



Linda Crowder standing in front of the School Board (right to left) Chris Becker, Vice Chair; Ann Edwards; Joe Sims; Teresa Branch; Darrell Pennell, Chairman; and Dr. Don Phipps, School Superintendent

## AWARD RECOGNITION *The History of Granite Falls Middle School*

Linda Crowder, President of the Granite Falls Historical Association and editor of this newsletter, began documenting the construction/renovation of Granite Falls Middle School by videotaping the groundbreaking on April 29, 2019. Then she returned periodically (every 4 to 5 weeks) to make photos of the construction. Finally, after 3 1/2 years, she was able to video the ribbon cutting on October 4, 2022. Along the way, she published selected photos and still images taken from the videos in *Tablet II* and *The Granite Tablet*.

Linda incorporated the photos and still images she made along with historic photos that depict the history of education in Granite Falls into a PowerPoint presentation, added descriptions, and narrated each slide. She saved the PPT as a video on a DVD under the title "The History of Granite Falls Middle School."

(AWARD continued on page 2)

## PRESERVING HISTORY *Photos of Main Street (Hwy 321A)*

The Town of Granite Falls will be 125 years old on May 1, 2024. In preparation for a special exhibit, the Granite Falls History Committee is seeking photos taken along Main Street (Hwy 321A) from Pinewood Road to Duke Street from any time period, but with a preference for current pictures. The NCDOT has announced plans to widen this section of the road, and the Committee wants to document changes as they occur, starting with "before" photos. The committee will begin accepting photos on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the museum between 2 and 4 p.m. For more information,

(PHOTOS continued on page 2)



Above: Photo of South Main Street during the 2023 Festival on Main



## AT THE MUSEUM *Open House on January 7*

The photo on the left shows Neal Haas speaking with visitors to the museum during an open house on January 7, 2024. Members of the Granite Falls History Committee served refreshments and gave guided tours. The museum is open from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sundays (except designated holidays). The town is now accepting applications to serve as guides. Interested persons should call the town office at (828) 396-3131. New volunteers serve with experienced guides until trained to work solo or with a partner.

(AWARD continued from page 1)

On July 1, Linda mailed the three DVDs and a thumb drive with the PowerPoint to the North Carolina Society of Historians for their annual Multimedia Award contest. In October, Linda received notification that she had won. She was not able to attend the awards ceremony on November 11, 2023, so Maxine McCall, NCSH President, mailed the certificate to her.

Since her work documented the work of Caldwell County Schools, Linda notified Libby Brown, Community Services Director/ Public Information Officer, and she arranged for Linda to be recognized by the Board of Education during their meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6 p.m. The photo on the front page shows Linda with Board members and Dr. Don Phipps, School Superintendent. They presented her with a certificate and a Caldwell County Schools logo pin. Linda thanked the Board for keeping the school in Granite Falls and for preserving the town's history and heritage. She gave the school system a copy of the DVD and placed a copy in the museum for visitors to see.

(PHOTOS continued from page 1)

contact Linda Crowder by email at [ldrcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:ldrcrowder@gmail.com) or by text to (828) 496-2835. She is especially interested in photos she can use in *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*, which she expects to publish in August.

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS *Parks and Recreation*

Despite the cold weather outside, spring is coming, and the Parks and Recreation Department has started planning its 2024 baseball, softball, and tee ball program. Parents/guardians must register their children in person at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center between Monday, February 5 and Monday, February 26. A child's age on May 1 determines their eligibility to play.

The following sports will be offered:

- Tee Ball for children ages 4 - 6
- Softball for Girls ages 7 - 8 (coach pitch)
- Softball for Girls ages 9 - 10 (kid pitch)
- Softball for Girls ages 10 - 13 (kid pitch)
- Baseball for Boys ages 7 - 8 (coach pitch)
- Baseball for Boys ages 9 - 10 (kid pitch)
- Baseball for Boys ages 10 - 13 (kid pitch)

Residents pay \$40.00 per child, and non-residents pay \$65.00 (cash or check only). Parents (guardians) must sign and follow a parent code of ethics and pay the registration fee in order to register their children. For more information, call the rec center at 396-1221 or check out the Town of Granite Falls website.

### ***Important Reminders***

**Recycling:** Republic Services, Inc. picks up recycling - flattened



Recycling Bin

cardboard, paper, metal cans, glass jars, and plastic containers that are labeled #1, #2, and #5. Items must be empty, clean, and dry - no food or food stains. For a more detailed listing of

acceptable items, go to the town's website: [www.granitefallsnc.com/recycling](http://www.granitefallsnc.com/recycling). The Town of Granite Falls puts its name on the recycling bins because the town owns them. They have a recycling logo and a green lid.

Garbage bins and recycling bins are similar, but they are different. The garbage bins are owned by Republic Services, so they have their name and logo. The lids are blue.



Garbage Bin

**Yard Waste:** Town employees pick up grass clippings, leaves, twigs, vines, tree limbs under 6" in diameter, and other plant debris except stumps, root balls, and large limbs. Place limbs with the ends facing the street so personnel can quickly and easily feed them into a chipper. Town employees have a regular route to follow as their schedule and weather allows. Put other plant material in a plastic bag next to the street before 7 a.m. on Thursdays. The town also collects leaves left in piles next to the curb from November through January. They cannot pick up and chip wet leaves/limbs.

**Refuse:** Leave unwanted items such as appliances, furniture, and other household items at the curb by 7 a.m. on Thursdays for the town to pick up. The town cannot accept construction materials, stumps, root balls, chemicals, tires, pallets, batteries, rocks, or anything with nails. Be sure to leave items so they do not pose a safety hazard. For example, secure doors so they don't close behind curious children.

## ***Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina***

### **PRESERVING HISTORY *Treasured Memories***

Do you have favorite stories about Granite Falls and/or the people who have lived here? Do you have memories of changing customs such as wedding/funeral practices (such as cake cuttings, orchids on white Bibles, sitting up with the dead, and flower girls), May Day celebrations, wearing hats/gloves to go shopping, going to the movies, school supplies/teacher resources (Blue Horse paper/opaque projectors), etc.? If so, members of the Granite Falls Historical Association want to hear from you. The Association also wants to hear from churches, civic clubs, businesses, and other groups about changes they have undergone over the years and/or about people they met.

Association members are working on an update to the town's history, which was last published in 1999, and they want to include your treasured memories in *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*. You may send original stories (not protected by a copyright) to Linda Crowder at [Irdcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:Irdcrowder@gmail.com) or call Jeanne Whisnant at (828) 320-3725 to make arrangements to have your memories recorded. They need them as soon as possible since the anticipated publication date is August 2024.

### ***Family Memorabilia***



In lieu of publishing family biographies in the new history book, the Historical Association is seeking genealogies along with family memorabilia such as birth announcements, wedding invitations, news clippings, funeral programs, etc. to include in the genealogical file at

the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The file currently includes over 50 genealogies prepared by the late Wayne Bud Moore, a Granite Falls native, in addition to numerous newspaper clippings and other documents donated by various residents. These files are available for research by appointment.

Much history is lost in dumpsters as people clear out old papers they think they will never need. Those same documents could prove invaluable to the right person. While some people simply enjoy tracing their family history as a hobby, others may need to prove eligibility for an inheritance, scholarship, grant, or membership in a specific group. Some people need to trace family medical conditions, verify rumors, or establish participation in historical events. Persons wishing to donate family

memorabilia or do research at the museum may contact Linda Crowder at (828) 496-2835.



The above photo features Nikki Levin, FamilySearch consultant in Hickory, behind Jerry and Linda Fleming and Carol Cuomo during the recent open house held at the FamilySearch Center on Saturday, January 13.

### ***Genealogical Resources in Hickory***

While the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum cannot offer online genealogical research at this time, free online resources and assistance are available nearby at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (4065 North Center Street, Hickory) in their FamilySearch Center. The Center offers a premium version of their FamilySearch database along with other genealogical websites and access to computers at no charge. They are open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. until noon, on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon (except on some holidays).

Linda Crowder recently attended an open house at the center and made the photos that go with this article.



Patricia Davis (in red sweater) is a skilled genealogical researcher who lives in Caldwell County.



## RETURN TO STAGE 0 Drought Conditions Ease

The Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group, which had declared Stage 1 drought conditions on November 1, 2023, announced on January 16, 2024 that recent rain (January 9 and 12) had brought conditions back to Stage 0. However, more rain would be needed to end the drought and bring conditions back to normal. Granite Falls received between 4 and 6 inches on January 9 and about an inch on January 12.  
(photo by Barbara Ross showing 6 inches on January 9)



## SHEETZ AND STARBUCKS ARE ON THEIR WAY! It Shouldn't Be Much Longer!

The photo above was made on June 14, 2023.  
The one below was January 20, 2024.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Town of Granite Falls

On May 1, 1899, local voters decided to incorporate the Town of Granite Falls and to elect the first mayor (Rufus Hefner) and the first three members of the town council (James Houck, Dr. A. D. Jones, and Henry C. Mackie). This year, the town will celebrate its quasiquintennial anniversary. The Granite Falls History Committee and Jerry Church, the town manager, have been working together to formulate plans to celebrate this special milestone. While the town will sponsor some events, they are asking local civic groups, businesses, and churches to join the celebration by acknowledging the anniversary on special occasions.

There will be a small event (time/place to be determined) on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 to mark the actual date the town was incorporated, and the Town Council is scheduled to meet on June 3, 2024, the anniversary of their first official meeting. Dining with the Demons, the annual reunion for students and teachers at Granite Falls High School, will highlight the anniversary on Saturday, May 4. The town will also celebrate during Art in the Park on May 20, Festival on Main on September 21, Festival on the Square on November 25, and the Christmas Parade on December 7. In addition, the history museum will feature special exhibits and events throughout the coming year. Put these dates on your calendar, and plan to celebrate this special occasion.



*Tablet II* is a publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. The purpose of the publication is to provide members with news and information about the Association along with articles and photos of historical interest. The purpose of the Association is to preserve and interpret the history/heritage of Granite Falls and Southern Caldwell County by historical preservation, publications, active museum and historical site programs, public meetings, and various activities related to these programs.

Contact the Editor: Linda Richards Crowder by phone at (828) 396-1066, by text (828) 496-2835, or by email [lrdrcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lrdrcrowder@gmail.com).

For more information about the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc and the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum, go to the website - [www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org) or the Facebook page under "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."