

GCPS Progress Report
August/September, 2026
By Diane Sterne

- Todd Davidson at the Museum forwarded an email to me from a group in Sooke. They are caring for a historic cemetery and are looking for pointers and tips. I sent them some ideas of what we do at our cemetery.
- There were two interments of ashes at the cemetery. They were in a previously reserved area, so they were done at no cost. I have added their names to our cemetery binder, Find A Grave, and the board at the cemetery. Thank you so much Ray Boyd for adding them to the cemetery website!!
- With the ATV ban on Crown Land due to the fire risks, we have not visited the Delprato Cabin (note: the ATV ban has now been lifted). We did, however, add more brochures to the Walking Tour as the supply was running low. As mentioned already, we also updated the board at the cemetery to include the two new interments.
- When we were at the Town Site, we spotted a wooden sign and a poster with photos on it:



There were no names on the poster (just photos and memorial words). Curious, we contacted Lori and Bert Rice, and Julie Stillie who all live near there. They told us a woman interred her grandfather's ashes there because the structure had been his family home. Julie gave me a phone number for the woman. I called and left her a message. In the meantime (with only a last name "Brown"), I decided to do some digging. I learned that the Browns did live at Granite Creek from about 1908 – 1921. The patriarch was a Scottish man named James Brown (1870-1951) married to Edna Lawrence (1885-1975). Edna had an Indigenous mother and was the half sister of Lucie Holmes (the Holmes family were prominent at Granite Creek dating back to 1885). James was a quartz miner at Granite Creek. James and Edna had a total of 6 children. Three were born at Granite Creek. Their son, James Earl Brown (1913-1992) was the father of the man (Ronald) who was interred at the family home.

It was a fun search, and I was able to go back many generations from Ronald Brown. The woman who had placed the signs and interred her grandfather's ashes did call me

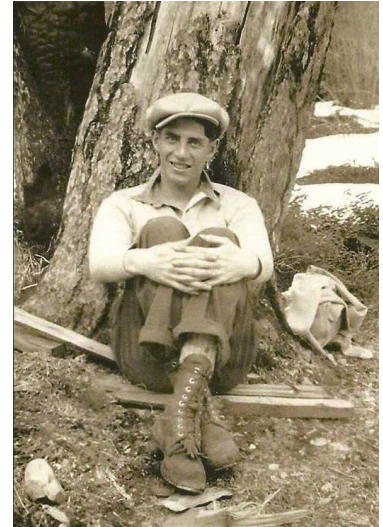
back and was able to confirm that I was looking at the correct family. She asked if I could send her the information I had as she was interested to learn more about her family history. I won't go into it all here as it doesn't really pertain to Granite Creek other than what I have already written. It is exciting that we have learned three new things: the purpose of the structure (which is in very poor shape now), the name and history of another Granite Creek family, and a previously unknown to us relative of the Holmes family. Below are photos (from Ancestry) of the patriarch, his wife and son:



James Brown (1870-1951)



Edna Lawrence
(1885-1975)



James Earl Brown
(1913-1992)

- A woman stopped by and purchased 3 hats. We now have only 2 left (both are dark blue).
- Financial Report: 26 paid members; current bank balance \$3,489.59 (this includes \$100 for the Cemetery Care Fund that we are required to keep track of separately); PayPal \$193.60; cash on hand \$93.00; balance is \$3,776.19.
- Thank you to all of our members and helpers.