

A Publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc.



SCHS NJROTC

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED *Veterans Day Ceremony*

The Town of Granite Falls held its 10th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 8, 2024, in the gymnasium of the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Pinewood Road. The order of program was “The Washington Post” by South Caldwell High School Concert Band, calling forth the colors by Bill Schreiber, presentation of colors by the South Caldwell High School Navy Junior ROTC, “The Star-Spangled Banner” by the South Caldwell High School Chamber Choir, an invocation by Doug Main, welcome and introduction by Mayor Caryl B. Burns, “Marches of the Armed Forces” by the SCHS Concert Band,



Charlotte and Leora Elhenicky

(VETERANS DAY CEREMONY continued on page 3)



Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon

North Carolina Society of Historians *And The Winners Are*

The North Carolina Society of Historians held their 2024 Awards Ceremony at Hart Square in Vale on Saturday, November 9, 2024, “to recognize those individuals and organizations who discover and present information about the history and heritage of North Carolina.” Bringing home an Award of Excellence was Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon for her book *Weaving the Heart*



Cindy Day and Sharon Bryant

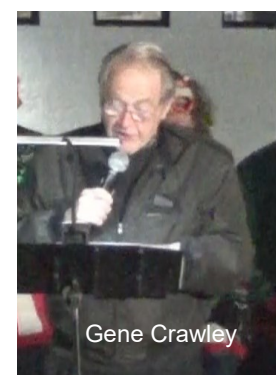
Threads of a Mill Village: Rhodhiss, North Carolina. The Granite Falls Middle School received an Award of Excellence and the Society’s Lighthouse Award for *The Wall Tells All*, a pictorial display of education in Granite Falls throughout the years. Accepting the award on behalf of the school were Cindy Hedrick Day and Sharon Bryant, who worked with Linda Crowder and Principal Chris Ackerman to select photos and provide design ideas, which were used by the school’s architect’s, McKissick and Associates, to create the wall. The Lighthouse Award is given for projects that the society recognizes as a “guiding light other schools should seek to emulate.”



Santa Claus and Mayor Caryl Burns

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS *Festival on the Square*

The Town of Granite Falls held its 18th Annual Festival on the Square and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 25, 2024, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Gene Crawley served as Master of Ceremonies. The following groups entertained the crowd: South Caldwell High School Percussion Ensemble, Sims Country Cloggers, Appalachian Rhythm, Granite Falls Elementary School Chorus, and



Gene Crawley

Dudley Shoals Elementary School Choir. Dr. Caryl B. Burns welcomed the crowd and introduced members of the

(FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE continued on page 4)



MAKE HISTORY Nominate Your Favorite Outdoor Display

As we enter the holiday season, many homeowners are taking time to put up outdoor Christmas decorations. Let's celebrate those who go above and beyond. The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. and the Granite Falls Garden Club are working together to sponsor an outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest for homes located in and around the Town of Granite Falls. The Garden Club will judge entries submitted by Sunday, December 15, 2024, and place their "Yard of the Month" sign on the winning property. The Historical Association will present a certificate to the winner and send out a news release. The winning home will also be featured in the town's updated history book to be published in early 2025. To enter the contest, or to nominate someone else for it, send a text or email with the name, address, and phone number of the homeowner/resident to Linda Crowder. Her cell phone is (828) 496-2835, and her email address is ldrcrowder@gmail.com.

PRESERVING HISTORY Write It Down Before You Forget

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. is still accepting both oral and chronological histories from individuals, families, civic clubs, churches, businesses, and other organizations for inclusion in its new history book, *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*. If you have historical events or memories to share, please contact Linda Crowder right away. She will happily assist those persons who don't feel comfortable writing down what they have to share. Her contact information is in the paragraph above.

GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION No Dues Membership

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. has made dues very affordable. Beginning November 1, 2024, the cost to join GFHA is \$0.00. Yes, that is right - no charge. Members want everyone interested in the history of Granite Falls and the surrounding area to feel welcome to participate according to their circumstances. Members can indicate their desired level of activity on a form by checking one of the following:

- Available to participate in daytime meetings: _____
- Available to participate in evening meetings: _____
- May not be available for meetings, but will consider special assignments: _____
- Not available for meetings, but want to receive news/updates: _____

Forms are available at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum, on Facebook [Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum], and on the museum website (www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org). They may be

returned to the museum. Members may also send the information by email or text to Linda Crowder

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 3 p.m. after a meeting of the Granite Falls History Committee, which begins at 2 p.m. Both meetings are open to the public, but please let Linda know if you plan to attend in the event of a last minute change in plans.



LIGHT UP, GRANITE FALLS And the Winners Are

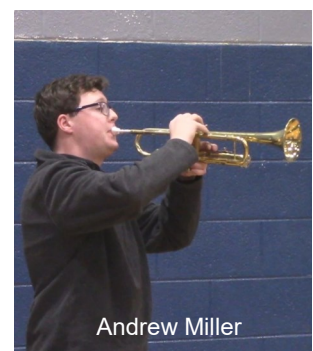
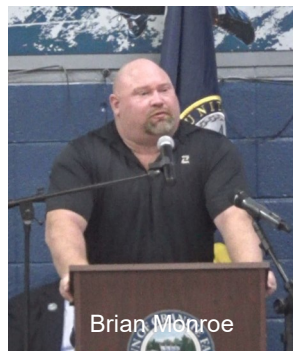
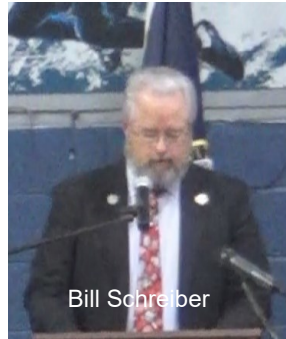
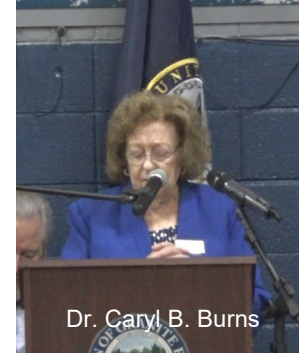
Local organizations sponsored trees that will be on display during the Christmas season. The theme was "Christmas at the Movies," which is the theme of the 2024 Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, December 7. These school groups received cash for their efforts: Granite Falls Elementary School First Grade (\$100), South Caldwell High School Volunteens (\$100), Granite Falls Elementary School Fifth Grade (\$50), Dudley Shoals Elementary School Beta Club (\$50), Granite Falls Elementary School Second Grade (\$50), and Dudley Shoals Elementary School First Grade (\$50). Local merchants provided the trees, and State Employees Credit Union donated the lights.



Jonathan Fox caught this beautiful image of a rising supermoon behind Christian Fellowship Church on Friday, November 15, 2024.

“America the Beautiful” by the SCHS Chamber Choir, veteran speaker - Bill Schreiber, veteran speaker - Frank Stefanick, “America the Beautiful” by SCHS Concert Band, “Remember” by the Granite Falls Elementary School Chorus, reading of the names on the KIA monument by Brian Monroe, placing of the wreath by Charlotte and Leora Elhenicky, and “Taps” by Andrew Miller.

Granite Falls Chief of Police “Brine” Branham coordinated the program. Members of First United Methodist Church served refreshments prior to the ceremony. The Granite Falls Garden Club decorated the stage. Jeanne Whisnant, Co-Chair of the Granite Falls History Committee, displayed military memorabilia she had brought from the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum for attendees to see. Linda Crowder, Co-Chair of the Granite Falls History Committee, made a video and posted it to the museum Facebook page “Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum.”



Granite Falls Town Council and the Town Manager. Mayor Burns delegated the countdown to Santa Claus, and residents saw the first snowfall of the season. Before and during the event, local businesses and churches provided free refreshments. In addition, representatives of FEMA were available to assist with Hurricane Helene claims, and the North Carolina Medicaid Enrollment Broker offered assistance with health care plans.

Linda Crowder posted a video of the program on the museum Facebook page "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."



South Caldwell High School Percussion Ensemble



Sims Country Cloggers



Appalachian Rhythm



Granite Falls Elementary School Chorus



Dudley Shoals Elementary School Choir



Christmas Lights, Snow, and Carolers



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.

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 or the Facebook page under "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."