



"The Donovan Diaries"

Virtual Presentation by Brian L. Griffin

Online starting April 8, 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID19 crisis, this program will be virtual only. See Page 2 for full instructions.

Brian L. Griffin will speak about his book "The Donovan Diaries," and his research that led to the book. John Joseph Donovan was a man born of common clay who lived the American dream, rising to great heights of achievement, wealth, and community affection. Donovan lived a storied life illuminated in this fascinating book by the discovery of his diaries long hidden in an old steamer trunk in Sag Harbor, New York.

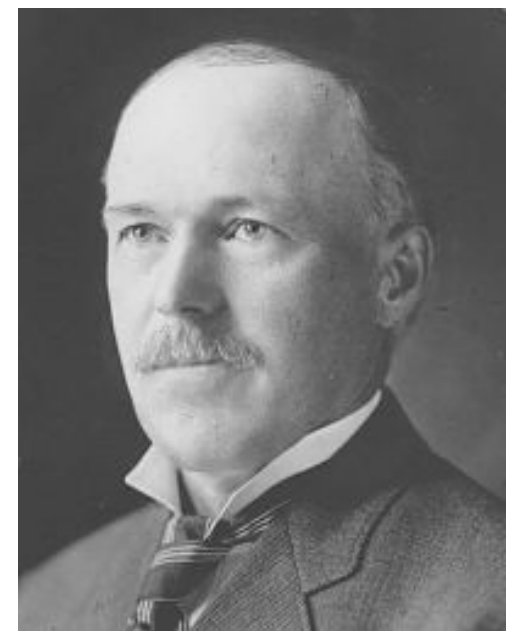
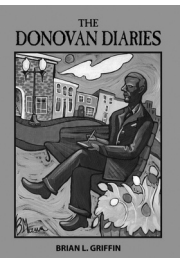
This early American story reveals the remarkable life of the son of Irish immigrants. After fleeing the Irish potato famine, his family established a New England farm where JJ grew up and succeeded in the long journey to a college education. He then earned a civil engineering degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and was hired by the Northern Pacific Railroad to advance the line across the plains and over the Cascade mountains to the Salish Sea. Later in his career he facilitated the rise of a city and new industries on Bellingham Bay. Donovan was a man suited to the challenges and opportunities of his times, but equally important, he was an honest man of immense character, determination, and skill who left a legacy of civic accomplishment.

This is also a great love story, an Irish Catholic boy and a New England Puritan girl struggling to overcome their religious and social differences.

Brian Griffin was born in Bellingham. Educated at the Campus School, Bellingham High School and Whitman College, he has enjoyed a life of rich and varied experiences. He helped to found Griffin Garrett Johanson & Schacht and The Unity Group, among other businesses. He also introduced the Orchard Mason Bee to the nation.

Long interested in history, The Donovan Diaries is his fifth local history book. The others are My Darling Anna, Boulevard Park, Treasures from the Trunk, and Fairhaven, A History.

For many years he has narrated the Whatcom Museum's Sunset History Cruises and remains an active docent at the museum. He was honored with the "Living Treasure" award at the Mayor's Arts Award ceremony in 2015.



John Joseph "J.J." Donovan

2020-2021 WCHS Program Season

End of Program Season

This is the last program of the 2020-21 season. You can access any programs that you missed on our website: www.whatcomhistory.net. The 2021-2022 season will resume with the October program. All programs are held on the second Thursday of each month through April.

If you have an idea or would like to present a program, contact Wes Gannaway at (360) 384-4209.

Needed: Volunteer(s) for the following

- Organize partial content for newsletters. Can use any text or email program.
- Help schedule future programs.
- Serve on the board (especially need computer saavy members to help with operations)

Support will be provided.

Please email whatcomhistory@gmail.com for more information.

WCHS Board 2021

President: Wes Gannaway, 360-384-4209
debnwes@comcast.net

Vice-president: Kim Thornadtsson

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Kolby LaBree, kolby@bellinghistory.com, editors;
graphic designer (vacant)

Hospitality: Jeré Edwards

Membership: Janene Aker, 360-354-1615

Newsletter: need organizer, no design skills required

Facebook: Kolby LaBree

Website: Lanny Little

Local History News & Notes

Virtual Program Instructions

Thank you for your interest in joining us for a Historical Society Virtual Program!

This program is hosted on the Whatcom Museum YouTube channel, it is not a Zoom, nor does it require any application installations or registration.

Here's how to join:

1. Open a web browser (Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, etc.)
2. Go to whatcommuseum.org, the website for the Whatcom Museum.
3. Scroll down and click on the words "Upcoming Events" (Virtual) The titles are in thick orange text in date order.
4. Follow the instructions.
5. That takes you to the Museum YouTube channel. From here, simply click on the box with the program title.
6. You've arrived at the site where the stream will take place. You can bookmark this page, or leave it open in a tab to view at the appropriate time.

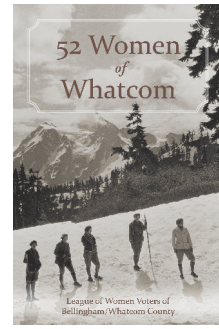
You can watch it later on the same site or on www.whatcomhistory.net (under Programs) or on Youtube by searching videos for Whatcom County Historical Society.

Thank you to Members & Supporters

It has been a rough year, but with the help of the Whatcom Museum, we were able to continue offering programs virtually and your memberships made it possible to publish our annual Journal! We hope by this fall, we can begin our season in person! Stay safe until then!

New Local History Book

52 Women of Whatcom profiles women who were the backbone of their pioneer community—raising families, contributing to local culture, and leading in the establishment of schools, colleges, hospitals and museums. They fought for the vote and gradually became elected leaders themselves, working for the world beyond. As you read the stories of these women right up to the present time, you'll understand why the League of Women



Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County included each one in this book to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and the 100th birthday of the League.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

It was edited by Jayne Freudenberger and Linda Lambert and is available in paperback at Village Books.

Explore More Fairhaven District History

Find a wealth of information about the Fairhaven District on the website: FairhavenHistory.com. The site is maintained and researched by Society member, Gayle Helgoe, a retired reference librarian and assistant director of the Bellingham Public Library, and Neelie Nelson, who co-authored the local history book, *My Darling Anna*, with Brian Griffin.

Local history resources are also listed on the Society website: Whatcomhistory.net. Included are links to repositories and information on how to research and preserve historic homes and other buildings, as well as to museums and other historical societies around the state.

HistoryLink.org is also a great resource.

Whatcom County Historical Society Membership 2020-2021 Season

Clip or copy and mail with payment to WCHS Membership, 1308 E St., Bellingham, WA 98225, or at www.whatcomhistory.net

NEW RENEW I would like to volunteer, please contact me Date _____

Member Benefit: All members will receive the WCHS newsletter starting at the \$15 level

- \$15 One year newsletter subscription
- \$25 Individual membership or non-profit organization, newsletter + one copy Journal + 10% member discount
- \$50 Sustaining member, joint or business membership, (same benefits as above) call 360-354-1615
- \$100 Supporting member (same plus choice of historic photographic print from Whatcom Museum)
- \$250 Patron member (same as all above, plus special future recognition)

Additional donation \$ _____ In memory of _____

Additional donation \$ _____ for _____

Name: _____ Check and leave blank if same as mail label

Business/Organization name: _____

Street/Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail update _____

Please send me information on _____

Expiration date on newsletter mailing label may not be updated until second issue after payment.

The Whatcom County Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Your membership is tax-deductible, except for value of gift items. Please call 360-354-1615 for information about your membership and benefits.



Thank you to these members for renewing, joining, or donating:

Newsletter Subscription (\$15)

Individual Members (\$25)

Michelle Fisher; Debra Jones (gift from her daughter Jennifer Jones Lautenbach)

Sustaining Members (\$50)

Supporting Members (\$100)

Donations

\$50 from Janet Boom in memory of James Mortimer

\$25 from Mary Carlson

\$100 from John K. Stimpson in memory of his sister Catherine "Kitty" Stimpson

If you don't see your name in the newsletter, if your renewal date is not correct on the label, or you did not receive your Journal, please call Janene at 360-354-1615.

Our Mission:

WCHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation, presentation and promotion of Whatcom County history through public programs, special events, education, research assistance, historic preservation and publications. Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Whatcom County Territorial Courthouse. This structure at 1308 E. Street was built on Bellingham Bay tide flats in 1858 as a "two-story brick store and banking house." It later served as a courthouse, was used for business purposes, and has been the headquarters of the WCHS.

