

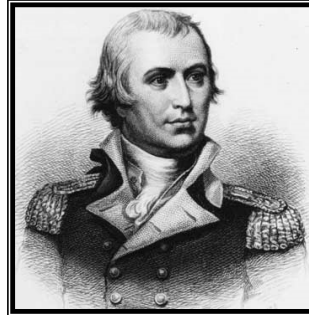
Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2019, July

Volume 25 Issue 2



Nathanael Greene
Major General of the Continental Army
Born 1742--Died 1786

UP COMING EVENTS

What better place for Upcoming Events than Page 1, so that you can make a note of dates right away in your calendar? Please see details in local media closer to the dates.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug. 8 -10 | 1st Annual Greene Farm & Livestock Show:
https://greenefarmandlivestockshow.org |
| Aug. 31 – Oct.
19 | 50 Days of County Activities: celebrating the 50 th Anniversary of the slogan “Virginia is for Lovers” |
| Sept 21-22 | 6th Annual Virginia Clay Festival: https://virginiaclayfestival.com/ |
| Oct. 19 | Freemasons and SIDC – The Masonic Trial of Benedict Arnold. PVCC Auditorium - https://www.rwbng.org/ |
| Oct. 24 | Court Square Gas line Explosion: Evening commemoration of this event 40 years ago. |
| Nov. 11 | Veterans Day Ceremony, Court Square, Stanardsville. Old Jail will be open. |

MAGAZINE

After many years, we have finally produced a new Magazine – this is Volume 22. Printed in time to deliver many copies to members at our dinner in March, it, like its predecessors, has lots of interesting articles. These include a touching memoir of her father by Betty Sims Brown; information about the early settler in what was then Orange County, David Roach; the William Chapman Farm; and several genealogies, among other articles. If you are a local member, and have not yet stopped by 360 Main Street to pick up your copy, we would be very grateful if you would do so. We issue this magazine ‘occasionally,’ it has more in-depth material than the newsletter; it comes with your membership - and it costs \$2.00 to mail. We’d much rather see you at the museum than deliver them to the Post Office, so come on by!!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Your Historical Society has had a busy spring, with many events. At the March annual dinner, held at the Blue Ridge Café, Evelyn Powell Deane gave an inspiring talk about three Powell brothers who grew up on a farm in the Geer area and who served in the US Army during WWII. Through letters to and from their family, we gained some insights into how a family coped. All three brothers survived the War. Copies of the letters are available to read at the Museum. Whenever possible, we like to open the Old Jail again for visitors; it currently holds a display of WWI items, which over 80 visitors enjoyed during the Strawberry Festival.

Our Annual Meeting in May was once again held in the Court house, and was followed by a get together on the Court house steps in May sunshine. Our program was given by Ruth Walkup, and you can read about her presentation later in this newsletter. The fourth annual genealogy workshop was held at the end of June at Grace Episcopal Church in Stanardsville. We have Ron Mosher to thank, once again, for planning, organizing and conducting the workshop, ably assisted by Roger Powell and Jeanne Rexroad. The previous day a group of 4th graders from Ruckersville Elementary School made a field trip to the Museum, with teachers Donna Shifflett and Chelsea Higgins in charge. Volunteers Judith Delaney, Maude Pluta and Bobby Rhodes joined me to greet them and explain things, and it was a most successful visit, with the children expressing a lot of interest. We love hosting school groups, and showing and sharing with the county's history with them.

Another student-related activity that we are sponsoring is the development of a Historical Walking Tour of the Town of Stanardsville, which is an Eagle Scout project that local Boy Scout Garrett Ensor has undertaken. Garrett will develop a digital map with photographs, historical information, GPS coordinates and markers for around 30 sites. The map will be accessible from our website and downloadable to smart phones. We'll keep you posted on progress.

At our June Board meeting we discussed some major new expenses. Our 15-year old HVAC system needed to be replaced at a cost of \$6,000.00. And maintaining the catalog of our collections, arguably our most valuable possessions apart from real estate, has also become more expensive, to the tune of \$4,000.00, with the need for new software that, inevitably, needs newer and better computer equipment. We hope to be using the software to make more of our collection available online (like the big guys do...) These expenses make us all the more grateful to you, our members and donors, for supporting what we do.

Best regards to all,

Joann Powell

ANNUAL MEETING

Membership elected the slate as presented. For the record the GCHS Board is now constituted as follows: President, Joann Powell; Vice President, Edd Fuller; Treasurer, Roger Powell; Secretary, Dawn Muir; Board of Directors: Dick Early; Gary Forrest; Jackie Pamenter; Jeanne Rexroad; Bobby Rhodes; David Roach; and Ellen Thurnau. Welcome Dawn and David, we look forward to your contributions to the board. Once again we thank our retired Secretary, Cheryl Ragland for all her work over the past many years, and look forward to her future contributions when not having to take Minutes!.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT OUR AUCTION!

It was our first and possibly our last. It was quite an experience, not all bad—not all good, but all in all, the outcome was about \$4000.

We originally planned to do it as we finally did, with all the items laid out in the Rhodes Gallery with bidding sheets, but we also considered holding an “online auction.” This gets you an enormous audience – lots of eyeballs as the jargon has it – many people shopping and possibly bidding more money; but you have to pay 20% to the company hosting and posting it—even if you do most of the work yourself. We would have been sad if in the end we’d had to hand over 20% of that \$4000!

We could not have done it without the generosity of our members and neighbors, who donated some pretty awesome items, AND the folks who came to bid—some returning later to make sure they weren’t outbid. For a few people, it became quite a game! If you missed it, there were 91 items in all, ranging from doodads and nick knacks to furniture pieces, paintings and other items from local artists, rounds of golf and a photographic property survey done by a drone. Even if our guests didn’t bid or take anything home, they had some fun oo-ing and ahh-ing over the selection. Very little remained at the end of the final day, and what was left we donated to ‘Another Time Around,’ the thrift store operated by GRACE, the Greene Alliance of Church and Community Efforts, in the Great Valu Shopping Plaza, which sponsors ‘Feeding Greene’ among other activities.

There was immediate interest in doing another auction. But like a family with a new baby, I think we’ll wait a while.

Jeanne Rexroad & Ellen Thurnau

APRIL 6TH IN STANARDSVILLE - A DAY TO SEE AND DO

We told you in our last issue about the forthcoming Fiber Day and Profiles of Honor Traveling Exhibit on April 6th. We are delighted to report that everybody had a wonderful time! Weather cooperated, and people came to admire not just indoor displays but outdoor activities; Vyvyan Rundgren set up a display for the Barn Quilt program, and Ann Vonnegut of Autumn Vista Farm in Dyke brought a lamb and a yearling sheep to greet visitors in the front yard. I personally thought that having a lamb on the property all the time would be a great idea, but it was vetoed.....

Meanwhile, in Court Square Virginia’s Profiles of Honor traveling exhibit was open for visiting, and the organizers were impressed by the number and quality of the documents that were brought to be scanned. At Dookie’s Cabin, Dookie’s son Craig reports that more than two dozen people visited to see the extraordinary assemblage of Native American artifacts that Dookie collected throughout his life, almost all of them from Greene County.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Recent artifact donations include the following: mid-19th century stoneware jug with blue decoration, Ann Long; large, shaped projectile point from Shifflett Hollow, Susan Firth; Stanardsville aerial photo. 8/8/1977, Gina Haney; 1946 Pocket Dictionary, 1881 Hymnal inscribed in 1885, Joyce Reese; Marriage License of Claude Grant and Virginia McMullen, 5/29/1937, Anne Reel; late 19th & early 20th century clothing including a dress, lace collars, blouses, a pair of satin shoes and 2 pairs of silk stockings, Ann Mingledorff. We are grateful for all these donations.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

As you know, we recently introduced some new membership categories, which seem to have been well received. But we have had the category of Lifetime Member from the start, and we thought you might be interested to see who falls into this category. Some have been members for very many years, although our records don't give us all the information to know when they joined.

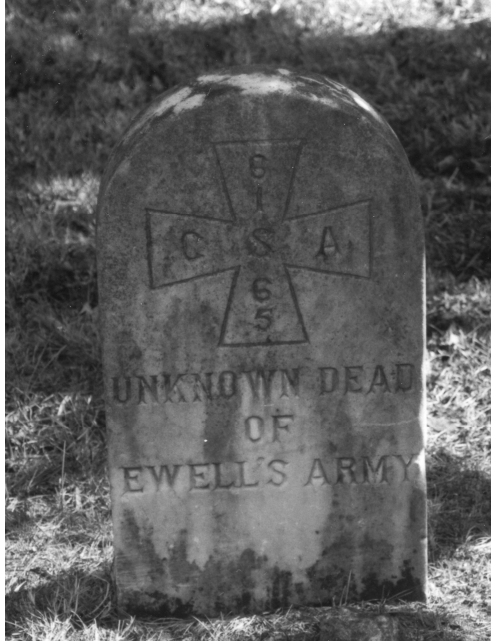
RoseAnn Brill, Waynesville MO	Pre-2005	Blair Knight, Quinque	2015
		Amanda Kutch, Troy	2014
Norm Addington, Earlysville	1998	Kathy Ladika, Stanardsville	2015
		Anna L Rhoades Little, Falls Church	2010
Robert Allen, Ruckersville	1998	Arline McDaniel, Ruckersville	2003
Philip Anns, Charlottesville	1998	Carol Merrill, Stanardsville	2002
Elaine Barnett, Ruckersville	2008	Robert Miller Jr., Powhatan	2007
Travis Baugher, Ruckersville	2013	Butch Davies, Culpeper	2010
Betty Brubach, Charlottesville	Pre-1994	Nancy Morris, Stanardsville*	1978
Daphne Moyer Daniel, Waynesboro	2018	Yvonne Morris, Green Valley AZ	2009
Richard Early, Stanardsville	Pre-1992	Ron Mosher, Ruckersville	2008
		Phil Paschall, Waterford	2006
Deborah Erickson, Stanardsville	2012	Eugene Powell, Quinque*	1978
Guy Estes, Los Alamos NM	2003	Joann Powell, Stanardsville	2001
Sandra Jo Fizer, Dyke VA	2010	Anne Reel, Stanardsville	1998
Gary Forrest, Stanardsville	Pre-2005	David Roach, Stanardsville	2013
		Warren Rucker, Ruckersville	2012
Kevin Frazier, McGaheysville	2014	Mieko Rucker, Ruckersville	2016
Elwood Gentry, Richmond	1980	William Schmidt, Stanardsville	2000
Greg Gilbert, Charlottesville	2013	Marianne Shepard, Ruckersville	2008
John L. Gilbert, Fairfield	2007	Louise Sullivan, Earlysville*	1978
Ethyle Giuseppe, Stanardsville	2007	William Thomas, West Lafayette IN	2008
J. Andrew Graff, Charlottesville	2013	Floyd Turner, Reading PA	2001
Barbara D. Haney, Mechanicsville	2012	Frances Walker, Stanardsville	2008
Jean Hart, Free Union	1998	Blanche Whitlock, Oakland CA	2001
Mary Fitzhugh Hitselberger, Fond Du Lac WI	Pre-2005	Jackie G. Williams, Richmond	2013
Buffy Horner, Arlington	2010	Emily McMullen Williams, Culpeper	2002
John P. Kirwan, Chesterfield	1998		

Lifetime members commit a significant sum in the belief that we will continue to carry out our mission over many years. Three Lifetime members (1978, in bold type) were also Charter members of the Society - Nancy Morris; Eugene Powell and Louise Sullivan. Several other Charter members, part of the 1978 organizing group, have also faithfully supported us over the years; it is a pleasure to list them too - Mabel Collier Baker, Julie Dickey, Marie Durrer, Olen Morris, Audrey Morris, Woodie Parrott, Gatheline Rhodes, Ben Simms III, and Chuck Swinney. We salute you, and all of our members, for making it possible for us to continue to do what we do.

“THE UNKNOWN DEAD OF EWELL’S ARMY” - LOUISIANANS BURIED IN GREENE COUNTY

BY RUTH WALKUP

Member and storyteller Ruth Walkup told this intriguing story as the program for our Annual Meeting on May 19th, 2019. We will present it for the majority of our membership, who could not be present, in two parts, finishing in our November issue.



Ruth began by saying: *“Not too long ago I learned of a grave-marker here in Greene County. I went to see it in the churchyard of Shiloh Baptist Church just off Main Street. It says: Unknown Dead of Ewell’s Army’. There is a CSA cross and the date 1865. I started to explore, ask people, read, visit the place. This is what I found out.”*

On the 18th of April 1861, the *New Orleans Daily Crescent* carried the following announcement: *“We understand that our friend, Gen. C.R. Wheat, is about to raise a company of volunteers, to serve in the Army of Louisiana.”* General Chatham Roberdeau Wheat was a legend. He had been a Louisiana state Representative and a mercenary in Cuba and Italy. He had been a captain in the army (Mexican War, 1846-1848) and was a successful New Orleans lawyer.

General Wheat was 6 foot 4 inches tall and he weighed more than 250 pounds. A picture shows him sporting a head of thick dark hair and a thick mustache. He was charismatic, humble, and extremely well connected. He was also committed to the causes of the South – he had been born in Alexandria, VA. When Virginia seceded in early April, General Wheat got fired up. With financing from the New Orleans’ elite, many of whom were originally from Virginia, he went to the shipping docks, the bars, the waterfront, the wharves of New Orleans, and gathered together more than 500 volunteers. These men were mostly immigrants from Ireland and Germany – a rough bunch – street toughs, drinkers, brawlers, and at least one known convicted felon. From the time of his seeking them out, these men were ferociously loyal to General Wheat.

The General put the high society women to work sewing the unique uniform for his ‘Special Battalion’ that he designed. The uniform was based on those of an Algerian elite fighting force (the Zouave) – blue and white striped socks, blue and white striped pantaloons, loose fitting red shirts, dark blue short jacket with red piping, bright red sashes, and red wool fezzes with tassels. They were distinguished looking, to say the least.

In mid-June 1861, General Wheat piled his Special Battalion – who some called “Tigers” for their ferocity and stripes – into freight rail cars and they all headed to the center of the fighting action in Northern Virginia. They arrived to help win the First Battle of Manassas. They fought tough, they fought with flair, and they fought like dockworkers. General Wheat was also tough. During that battle, he took a Union bullet through each lung. Informed by an army surgeon that there was no instance on record of a man surviving such a wound, General Wheat replied: *“Well then, I will put my case on record.”* The Tigers spent the winter of 1861 in Northern Virginia.

Back in Louisiana, perhaps inspired by the publicity about General Wheat and his famous Tigers, a young man by the name of Julien Linossier enlisted. He was 23 years old, from Assumption, LA, just a few miles west of New Orleans. The 1860 census documents list him as a ‘barkeeper’, probably in his father’s ‘coffee house’. Both Julien’s father and mother had been born in France and

Julien probably spoke fluent French; he probably spoke English with a French accent. We don't know anything about what he looked like.

Julien and his brother both enlisted for a three-year term of service and went for training. Julien was assigned to Company K, 'The Phoenix Company'; his brother to Company B. Soon they were on their way to Virginia to join the action. Just before Christmas 1861, military records show that Julien Linossier missed monthly roll call. He was sick in a Richmond hospital - we don't know why, there is no record. We don't know if he ever really got well but he did make roll call the next few months. His Phoenix Company was wintering in Richmond.

In the spring of 1862 after taking a break for the coldest part of winter, fighting in Virginia resumed and more men from Louisiana enlisted and were sent north to fight. It is likely that [Joel] Simeon Murrell from Claiborne Parish, a town just east of Shreveport, didn't actually voluntarily enlist. He was 'recruited.' At that time, officers were given \$50 a head for every man they brought into the army. We can guess that Simeon Murrell was one of these recruits, because enlistment documents show seven Murrell men – Simeon, John, Perry, Edmond, Zach, William, and Henry – enlisting in March 1862. Simeon was assigned to the 'Minden Blues Company' with other men from his town. According to census documents, Simeon Murrell was a farmer born into one of the 'first families' of Claiborne Parish. He was 29 and married to Martha for five years when he was enlisted. When he went off to war, he left three children at home. That is all we know about Simeon

Simeon and the six other Murrells took trains to Virginia to join the soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia, Ewell's Division, which was gathering in Culpeper County, at Brandy Station, about 37 miles north-east of Stanardsville. They were the newbies to the war. Julien Linossier and the Phoenix Company arrived. General C.R. Wheat and his original 'Special Battalion' of Tigers arrived. Four regiments from Louisiana, four from Virginia, one from North Carolina, one from Georgia, one from Alabama, and one from Mississippi gathered and made up Ewell's Division. These 8,500 men all reported to Brigadier General Richard Ewell.

Ewell took his orders from Major General Stonewall Jackson, who, in the spring of 1862, was in the Shenandoah Valley. The orders came: "*Take the Division and protect Swift Run Gap.*" Swift Run Gap is the lowest place across the Blue Ridge Mountains, about 10 miles from Stanardsville. Major General Jackson didn't want the Union forces to travel from the Shenandoah Valley through Swift Run Gap and sneak up on Richmond. Ewell's Division was ordered to take up a strategic spot at the southern tip of Massanutten Mountain, over in the Valley. On April 18th – one year to the day after the announcement in the *New Orleans Daily Crescent* - Ewell's Division started marching south, from Brandy Station to Elkton..... **to be continued.**

Ed: We all know what weather can be like here in mid-April, and we know what a difficult time these soldiers must have had. In the November issue of the Newsletter, we will finish the story of Julien Linossier, Simeon Murrell and their comrades. We might even find evidence of their presence here in artifacts in our collections. Stay tuned.

YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Sometimes after members have read our Newsletter they contact us with more information about people or places we have written about. Please keep it coming!! We are always pleased to hear from you: by email at info@GreeneHistory.org; in person at 360 Main Street, during our regular open hours, from 10 till 3 on Fridays and Saturdays; if you come by when Anthea Haselden is working, usually but not always on a Wednesday or Thursday; or by phone at 434-985-1834. It's your Society!

WORKING WITH GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS – NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2019



*Ashley Cortez (left) & Helen Nitzsche after State competition
(courtesy Logan Bogert, Greene County Record)*

William Monroe Middle School does it again! We congratulate all the students who worked so hard on their NHD projects, especially the many who took their projects to the State Finals in Richmond on April 27th. From all that hard work, we can truthfully boast that we swept the Individual Performance Category! Both Ashley Cortez, (First Place) with “*Separate, But Unequal: Barbara Johns’ Fight for Equality*” and Helen Nitzsche (Second Place), with “*The Woman Who Changed the Rules in Science, Marie Curie.*” represented the Commonwealth of Virginia at the National Competition in College Park MD in June.

And Ashley placed 3rd in the Nation! In the face of intense competition from schools across the country, and some from across the world, she won the Bronze Medal for her performance portraying aspects of the life of the teenage Barbara Johns, who led the strike in Farmville for equal education.

And Ashley placed 3rd in the Nation!

KINDERHOOK SCHOOL – TWO PHOTOGRAPHS

Now step back from this triumph to 100+ years ago. We have a set of small prints of Greene County schools; the photos were taken by teacher Virginia Taylor in the early- to mid-20th century. Now, thanks to some deft enhancement by supporter Rodrick Rhodes, we have prints of these images in the large 3-ring binder devoted to Greene County Education. One photo is of the Kinderhook School: we had used another photo of that school on the cover of our Images book. Here are the two images side by side. Judging from the ages of the children, we think that photo was taken around 1909.



Kinderhook School Under Construction



Kinderhook School & the Rhodes boys c.1909

From left to right in the front row, the six boys are thought to be sons of Michael Price Rhodes and Dollie Deane Rhodes: Arthur Cleveland, George Sinclair Senior, Percy Graydon, Velman Gordon, William Hobart and Richard Whitelaw. The boy at far right is Teedie Deane. To his left is believed to be Eugene Eppard. The woman at the left in the back row and the woman wearing a pinafore over a checked blouse are believed to be two of Hiram Franklin Breeden’s daughters. Sadly, the teacher cannot be identified.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We have a number of generous friends to thank for financial donations: Jessica Taylor, Blacksburg; Neva Adams, Newport News; Joanna Cheatham, Charlottesville; L. M. Gilderman, Spokane WA, in memory of Gladys Shifflett Meadows; Doris Lyon & Mickey Cox, Alton Keel, David Morris, Bert & Barbara Nye, Susan & George Overstreet, Kendall Tata, Rick Townsley, Gail Unterman, all of Stanardsville; and the Montpelier Chapter of the DAR. We cannot thank you enough for your support of this organization.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members of the historical Society since the last newsletter; Win Consolvo of Barboursville; Joann Cheatham of Charlottesville; Cory & Jack Ryan, Mark & Maria Pulczynski, Kathy Kelley, and Edward Wojdylak, all of Ruckersville; Robert Bongers, Stephanie & Walter Deal, John Ensor & family, Ann & Scott Mingledorff, and David Morris, all of Stanardsville. We welcome you all and hope to provide much of interest for you in the coming months and years.

BLUE RIDGE MEMORIAL PROJECT: HOME STRETCH

It has been a difficult year for the construction industry because of extreme weather, and it has impacted our progress toward a completed memorial. But patience is a virtue, and we are thrilled to announce that the informational panels are now in place around the commemorative chimney in Stanardsville, and the sidewalks that lead down the hill to the Farmers Market Pavilion and entertainment area are complete.



Greene County Memorial Committee, L-R: Norm Addington, Jim Lawson, Bill Martin, Jeanne Rexroad, Joann Powell, Larry Lamb and Roger Powell (not pictured: Roy Dye, Teresa Lam, Alan Yost)

families. Jim Lawson introduced the rest of the Committee, see picture above, who had worked so hard on this project in Greene, and also Bill Henry, whose vision for the 8-county memorial was the beginning of it all, and then called on descendants of mountain families to unveil the panels. Jim also reminded people that more stories from 'Before the Park' can be read and seen in an exhibit at the Museum at 360 Main Street.

July 6th saw the 'Soft Opening' of the Pavilion, with many buyers and vendors, and local musicians including member Judy Pagter, and then the unveiling of the information kiosks, which are truly impressive. They include pictures and text on homes, churches, schools, cemeteries and businesses that were part of daily life in the mountains before residents were evicted to form the Shenandoah National Park. Many of the photographs were donated by Greene County



Information kiosk with walkway to Pavilion in the background

BUSINESS CORNER

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: Our newest Business member is the Stanardsville Shopping Plaza, home to Great Valu and many other businesses, and owned by members Frank and Betty Ruppert. Other business members are: The Cottages at Chesley Creek Farm in Dyke (www.chesleycreekfarm.com), owner Chuck Swinney; Armstrong and Associates International (www.armstrongassoc.com) of Stanardsville, President Shari Bedker; the Farm at South River, owners Judy and Cliff Braun; the Roy Wheeler Realty Company, Ruckersville branch (www.RoyWheeler.com); Performance Signs of Ruckersville, owners Robbie & Katherine Morris; United Bank, Stanardsville Main Street Branch, Manager Donna Harlow (www.bankwithunited.com); Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (www.myrec.coop); Charlottesville Sam’s Club (www.samsclub.com), and The Greene Hills Club on Route 230 (www.GreeneHillsClub.com), PGA Professional and Senior Manager Mike Moyers. We are grateful to all of these businesses for their support, and encourage members to use their services.

Business supporters are acknowledged in all newsletters; receive a 10% discount on rental of the Rhodes Gallery for business events; are able to purchase a brick for our walkway at a discount; and receive a certificate acknowledging their support to display in their place of business. We look forward to welcoming many business members from within the County and beyond.

Our membership year is a calendar one, and so it is already half over. But if your dues are still due, we will still cash your check.....

Greene County Historical Society Membership Form

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973 – or bring it by the museum at 360 Main Street any Friday or Saturday, between 10 am and 3 pm. You may also renew online from the Membership page of our website. Membership dues, and additional gifts, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please check one of the following: This is a new membership This is a renewal

NAME _____ DATE _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER? YES NO TELEPHONE _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 FAMILY \$20.00 SPOTSWOOD SOCIETY \$50.00

BUSINESS: \$100.00 NATHANAEL GREENE SOCIETY \$200.00 LIFETIME \$500.00

ADDITIONAL GIFT - \$____

Open Fridays and Saturdays 10-3, and by appointment. Call 434-985-1834

www.greenehistory.org

www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva

The Greene County Historical Society

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