Juneau, AK** (hi, Jackie!). Our **online visitors** totaled 241 people who came from 49 places within Washington State, 31 places from 13 other states, and 5 foreign guests from **Helsinki, Finland; Basel, Switzerland; Mexico City, Mexico, and Hanover, Germany**. Providing online access to our collection makes it possible to fulfill our purpose **"to make it available to the greatest possible extent"**, literally reaching the world beyond Granite Falls and Snohomish County.

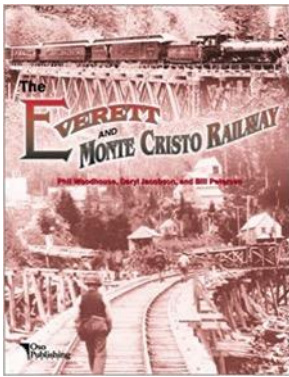
**9. Docents/helpers/volunteers** - The Granite Falls Museum continues with Sunday hours from noon to 5:00 PM and by appointment. However, we can only serve our community because of the efforts of our volunteers, docents, and other helpers. We are very thankful for how the docents assist our visitors and how others do behind-the-scenes work to keep the museum functioning. Our November docents, helpers, and volunteers: **Lisa Schmidt, Dee Saunders, Fred Cruger, Tom Bergan, Tom Thorleifson, Marcia Day, John and Barb Scherrer, Jamieson Haverfield, Bob Ingraham, Ron Chew, Robin Ingraham, Tim Quillen, Scott Bower, and Dennis Henshaw**. A hearty "Thank you!" to each of you!

#### 10. December Calendar -

12/3 Friday, Mountain Loop Highway annual winter closing at Deer Creek until spring  
 12/5 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours  
 12/12 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours  
 12/18 Saturday, 2 PM, Christmas Potluck at the Museum  
 12/19 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours  
 12/21 Tuesday, 7:59 AM, Winter begins (and days start getting longer!)  
 12/25 Saturday, Christmas Day  
 12/26 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours  
 12/27 Monday, Museum meeting 7:00 PM, at the museum  
 1/1/2022 Saturday, New Year's Day

**11. Books on local history:** The following are local history books that are available at the Granite Falls Museum and/or on [Amazon.com](#) and would be great gift ideas for the holidays. They range from art, biography, historical fiction, historical non-fiction, and poetry.

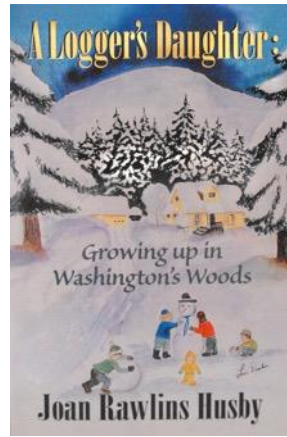




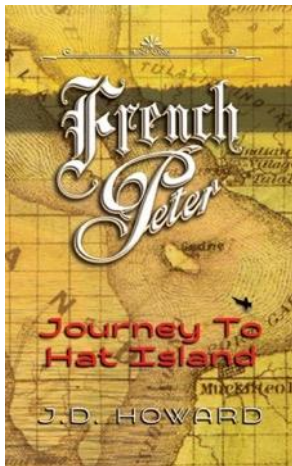
[The Everett and Monte Cristo Railway](#), by Woodhouse, Jacobson, and Peterson (historical non-fiction)  
\$40 paperback at the museum

"If you are a railroad buff, or are interested in Washington state history, you'll enjoy this well researched account of the Everett & Monte Cristo railway. It's full of early photographs of the route, the trains and the people who made it happen. It includes detailed maps of the route, the depots

and the mines and mills served by the line. An added bonus is the mile by mile tour the authors have laid out to let you retrace the path of the railroad." (review by Donald Shank)



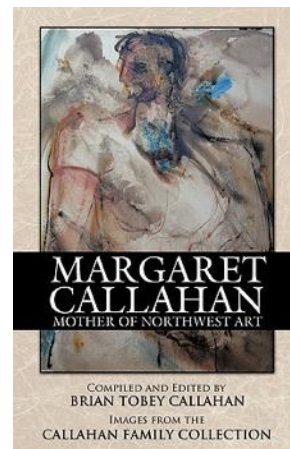
["A Logger's Daughter: Growing up in Washington's Woods](#) gives readers a poignant view of the life and times of growing up in Washington's wilderness in the '40s and '50s. Husby creates vivid pictures of family and landscape, giving the reader a taste of yesteryear and a glimpse of a childhood in a pre-tech age. Although her parents didn't have a lot of ready cash and worked hard for every advantage they had, there was always food on the table and love to spare. The family was years in getting electricity and running water. Their "bathroom" was a two-holer a distance from the house. Heating fuel was wood, hand-cut and split. I highly recommend this memoir of a simple life in a simpler time. Many will relate to at least parts of this book, while others will marvel at the grit it took to simply survive deep in Washington's woods."



[French Peter - Journey to Hat Island](#), by J.D. Howard (new, historical fiction)  
\$17 paperback on Amazon

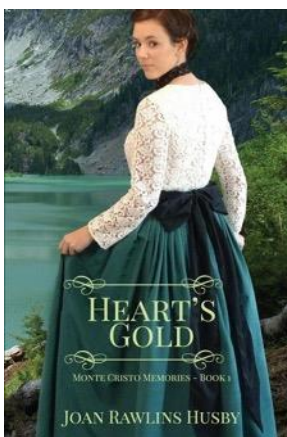
"From the amazing introduction, which is a history lesson in itself, to the seemingly endless exploits, J.D. Howard's latest historical novel is a must read for American history buffs. This fascinating era of the 1800s is begging to be explored and the author has done a magnificent job of bringing the audience into this intriguing story." (review by Gene R. Fosheim, former president of the Everett Museum of History) "[French Peter – Journey to Hat Island](#) fills an important literary niche in the history of the Pacific

Northwest. Masterfully told and chock full of rich imagery, **Howard** weaves a poetic tale of the people and events that shaped early life along the Salish Sea. An enjoyable read from start to finish!" (review by Snohomish County Historian **Steve Bertrand**.) It is a great story, with an unexpected ending, perhaps portending a sequel . . .



[Margaret Callahan "Mother of Northwest Art"](#), by Brian Tobey Callahan (biography, historical non-fiction, art)  
\$28 paperback at the museum

"This is a compilation of personal notes written over a lifetime. As such, the notes amount to a chronicle of one person's life. This person is, however, quite special. Though Margaret happens to be the spouse of a famous Northwest artist, as one reads, Margaret becomes much more. As a reader I felt like I became an intimate companion during her walks in the woods and her reminiscing "after-they'd-all-gone-home" social events. How well she could describe nature and express mundane thoughts with just the right words. And, if the reader knows the Verlot/Granite Falls area northeast of Seattle, they will be richly rewarded by the characters depicted and its history. A great read!" (review by Joel W. Baker, Jr.)

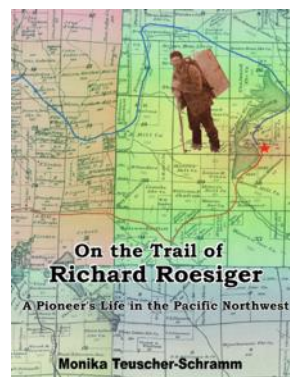


[Heart's Gold](#), by Joan Rawlins Husby (historical fiction)  
\$16 paperback at the museum

"Melinda McCrea's dream of teaching is thwarted when her stepfather moves the family to boomtown Monte Cristo, high in the Cascade Mountains. People rave about the fabulous mineral wealth hidden in the peaks, but Melinda sees the hard, dangerous, and low-paying work. She vows she'll never marry a miner. When Monte Cristo's new schoolteacher resigns, life changes... While waiting and fearing the worst, Melinda realizes the

depth of her feelings for Quin. That fall floods wreck the railroad and isolate the town. The people flee on foot... Then an unexpected turn of events... Will she pursue her dream or choose an uncertain future with her two loves?"

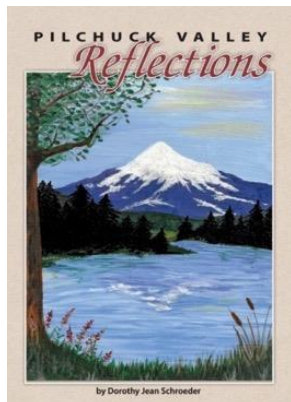
[A Logger's Daughter: Growing Up in Washington's Woods](#), by Joan Rawlins Husby (biography, historical non-fiction)  
\$16 paperback Amazon



[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

"This is an absolutely amazing book! It's a long read, but full of details and really interesting. Just how it was written, finding original daily diaries from the late 1880s and then doing extensive follow-up research across North America from Germany, is a great story in itself. Author Monika Teuscher-Schramm does an amazing job of organizing all of the original diaries and other documents to accurately portray Richard's life. It's obvious that she worked long and hard on this book - motivated because Richard was related to her as her great uncle. This book gives details about an original homesteader in western Washington in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. For those of us who live in this area, it's no secret that there is significant rainfall throughout the year and the potential for lots of snow if a person lives

further into the mountains or higher in elevation (or both). Richard Roesiger, living in the area of Snohomish County at the lake named after him, was in an area that received much rain and enough snow. The land also had the typical old-growth forests of Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Western Hemlock, with stumps 10-15' in diameter still located in some areas (and some old growth still standing in some areas). Richard describes in detail his search for his paradise, then the struggles to make a life on his homestead. Because he wrote the diaries just for himself, his candid reporting lets us see how things really were over 100 years ago. It makes me wonder how a person survived, and makes me appreciate all the modern conveniences we have today. Captivating!"

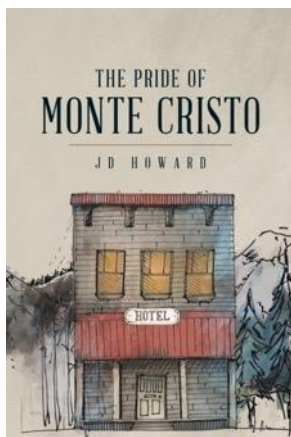


[Pilchuck Valley Reflections](#), by Dorothy Jean Schroeder (historical non-fiction)

\$20 paperback at the museum

Pilchuck Valley Reflections is a chronicle of two pioneer families -- the Frederick Gemmer family and the Thomas family -- who 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 a rich heritage." Her family history includes time spent in Machias. Dorothy writes,

"Sometime the stories will be from my own recollections, sometimes from those of my siblings...Also, I had the good fortune of having faded old letters, newspaper clippings, hand-written daily journals to quote from, as well as old black and white photographs." This is the third printing of the book and is in the Daughters of the American Revolution Archive in Washington, D.C.

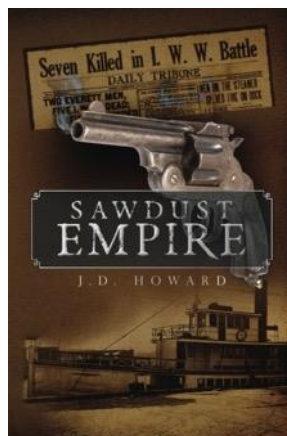


[The Pride of Monte Cristo](#), by J.D. Howard (historical fiction)

\$16 paperback, at Amazon

[The Pride of Monte Cristo](#) is an accurate and precise historical novel, illustrated by Deborah Fox, and follows a strongly imagined narrative, bringing a unique view to the by-gone ways of pioneers, miners and railroaders. Author JD Howard's literary contribution makes him a noteworthy figure in Pacific Northwest storytelling. "Well told and deeply researched, this is a captivating story based on actual people and events from the isolated, spectacular mountain setting of gold

rush Monte Cristo in the 1890s. Highly recommended! What fun!" - David A. Cameron, Historian, Monte Cristo Preservation Association. This book draws vivid pictures of the people, the scenery, and the challenges of civilizing this part of the Pacific Northwest. Real places, real people, and a really enjoyable story line. Author JD Howard explores life in the isolated mining camp of Monte Cristo in 1896, and details the story of a young artist who travels to live with relatives in their hotel and paint the breathtaking Alpine landscapes. When a devastating flood washes away the critical Everett & Monte Cristo Railway, the community evacuates to safety through the wilderness of the Sauk and Stillaguamish River Valleys. For the last one-hundred and thirty years much has been written and said about Monte Cristo. This author has attempted to bring voice to those who struggled to survive and thrive in a remote wilderness setting. May their lives and memories never be forgotten.

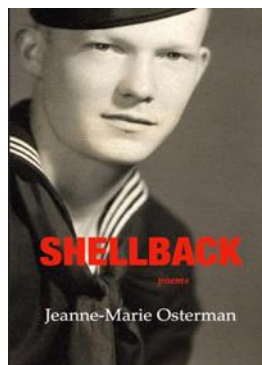


[Sawdust Empire](#), by J.D. Howard (historical fiction)

\$15 paperback Amazon

This thought provoking novel brings a new and inventive look at the mystery behind who fired the first shot at The Everett Massacre. "Set in 1916, Sawdust Empire dramatically charts the rising tensions that led to The Everett Massacre. It opens with the Shingle Weavers' Union striking and observes the agitation that slowly builds, heightened by the arrival of the IWW—Wobblies. J.D. Howard captures this unrest from a variety of

perspectives and creates an engaging story that boasts a broad list of characters who bring the novel to life to the extent that the reader can smell the sweat and sawdust. Thoroughly researched with a deep understanding of the Pacific Northwest and its people, this is a must read for anyone interested in great American boom towns. A tale about the timber industry that is as impressively rich and textured as the landscape it surveys."- Kirkus Reviews Named to Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2016; Recipient of a City of Everett Brown Award for Historical Preservation; Winner of the Malstrom Award - League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations.



[Shellback](#), by Jeanne-Marie Osterman (poetry)

\$15 paperback at the museum

Jeanne-Marie Osterman's poetry collection, [Shellback](#), takes us to the heart of her relationship with her father, a World War II Navy veteran and kamikaze survivor. Set beneath the tall trees and rainy skies of the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific theater of World War II, these poems speak of love, forgiveness, and the tragedies of war. Vividly nostalgic and plainspoken, [Shellback](#) is both a tribute to

her father, and a longing for the closeness to him she could never quite achieve.

**12. Donating to the museum** - You can donate to the museum (a tax deductible, 501(c)(3) non-profit) in four ways:

1. online - use our PayPal link (click on the image):
2. by mail (check), PO Box 1414, Granite Falls WA 98252
3. at the museum (cash or check), Sundays from 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.



**3 "Fall", by Joe Beckett, GFHS Class of '77, part 3**

(See part 1 in the [September 2021 newsletter](#), and part 2 in the [October 2021 newsletter](#))

...Later Mom would ask, "What happened to those magazines I was saving?" and we'd say, "Brad made us throw them away!" In his downtime from being King of the House, Brad also found time to go deer hunting. He got up before daylight, waking everyone in the



house, had breakfast, and headed for the woods, usually bringing home a fine buck. My Dad tried hunting, too, but he really wasn't very good at it. We had an antique Marlin .32-40 lever action rifle, with a long octagonal barrel and buckhorn sights. I'm sure that it was a pretty accurate rifle, but the half-cock safety didn't work right, so if you pulled the trigger hard enough the hammer came down. Pa Beckett was traipsing (or stumbling) through the woods and tripped, causing the gun to go off half-cocked. The bullet went through Pa's boot and between his toes, luckily missing any bone and not doing permanent damage. I don't recall my Dad ever shooting a deer or anything more substantial than a stray dog or opossum, but my brothers more than made up for it. To this day they continue to cut wide swaths through the black-tail population of Snohomish County, all legal, of course. We have no tolerance for poachers, although some of the family have been known to bend a game law or two. But when we were little, Brad was the hunter, and normally within a few days had brought a nice deer home in the back of our pickup, which he then hung from a tree and skinned, careful to miss the scent glands. Sometimes he had the hide tanned, sometimes not. We ate the heart and liver fresh, and later Mom cut the venison up on the dining room table, grinding hamburger and chopping off roasts and steaks, and then wrapped it in white paper, writing the contents on the outside of each package. Then it was off to the locker again!

Our Mother didn't drive very much, so usually the trip to the meat locker was combined with some other errand, chief of which were laundry and grocery shopping. With so many kids, we generated a lot of dirty clothes, so once or twice a week Mom loaded all of the cardboard fruit boxes of laundry into the station wagon and headed to Marysville, the location of the closest decent laundry. When I was little I rode standing up in the back seat area, chewing on the vinyl back of the front seat. No car seats for us; we were tough! If you hit a bump and smacked your mouth on the seat or the dashboard, you learned not to do that anymore. We never even wore seat belts most of the time. It seemed like a long drive, although it was probably about twenty minutes or so, and then we were there. We kids used to help Ma unload, and in short order she had about 10 washing machines going, putting soap in one while the others filled with water, then quickly running the wet clothes through the extractor, and finally into the long row of dryers. When they were dry, we helped Mom fold the towels and sheets and other stuff, then loaded it back into the car. During this whole process, we looked under and inside the machines for lost change. There was a machine that served out a paper cup of Coca-Cola for a dime, and candy machines, too. Asking for money was mostly futile, although that didn't stop us from trying, so finding change was about the only way to get a treat. Laundry time took about 3 hours, but it seemed much longer, with old magazines to look at and cheesy music playing on the radio. "England swings" by Roger Miller, "I'm Henry the eighth, I am" by Herman's Hermits, and "Up, up and away" by the Fifth Dimension being some of the more memorable songs.

After doing the laundry, it was time to get groceries. We always went to the B&M grocery in Marysville, and pestered our Mom mercilessly for stuff as she tried to fill her cart with enough food to last the whole mob for a week. "Can I have this? How about some candy?" Almost inevitably the answer was "No!" Sometimes we waited out in the car, poking at each other and staring out the window until we saw her cart come out the door. That is something that can never be done these days. Finally the car was stuffed with clean clothes and food, so it was time to go home, sometimes making a short stop for donuts. Getchell hill was quite a challenge for our poor overburdened wagon, and Mom floored it at the golf course to pick up enough speed to make it over the hump, and we urged the old Ford up the hill, creeping the last few feet, but we always made it.

My birthday came at around the beginning of hunting season each year, and one of the best things about birthdays was that we got to pick what was for dinner and dessert that night. I usually picked Swiss steak, beef or venison, it made no difference to me as long as there were lots of mashed potatoes and the gravy was brown and

thick with mushrooms. Yumm! For dessert I chose German chocolate cake, with thick coconut frosting, about 4 layers deep, washed down with ice-cold milk.

Halloween was not celebrated with any kind of fervor on Scotty Road, and our folks wouldn't take us to town to Trick-or-treat or, as they put it, beg candy from strangers. At school we made pictures with ghosts and bats, but at home we didn't do much except have squash pie, our Mom insisting it was better than pumpkin. It was about the only way some of us would eat squash, so I guess it was OK. We had a few cheap costumes in the closet, my favorite being a gorilla with a cracked plastic face. Ma and Pa frequently went to costume parties held by the VFW, dressing up for the evening and coming home after we kids were asleep.

November meant the rains returned in force, every day seeming colder and gloomier than the previous. Once in a while snow mixed with the falling rain, the icy water dripping down the backs of our necks as we fetched firewood or headed down the path to the outhouse. Sometimes on a rainy weekend we drove over to visit Ma's friends, Rose and Cougar Bill Ekstrom, who had a house by the Pilchuck River on the Menzel Lake Road. Ma had known them for years, since shortly after she moved out to Washington from Michigan. Rose was a sweet little old lady who fed us snacks as she chatted, and Cougar Bill was somewhat famous locally. His real name was Norman, but in younger days he had become noted as an exterminator of mountain lions, which at the time had preyed on the livestock of area farms, and so had earned his nickname. Cougar Bill seemed to always have a smile on his face, and would sometimes slip us a dollar or some change. They were the nicest people. After Cougar Bill died suddenly, Rose moved into a little mobile home on a hill overlooking the river, the windowsills and countertops of which were populated by knickknacks. I don't know whatever finally happened to Rose, but I liked her a lot.

As November dwindled down and the cold depths of hard winter approached, the grand feast and dress rehearsal for Christmas known as Thanksgiving drew nigh. Our job in the preparations was to supply cranberries. There was an old bog on the western side of Boyd Lake, and floating there amidst the willow, moss and honeydew were cranberry bushes. I think they had probably been planted there in the distant past, and on the opposite side of the lake were wild rice plants, the tough black grains requiring a lot of effort to retrieve from their husks. We followed narrow trails leading out to the cranberries, sometimes balancing on slippery logs, sometimes wading through the icy water, our plastic bread sacks in hand. When we reached the bog, we split up and picked cranberries in the rain, being careful not to fall into holes in the floating carpet. In my memory, someone accidentally fell in the lake and Keith had to rescue them, but I'm not sure if that actually happened or not. Then we took our sacks of berries home, and Ma made sauce out of them. Those of you who don't like cranberry sauce have never tasted any quite like this, and the extra labor made them taste all the better.

Thanksgiving Day! We could not have cared less about Pilgrims and Indians and giving thanks and all that other crap we read about at school - Thanksgiving was about eating! Roast turkey with mounds of steaming stuffing and mashed potatoes and gravy, buns hot out of the oven with butter melting out of the center, sweet potatoes with brown sugar and cinnamon, our cranberry sauce, of course, Jello salad, and pecan pie for dessert, still warm. The air resonated with the sound of clashing utensils and people eating; not a lot of talking went on as we stuffed ourselves to bursting with the holiday bounty. What a feast! It took the next three days to recover, with hot turkey sandwiches and turkey noodle soup easing us back into normalcy.

Naturally, Thanksgiving can only mean one thing - Christmas approaches! And with the turning of the calendar, the long month of December began, 25 days that seemed to stretch out before us forever, until finally it was time for...

## Christmas!