



# THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Quarterly of the Granville, Ohio, Historical Society

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\$2.00

## Our longest serving mayor

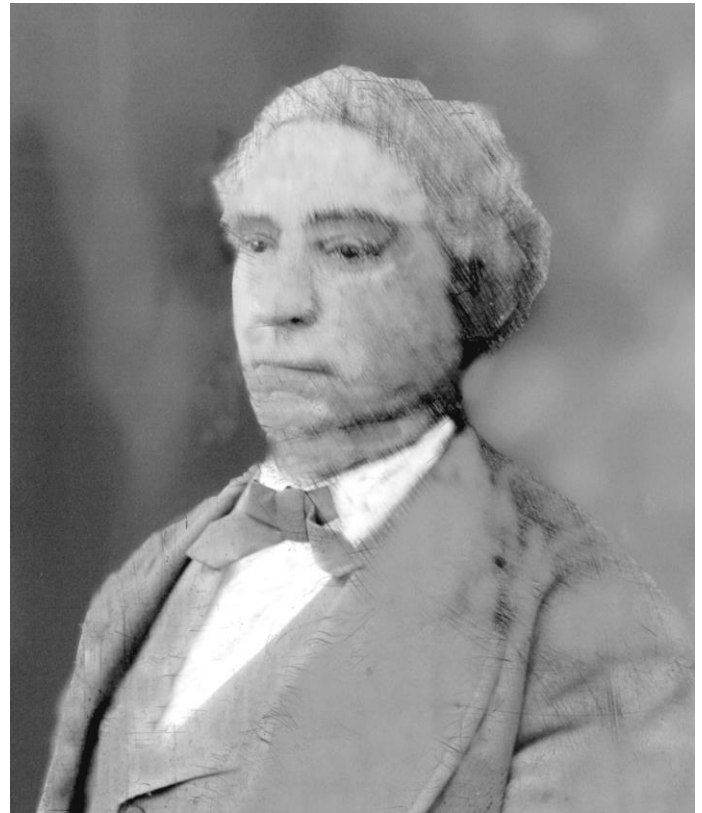
### 'Aug' Rogers led Granville for record 14 years

By B. KEVIN BENNETT

Since the Village of Granville was established in 1832, the community has been well served by those of its citizenry who have stepped forward to serve as civic leaders.<sup>1</sup> The current Mayor, Melissa Hartfield, is among that group. In addition to her many civic accomplishments, she is also on the cusp of achieving the record of being Granville's longest serving mayor. Should her fellow council members return her to that position this coming December, then the long-held record set by the colorful Augustus "Aug" Rogers would be surpassed.

Born in 1818 in New Jersey, Rogers was the son of parents who had emigrated from Reading, England. The family made its way to Granville in the late 1830s where young "Aug" learned from his father the skills associated with the trade of making, repairing and selling saddles and related leather goods (*i.e.* a saddler). In 1851 he married Mary Ann Frazier, another English emigrant, and over the course of their marriage they had five children, two of whom died during adolescence.

Although successful in his trade, Aug had higher aspirations and took up the study of law. During that period individuals would study the practice of law under the tutelage of a local attorney. In this case, Rogers studied under George Ells, notable for being a staunch abolitionist. Ells also served for a period as the local postmaster until he was dismissed from the position for excessive political partisanship. Ells also had something of a reputation for not always being closely wedded to the truth, which may or may not have hampered his avocation as a lawyer.



**This portrait of Augustus "Aug" Rogers was taken from a slightly-damaged glass negative found in the attic of the Granville Historical Museum.**

In any event Aug chose his own political path and became active in the local Democratic party. When Franklin Pierce took over as President in March 1853, Rogers successfully lobbied and obtained the patronage position as the postmaster for Granville. He remained in that position until late November 1853 when he resigned due to being elected to a two-year term to the Ohio legislature as a state representative.

**Historical Society's Annual Report, pages 5-11**



**Installation of a village water system was among the achievements under Mayor “Aug” Rogers. This photo shows lines being installed on East Broadway downtown.**

As a member during the 51<sup>st</sup> session, Rogers was active in legislative matters both tedious and interesting. Among his stances was a pronounced opposition to allowing railroads to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land and to the ability of banks to print their own currency. Reflecting the stance of the Democratic party — he was staunchly opposed to the abolitionist movement — he introduced a resolution limiting any legislative consideration of abolitionist measures to special evening sessions, likely to doom any discussion to a lack of quorum. He also pushed through legislation reducing juries in Probate Court to six men from twelve.

Whether he tired of the legislative life or faced political opposition, Rogers chose not to run for re-election and returned to life in Granville. Having completed his law studies, he started a new legal practice with a focus on collections. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he was too old for military service but otherwise supported the war to restore the Union.

Remaining active in local politics, he became involved in a politically charged incident in 1866 that garnered national attention. Not surprisingly, Rogers supported the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress during that off-year election. During the course of the campaign, evidence reveals that he approached well over a dozen prominent local citizens, Democrat and Republican alike, on behalf of George Morgan, the Democratic candidate. Apparently, he “promised” each of them that Morgan would appoint them as the postmaster of Granville if they pledged to support Morgan financially and electorally.

When Morgan was eventually elected, the incumbent postmaster was retained in his position, much to the chagrin of those duped by Aug Rogers. Their complaints eventually made their way to Washington, D.C. where a congressional hearing was conducted into the matter. While there was little doubt that Rogers had engaged in political chicanery, no direct link to Rep. Morgan was established and the matter died.



**East Broadway downtown was lined with hitching posts during Augustus Rogers' tenure as mayor.**

Notwithstanding this episode, the genial Rogers remained popular in the Granville community and was elected as the Justice of the Peace for Licking County in 1870. In 1872 he was elected mayor of Granville by a comfortable margin and took office in April of that year.<sup>2</sup>

During his 14-year tenure, Rogers oversaw a number of transformative changes in community life. Among the most significant was the arrival of railroad transportation in 1880 and construction of the municipal water works in 1885. The latter not only provided a reliable source of water supply to households but also was a key to creating an organized system of fire protection for the community.

In particular, an 1872 fire at the County Infirmary south of the village had resulted in a number of deaths and alarmed citizens, compounded by the fact that in 1877 there were ten separate fires within the community. Each of these demonstrated the insufficiency of an obsolete hand pulled fire cart and untrained volunteers. The establishment of pressurized water lines and hydrants combined with a group of trained and equipped firefighters as Hose Company No. 1 greatly improved fire protection and was the forerunner of today's highly trained Granville Fire Department.<sup>3</sup>

Another noted improvement was the addition of gas lamps on village streets. Of a more controversial nature was limiting alcohol use to the premises of several local saloons and in 1876 completely eliminating any tavern business within the village. This ban was to remain in effect until January 1977!

Another measure spearheaded by Mayor Rogers was to authorize the expenditure of funds to hire a mounted posse in mid-1877. At this time a national rail workers strike was occurring and Newark was a center of union unrest and strike activity. The stated purpose of the posse was to patrol the Granville border and to turn back any union organizers or other "riff-raff" attempting to come to Granville from Newark. Arguably this could be the nadir of the always tenuous relationship between these two communities.

Re-elected in 1884 to his seventh term, Mayor Rogers started shortly thereafter to experience those issues that advancing age brings. In 1885 his wife Mary passed from a paralytic condition, and Aug himself soon after started to experience failing health. This caused him to miss a significant number of village council meetings and for George Whiting to assume the role as *Mayor Pro Tem*.

He chose not to run for office again and stepped down in April 1886. Although he continued his law



**Horses and buggies were the main mode of transportation as Augustus Rogers was to become mayor. This photo was taken from the sidewalk near the center crosswalk on the north side of East Broadway downtown, facing southeast.**

practice, things began to wind down. In October of that year with his health declining, he moved into the residence of a close friend, Dr. H.B. Green. Death came to Aug Rogers on November 2, 1886 at the age of 68.



**“Aug” Rogers’ headstone foundation is in Maple Grove Cemetery.**

After religious and masonic services, he was interred at Maple Grove Cemetery in the family plot. Unfortunately, the main stone marker denoting his last resting place has disappeared with time. All that remains to remind us of this colorful and dedicated individual are the small white foundations of Granville’s longest

serving mayor and his wife, Mary.

**B. Kevin Bennett is a Granville native, local historian and a past-president of the Granville Historical Society Board of Managers. He is the author of numerous *Historical Times* articles and two books in the society’s Pocket History series: *The Civil War and Granville: An Ohio Community’s Outsized Contribution*, and *Granville Firefighters: The Story of a Community Institution*.**

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Granville Township was founded in 1805, pre-dating both the Village and Licking County. In 1832 local residents submitted a petition and proposed charter to the State which established the village and village officers, to include the mayor and council

<sup>2</sup> During that period the office of Mayor was directly elected by popular vote every two years. Currently the Mayor is elected by a vote of the sitting councilmembers.

<sup>3</sup> For further reading see *Granville Firefighters: The Story of a Community Institution*, a pocket history published by and available at the Granville Historical Society.

# Annual Report

## Visioning session urged for Society's future

by CHARLES A. PETERSON

2018 President, Board of Managers

The Granville Historical Society had another excellent year in 2018, and here is a quick review of some of the things we accomplished.

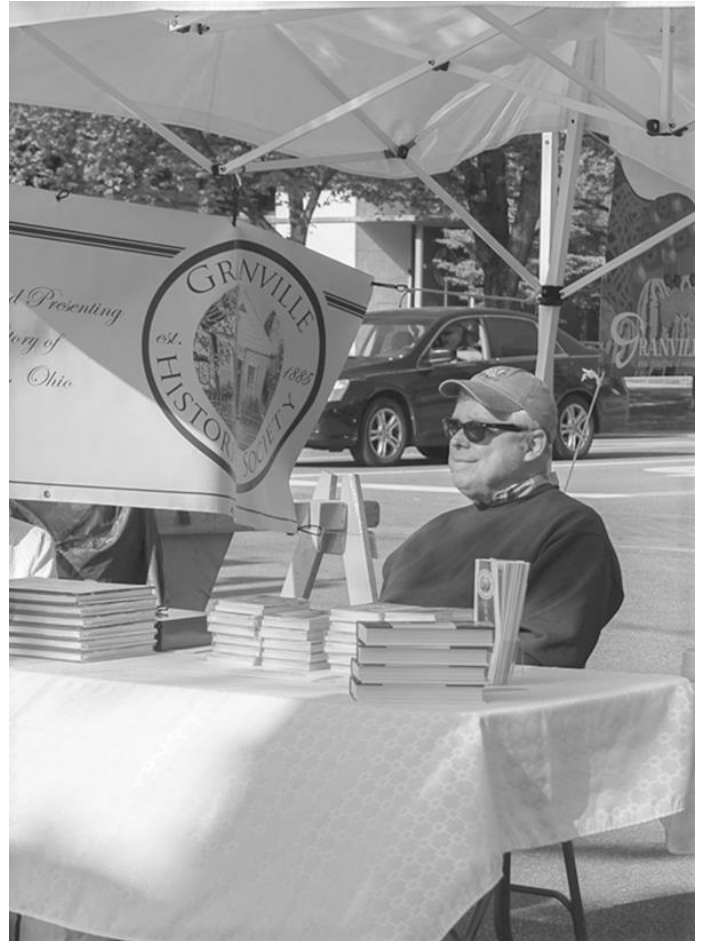
Our grant application to the Granville Foundation helped us catch up on acquiring storage materials for both our archives and collections departments, allowing us to acquire acid-free boxes for storage in both areas.

We've had several outstanding lecture programs – the first featuring Denison University Associate Professor Meghan Threlkeld with the topic “Women, World War I and the American Century”; A TOYS Week program featuring a 1950s Game Night in April featuring board games familiar to many of us, “The Granville Farmers Market – History and Recollections” presented in August; and Steve Katz and Constance Barsky with “Postcards of Granville,” their amazing postcard collection featuring old Granville scenes.

To conclude an outstanding year of programs, former Denison University president Dale Knobel and his wife, Tina, returned to Granville to present “Loving a Victorian Lady: 15 years of living and restoring at historic Monomoy Place”, discussing the renovations made to the residence, and its many functions, during their 15 years living there.

In September we once again participated in the Ohio History Connection's statewide Open Door program and held a program in the Old Academy Building, and at the same time several of our members assisted the Old Colony Burying Ground again this year, portraying Granville pioneers for the Historic Granville Ghost walk put on by the Union Cemetery Board, which governs the pioneer cemetery.

Noting that we've had a decline in the number of visitors to our museum this past season, we recognized an opportunity for attracting more visitors other than during our normal open hours. We participated in two of the Granville Art Walks held on the first Saturday evening of each month,



**sells GHS books and publications at the Granville Farmers Market.**

and we featured art in various forms that we have in our collection including an amazing array of quilts most of us didn't know about. This will continue next year since we did bring in a considerable number of visitors during the Art Walk. And we're planning to be open during other downtown community events that attract large numbers of people.

And for nearly five years now we've given the museum a festive look for Halloween Beggars Night and for the Christmas Candlelight Walking tour with decorations designed and put up by Lynn Overholser with the help of her mother, Theresa Overholser, our head archivist and board member. The decorations for the walking tour, featuring advertisements by local businesses in our weekly newspapers over the years, was particularly

# Annual Report



**The Society began to participate in the Granville Art Walk, held on the first Saturday of the month from May through October, and displayed its collection of quilts during one of the walks. Pictured are Janet Procida and Bill Kirkpatrick.**

striking.

The Society's membership has remained steady with nearly 200 households, and nearly 1,900 visited the museum last year. We also measure "touches," which counts the many of ways the Society reaches individuals ranging from museum visits to the number of people attending programs to visitors in the Archives. The final total for 2018 was 16,123 touches.

Some thoughts after serving two years as president of the Board of Managers: For many years the Granville Historical Society has had as its main purpose preservation of artifacts and records with an emphasis on research, which of course are extremely important missions for our organization. Over the years we became publishers of some outstanding books, especially through the Pocket History Series that boasts seven editions, with two more due in the near future. And we have offered many outstanding lecture programs over the years, which many of you have faithfully supported with your presence.

Since the 2005 Bicentennial celebration and the addition of the Robinson Research Center six years ago, however, the Society has begun to undergo a transformation, and I think as a result of that, we are doing so much more than we used to, and we constantly discuss ideas about what new things we should be doing, especially in terms of public outreach. I'm hoping that next year the Board of Managers can hold a serious visioning session to take a look at what we're doing, what we can do better and what new things we can incorporate – things like more interactive programs for children that many museums are doing and more approaches that squarely and consistently put us in the public eye. And we have established a committee that will meet annually in the fall to look ahead to next year to consider times we can be open in conjunction with downtown events that attract people. Of course, all of this must be considered in the context of being a volunteer organization, but we hope that with some 200 members, we can get more of us involved in projects such as these.

## Granville Historical Society Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the Period ending December 31, 2018

<b>Revenue</b>			
Annual Fund 2017	\$ 5,822	Board Expenses	692
Annual Fund 2018	19,348	Bldg & Grds	22,466
Books and Merchandise	2,000	Collections	25
Membership Dues	12,050	Community Relations	68
Other donations	499	Exhibits	349
Programs	2,125	Grant Expenses	4,240
Other Income	2,229	Membership	649
Withdrawal from Investment Account	-	Museum Operations	-
Withdrawal from Mahard Trust	2,510	Programs	4,546
Withdrawals from Knobel Funds	2,020	Publications	1,612
Grants		Publicity	717
Granville Foundation	2,997	Society Support	16,524
Granville Garden Club	500	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>52,188</b>
Village of Granville (Archive)	1,500		
Township (Archives/Maple Grove)	3,000	Excess Revenue/Expense	\$ 4,411
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>56,600</b>		
<hr/>			
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Statement of Cash Balances</b>	
Accessions	25	Operating Account	\$ 38,162
Archives	274	Book Account	9,043

## Society ends 2018 in excellent financial condition

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 the Granville Historical Society received \$12,050 in membership contributions and \$19,348 in annual fund contributions. The Society also received \$8,000 in grants from the Granville Community Foundation for archival/collections support from the Village and Township for maintenance of archival records and databases and the Granville Garden Club for landscaping of exterior grounds.

The Society withdrew \$2,000 from the Knobel Endowment for expenses associated with the presentation on Monomoy Place by former Denison President Dale Knobel and wife, Tina, at the Society's Annual Meeting and \$2,500 from the

Mahard Trust for monies spent on maintenance of the Old Academy Building during 2018. The Society also reprinted *Wild Turkeys and Tallow Candles* using \$1,600 from its book account.

Expenses were all within budgeted amounts except for unanticipated preventative maintenance expenses at the West Broadway building. Nevertheless, the Society ended the fiscal year with excess revenue of \$4,412. Cash balances as of December 31, 2018 were \$47,205, \$7,000 lower than at the start of the year. The Society ended 2018 in sound financial condition.

— Jane Wilken, Treasurer

## Investment accounts suffered with markets in 2018

The Granville Historical Society has three separate investment "accounts." In all cases the goal for these accounts is to preserve capital and grow the accounts after withdrawals permitted by the Society's policies.

The accounts are as follows:

- Endowment Fund account: proceeds are used for museum operations.
  - Balance as of 1/1/2018 = \$163,233.
  - Balance as of 12/31/2018 = \$159,327.

No withdrawals were made during 2018.

- Mahard Trust account: proceeds are used only for the maintenance, operation and utilities for the Old Academy Building (located at the southwest corner of North Main and West Elm streets).

— Balance as of 1/1/2018 = \$126,760.

— Balance as of 12/31/2018 = \$118,628.

A permitted withdrawal of \$2,500 was made during 2018.

—J. David Rinehart, Chair, Finance Committee

# Annual Report



**ABOVE:** The Historical Society again participated in the Ohio History Connection's Open Doors program in September, encouraging history organizations to be open to the public. The Society opened the Old Academy Building with displays on the Welsh presence in this area.

**LEFT:** A spring reception was held to thank Society volunteers.





**ABOVE:** The Granville Historical Museum was decorated for the holiday season with displays featuring newspaper advertisements of yester-year by local retailers.



**LEFT:** Several Society members portrayed Granville pioneers interred in the Old Colony Burying Ground for a “Ghost Walk,” telling pioneers’ stories for visitors on Open Doors day. From left are Brian Gregory, Chuck Peterson, Maureen Clark, Edna Balsler, Kevin Bennett, Barb Helwig and Bill Kirkpatrick.



## 2018 DONORS-MEMBERS

The Granville Historical Society recognizes with gratitude the following individuals and organizations who made gifts and had memberships in 2018

Linda Ailes	Jim & Minzie Fannin	John & Ann Klauder	Greg & Patty Ream
Corinne Ailes	Jon & Dagmar Farris	Janis Klingenberger	Gib & Lou Reese
Allen County Public Library	Todd & Robin Feil	Jerome & Gail Klink	David Richards
Ken & Carol Apacki	Dan & Patricia Finkelman	Dale & Tina Knobel	Jeff & Nancy Richards
Stephen & Terry Applegate	Martin & Carol Flautt	Trish Koons	Susan Richardson
Craig & Peggy Asplund	Bill & Tracey Fleitz	Sarah Leavell	J. David & Sandra Rinehart
Patrick & Anne Aubourg	Dan & Ginnie Fletcher	IMO Maggie Brooks	Lola Roley
Gregory & Polli Bailei	Cheryl Foster	Joe & Susan Leithauser	Martha Rowland
Jim & Julie Bain	IMO Maggie Brooks	John & Bernadette Lieberth	Bob & Nancy Rush
Kim Bancroft	Reed & Mel Fraley	Cheryl Linscott	Dave & Leda Rutledge
Ella Mae Bard	Dick & Ann Fryman	Tony & Marianne Lisska	Wes & Donna Sargent
Nancy Bauman	Michael & Vanessa Fuson	Bruce & Meghan MacKinnon	Bruce Saunders & Michelle Meier
IMO Maggie Brooks	Tom & Myra Gallant	Bob & Mary Ann Malcuit	Don & Mary Schilling
Brent Bennett	Trig Gamble	Lauren Martin	Jack & Nancy Schmidt
Kevin Bennett	Dorothy Garrett	Tom & Barb Martin	Sam & Heidi Schnaidt
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Susan Blue	Granville Garden Club	Debbie McPeck	Dorse & Mary Jo Sieple
Doug & Marilyn Boldon	Neil & Joan Greene	Jack & Sandra Mead	Ron & JoAnne Sherwood
Don & Marty Bonar	Phyllis Greene	Fleur Metzger	Dick & Louise Shiels
Keith & Lyn Boone	Brian Gregory	Michael & Dixie Mickelson	Nancy Siegel
IMO Maggie Brooks	Paul & Linda Griesse	Alan & Kris Miller	Barbara Sinsabaugh
Raymond Bragg	Shirley Hale	Larry & Eloise Miller	Dave & Becky Skeen
Maggie Brooks	Paul Hammond & Tracee Laing	Jeffrey & Elizabeth Miller	Brad & Julie Smith
Earl & Elaine Browning	Ann Hansen	Jeff & Bridget Mills	John & Barbara Spees
Ron & Barb Bruner	Don & Debbie Haven	John & Lois Minsker	IMO Maggie Brooks
Gina Buckley	Ann Hendry	Larry & Brenda Mix	Andy Sterrett
Ted Burczak & Cathy Dollard	Bob & Donita Hill	Rick Moller	Sandra Stewart
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Ben & Lisa Englefield	Richard & Rita Kipp	IMO Maggie Brooks	
Paul Enke	Bill Kirkpatrick & Anna Nekola	Julie Rausch	
Jim & Di Erickson		Lynn Rausch	IMO-In Memory Of

# Annual Report

## Maggie Brooks remembered as key volunteer

Margaret Edna Brooks, known by most of us at the Granville Historical Society as “Maggie,” was a loyal, faithful and productive member of the Society for two and a half decades. She passed away peacefully on Aug. 14, 2018.

Maggie became a member of the Society’s Board of Managers in 1992 and was never idle. She served as board president for four years — 1998-99 and 2002-03, and in between spent two years as vice president. She retired from the board in 2013, but remained on the board as an emerita member, and missed very few meetings.

Among Maggie’s chief interests was her Welsh ancestry. She was active in the local Cambrian Society, which briefly became a part of the Granville Historical Society, and belonged to the Welsh Society of Central Ohio. She was also the Board of Managers Programs chair for a number of years and on more than one occasion arranged for Welsh-related programs including a St. David’s Day observance.

As an Ohio State University School of Journalism graduate and retiree of the Denison University Office of Public Affairs, Maggie’s abilities and expertise in the publications field were invaluable. She was a member of the Board’s Publications



**Maggie Brooks**

Committee and helped to establish the Society’s monthly *Modern Times* newsletter announcing current Society events. And at the time of her passing she has been the *Modern Times’* ONLY editor. Maggie also edited the Society’s fourth “pocket history” book: “By Means of Ink and Paper, The Civil War Correspondence of Edwin and Sarah Sinnett,” which discussed the letters between Dr. Sinnett and his wife, Sarah, of Granville.

She also kept on top of timely updates of the Society’s brochures and had just completed a brochure entitled “A Walking Tour of Granville’s Broadway” for public consumption.

Maggie was a regular on Thursdays — the Society’s volunteer day — even after she moved from her longtime home in Newark to Columbus. During the Thursday lunches she could routinely be relied upon for discussion of current events and the best of the programing on our local PBS channel. She was last in the office barely a month before she became ill: a testament to her loyalty to the Society.

--Charles A. Peterson

## 57 volunteers helped make Society click in '18

The Granville Historical Society Board of Managers thank the following who contributed as volunteers in so many ways in 2018 for Society programs, publications, archives, collections, educational efforts, upkeep of buildings and grounds and staffing the museum. An asterisk (\*) indicates those who served on the Society’s Board of Managers and a double-asterisk (\*\*) denotes emeritus members of the Board of Managers.

Linda Ailes, Anne Aubourg\*, Patrick Aubourg, Jessica Bean, Kevin Bennett, Keith Boone, Lyn Boone, Maggie Brooks\*\*, Cynthia Cort\*, Laurie MacKenzie Crane, Dick Daly, Stewart Dyke, Deb Eddy, Laura Evans, Tracey Fleitz, Dorothy Garrett,

Brian Gregory, James G. Hale, Donita Hill, Chris Julian, Marilyn Jung, Suzanne Kennedy, Norm Kennedy, Jennifer Evans Kinsley, Rita Kipp\*, Rich Kipp, Bill Kirkpatrick, Tim Klingler, Jodi Lavelly, Marianne Lisska, Tony Lisska, Barb Martin, Tom Martin\*, Rick Moller, Cheryl Moore, Madison Murray, Nancy Rush, Fleur Metzger, Lynn Overholser, Sarah Overholser, Theresa Overholser\*, Charles A. Peterson\*, Wayne Piper\*, Janet Philipps Procida\*, Dave Proctor, J. David Rinehart\*, Donald G. Schilling, Mary Jo Seiple, Ron Sherwood\*, Becky Skeen, David Skeen\*, Sandy Stewart, Marilyn Sundin, Megan Threlkeld, Amy Welsh\*, Jane Wilken\*, and Bill Wilken.

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Celebrating its 33rd year of  
publication by The Granville  
Historical Society

### **Publications Board**

Tom Martin, chair and co-editor;  
Charles A. Peterson, co-editor; Lyn  
Boone, Bill Kirkpatrick, Stewart  
Dyke, Marianne Lisska, Jamie Hale, J.  
David Rinehart, Wayne Piper and  
Rob Drake.

### **Designer**

Charles A. Peterson

### **Printing by:**

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Office Services

### **Board of Managers**

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Vice President - David Skeen  
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### **Class of 2020**

Rita Kipp  
Nancy Rush  
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### **Class of 2019**

Tom Martin  
J. David Rinehart  
Wayne Piper

### **Office Manager**

Jodi Lavelly

## **GET CONNECTED, JOIN THE SOCIETY**

The Granville Historical Society is an all-volunteer, non-governmental not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization with membership open to all. Joining the Society is a delightful way to meet people who share a love of and interest in Granville's rich, well-documented history. Monthly programs, quarterly publications, and a museum that is open five days a week during the season are some of the ways that enable Society volunteers to share facets of what makes Granville so fascinating with members and guests. Volunteers are welcome in the Archives and Museum Collections areas, as well as museum hosts.

Please visit [Granvillehistory.org](http://Granvillehistory.org) for further information about all that we do and how you can get involved.

The Granville Historical Society  
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[www.granvillehistory.org](http://www.granvillehistory.org)

Granville History Museum and Robinson  
Research Center, 115 West Broadway.