

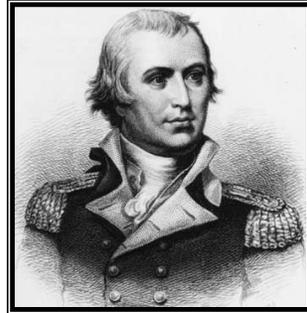
# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2019, November

Volume 25 Issue 3



*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.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Dec. 7        | <b>GCHS Open House 10-4.30: Sherman Shiflett book talk and signing, 2-3:30 in the Linwood Rhodes Gallery</b> |
| Dec. 7        | <b>Parade of Lights starting at 5:30, with Santa visit afterwards at the Town Hall</b>                       |
| Feb. 20, 2020 | <b>Judging of National History Day Projects at Middle School</b>   |
| March         | <b>Annual Dinner, date, place to be announced</b>  |
| May 17        | <b>Annual Meeting at the Courthouse, program to be announced</b>   |

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME AT THE MUSEUM?

We could always use the help of more volunteers, especially to keep the doors open on Fridays and Saturdays. Board member and volunteer wrangler Jeanne Rexroad circulates a calendar that shows vacant slots, and our 'Museum Minders' sign up for the morning or afternoon shift of their choice, usually once a month, from 10-12:30 or 12:30-3. We provide training, backup support, and the advice that if you can't answer a visitor's question, there are people in the Society who can, so take down some contact information and pass it on. We'll do the rest. Call us at 985-1834 or email [info@greenehistory.org](mailto:info@greenehistory.org) if you'd like to become a Museum Minder.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings, much has happened in our County this fall. With the pleasant weather, tourism has grown with the Greene Farm and Livestock Show, Greene Commons Farmers Market, Virginia Clay Festival, Oktoberfest and 50 Ways to Fall in Love With The Foothills. The Society helped to promote these events and had a presence at each. As this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Virginia Is For Lovers tourism slogan, we came up with 50 Ways to Love History in Greene County. Come by the Museum and pick up the list – maybe you will find new ways to be interested in the County's history.

For the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gas line explosion in Court Square (October 24<sup>th</sup> 1979) , which demolished the County Administration building and severely damaged the County Courthouse, we held a commemoration program on October 27<sup>th</sup>. At the time, it was a significant enough happening to be covered by European and Japanese newspapers! Julie Dickey put together a wonderful group of people who gave first-hand accounts of the events of that traumatic day. Edd Fuller recorded it and is putting together a video of the program, to give us a record of eye-witness accounts for future generations.



For the members of the audience who knew nothing of the event, it was an eye-opener, to say the least. Narratives from Richard Lamb, Ellen Collier, Mary Lou Frey, Marie Durrer, Mike Powell, Bobby Rhodes, C. C. Kurtz and Jimmy Henshaw made the day's events come alive, as did comments from members of the audience who were also there at the time. Several workers were severely injured and it was remarkable but fortuitous that nobody was killed. We have in our collections a number of photographs of the fire, which can be seen in our library.

Plan to attend our annual Holiday Open House on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Our gift shop has new items, and as well we will have another green dot sale on other items to give you the opportunity to do some holiday shopping. At 2 pm Sherman T. Shfflett will do a book talk and signing in the Rhodes Gallery. His book, *Remembering A Blue Ridge Mountain Father,* is about a family displaced from their beloved mountains and how they persevered in their new location in the foothills. He will also talk about the next book on which he is working to pique our interest. After his talk we will serve refreshments in the museum.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, stay healthy and safe.

Joann Powell

## In Memoriam

### ETHYLE COLE GIUSEPPE

We could devote a whole newsletter to stories about Ethyle, her life and her lifetime devotion to this county. She died on October 24<sup>th</sup>, at age 101, in her home at the South River farm that she loved. Her obituary, of which we have a copy at the museum, describes many of her activities and accomplishments. It can also be viewed at [https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ethyle\\_giuseppe](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ethyle_giuseppe).



*Ethyle Giuseppe at the Opening of the New Museum, October 4th, 2015  
Pat Temples photo*

We are just one of the many local organizations to have benefited from Ethyle's generosity. As far as the Society is concerned, however, she will always be remembered for the major part she played in our being able to purchase 360 Main Street and make it into a wonderful museum of the county, as well as building the Linwood Rhodes Wildlife Art Gallery to showcase her half-brother's wildlife art and taxidermy collection.

A museum is nothing without exhibits; and Ethyle's contributions to our collections play a huge role in making the museum come alive. For example: as you walk around the main Hearth and Home Room, you see the much used 1920s Victrola phonograph, which came from the home where she was born and raised; in our Timeline of Greene County is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century baseball mitt and ball, both of which were put to good use on the Parrott (now Duhon) Farm

on South River, long owned by her family and where she most recently lived until her death. In our kitchen is some cooking equipment she gave us, including: a bread rising bowl made from a hollowed out branch, and with the remains of a leather strap for hanging on the wall when not in use, and a home-made rolling pin, both of similar early 1920s vintage. On the porch is another of her gifts – a singletree, which is a bar between a horse and buggy that balances the weight being pulled. We have many more items given by Ethyle that enrich our understanding of a long gone way of life. We thank her for her friendship, her stories and her gifts.



*1920s Victrola, gift of Ethyle Giuseppe (Pat Temples photo)*

### ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Recent artifact donations include the following: Union copy of the 1866 Greene County map, David Miller, Austin TX; set of red and clear cut glass goblets, Gail Murphy, Dyke; 3 late 19<sup>th</sup> portraits of Powell ancestors, Eugene Powell, Quinque; set of reference books on Civil War uniforms and research on Greene County uniforms, Kim Spitzmiller, Stanardsville; 1940s newspaper clippings and painting, Freeman Shifflett, Stanardsville, Dulaney Store advertising material, 1908 and 1928, Charlie Taylor, Stanardsville. We are grateful for all these donations.

## GENEALOGY NOTES

On a sunny Saturday, James Robinson decided to drive to Greene County and see the native home of his grandmother, Addie Golden Brew. A Philly native, but recent transplant to Fredericksburg, James headed west from his new home, to check out Greene County. On his way out of Stanardsville, an “Open” sign caught his eye. It was the Greene County Historical Society Museum. He stopped in to investigate.

*“Is there anyone who would know anything about African American genealogy in Greene County?”* was James’s first question. A big smile came over the face of Ron Mosher, a Genealogy Volunteer and museum minder for the afternoon. *“You’ve come on the right day at the right time. I’m your man.”* Ron has been working on building an African American genealogy database. Three years ago, William Burley, also a resident of Philly, started working with Ron to create and build a database on the Burley family that has transformed into a database of African American families in Greene and surrounding counties. This database has grown to almost 11,000 individuals. In the process, Ron has been discovering the rich history of the African American community in and around Greene County. This was aided greatly with a Genealogy Workshop the GCHS held with Shiloh Baptist Church in the Spring of 2018.

Within ten minutes of James’s arrival, Ron found and printed out Addie Golden’s birth certificate from February 27, 1900. A clearly excited James could not believe his luck. He and Ron worked for about 2 hours, and agreed to meet again the next time Ron ‘minded’ the museum. So in early October James and Ron met again and worked for 5 hours on James’s family history.

At that second visit, James had a surprise for Ron. He had brought a photo album of Addie, her children and grandchildren. Together they’ve uncovered some of the mysteries surrounding Addie’s early life and move to Philly. Like many African Americans born in Greene County, Addie migrated north. Many moved to D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for work and the possibility of a better life. Addie did indeed achieve success in her new home, running a boarding house and a store.

One of the big questions for James was how Leonard Reaves fitted into the picture. James knew Leonard was a cousin from Greene County who moved to Philly, but how did he and the Reaves family fit into the family tree? Quickly they confirmed that Leonard was indeed a cousin. He is found in Addie’s home in the 1930 and 1940 Censuses in Philadelphia, and is 11 years old when he is listed in Greene County in the 1920 Census with his father, the widowed Dooney Reaves. Leonard’s mother was Addie’s oldest sister, Sarah, whose death record has yet to be found but must have died before 1920. Leonard’s father died in 1926, when Leonard was just 17 years old. So it’s clear that his Aunt Addie had Leonard come live with her in Philly.

James untied the old photo album so Ron could scan the amazing photos of Addie and her three children. Married in 1922 to James Brew in Philadelphia, they had three children, Mary, Arthur and Alfred. Mary, the oldest, is James’s mother. She graduated from South Philadelphia High School about 1943, and went on to technical school and a good career in Philly raising 5 children of her own.

Researching early African American records can be difficult, but James has a good start and has learned some new research techniques and tools with the help of Ron, a Resident Genealogist Volunteer at the GCHS.

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

### PART TWO, BY RUTH WALKUP

Member and storyteller Ruth Walkup told this intriguing story as the program for our Annual Meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. As promised in the July issue, here is the second and final part of her story.

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.”*

Brigadier General Richard Ewell took his orders from Major General Stonewall Jackson, who, in the spring of 1862, was in the Shenandoah Valley. Major General Jackson did not 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 the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1862 – one year to the day after General Chatham Roberdeau Wheat announced in the *New Orleans Daily Crescent* that he was raising a company of volunteers to serve in the Army of Louisiana, Ewell’s Division, including Wheat’s troops, started marching south, from Brandy Station, near Culpeper, to Elkton, a total of more than 55 miles. We know the Division marched hard because they made the journey in 12 days. We know it was a difficult march because letters of the time record spring snows and rains. We know the roads were muddy and icy, and the route was difficult - Route 29, with which we are all familiar, would not be constructed until the 1920s, more than half a century later. We can also guess that the packs were heavy and that boots probably leaked.

The march brought the Division straight here to Stanardsville, where they stopped. Eighty-five hundred men camped in Greene, in the vicinity of Stanardsville, in two camps. An officer in the Division wrote home at the time: *“Today . . . we are resting. The rest will do us good, men and horses, for our march has been a very hard one indeed with only half rations for either. Many of my men are sick.”*

Julien Linossier and Simeon Murrell, two of Wheat’s men from Louisiana, marched into Stanardsville; they did not march out - ever. They were sick. The hard march, the lack of food, the wintry weather, and previous illness all conspired against them. They were weak, fatigued. They were probably coughing, feverish, with diarrhea, and unable to really eat. Soldiers were falling ill with typhoid fever and measles. There was no medicine in the spring of 1862 that could cure or prevent these diseases. Without adequate food, rest, and a strong immune system, survival was unlikely.

Local residents took care of the sick. At the time of the 1860 census, the county only had five thousand and twenty-two people, so eight-five hundred tired, cold soldiers, many of them weak and sick, were an enormous strain on the community. Records show a ‘Stanardsville Hospital’ that was most likely in the basement of Stanardsville Methodist Church. Local women served as nurses, probably raiding their own larders and pantries for soothing salves, bandage materials, and maybe even food. They, too, were at risk of getting sick, as measles and typhoid fever are highly contagious.

And every day more soldiers arrived, from Madison, Gordonsville, Orange, Charlottesville and Richmond, heading towards General Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley. The able marched on through Swift Run Gap. The sick ones stayed in Stanardsville.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, Simeon Murrell, of the Minden Blues Company, the 29-year old father of three from Claiborne Parish LA, died. The military records say ‘measles.’ His cousin Henry died the same month, also here in Stanardsville. Simeon had been serving for less than six weeks. On Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, an ‘intensely warm day’ according to a letter-writer from the area, Julien Linossier of the Phoenix

Company died. He had served just under a year. All three men are buried here in Stanardsville, according to various archives. The grave marker that intrigued me - *their* marker – was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, behind Shiloh Baptist Church. The stone is about 18 by 27 inches. There are no names on the stone; I found Julien Linossier's and the Murrell cousins' names and information elsewhere. But they are not the only men from Louisiana buried in Stanardsville. From early April 1862 to early June 1862 – only two months – at least 27 Louisianan men died in the area, marked by that single stone in the side yard of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Later that June, General Wheat was shot on the battlefield at Gaines Mill near Richmond. He is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. Like his passion for Virginia and for his men, his gravestone is large. It notes him as "*Unusual for Personality, Wit, Eloquence, and Genius.*" Except for that single carved stone and sparse military records, there is nothing to mark the lives and service of the Louisianans buried in Greene County. I found no letters, no newspaper articles, no pictures. What I found of Julien, Henry and Simeon, and the 24 others, left me with more questions than answers:

- Did they all die here in Stanardsville or were some of their bodies brought from that long hard march over the mountains?
- Who chose their final resting place?
- Who dug their graves?
- Were they laid in shrouds or coffins?
- How many unknown soldiers are actually buried at Shiloh Baptist Church? Or is the engraved stone a memorial, not a grave marker?
- How were their families notified in Louisiana?
- Where are the other non-Louisianans buried - the many soldiers from Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi? We know many of them died, too, and we have some of their names.
- Who was the last person each of these men saw or talked to?
- How many Greene County residents fell ill or died during the same period as a result of offering assistance?
- Shiloh Church was founded in 1862. Was it in existence when the dead were buried or did the church come later?

Greene County residents are the stewards of these Louisianan men and the many others who are likely commemorated by the grave marker at Shiloh Baptist Church. It is fitting that 'Shiloh' means peace. Below is a list of the 27 Louisianans known to have died in or near Stanardsville during those deadly two months in the spring of 1862, with their age when they enlisted, if known:

John M. Allbright	D. M. Gilcrease, age 23
Samuel Chestnut	E.T. Grishamm
B. Coleman	W. James Hay
M. Coleman, age 19	William Horry
Joseph P. Commander	Benjamin Humphries
James A. Cooper	Daniel H. Hunt
Calvin Cox, age 42	F. R. Inglis

Samuel Kirby

J.C. Lard

Edward Kiern

**Julien Linossier**

Thomas J. Morris

**Henry Murrell**

**(Joel) Simeon Murrell**, age 29

James G. Nix

Nathaniel B. Roark

Charles Smith, age 22

George W. Staton

John Sanford, age 19

William Willis

This list is included in our Graveyard Survey, Book I, taken from Raymond W. Watkins' *"Confederate Burials - Volume 18"*, Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History, Meridian, MS, 1994, p. 86. Someday, perhaps, as information continues to become more and more widely available, the questions raised by the simple stone marker behind Shiloh Baptist Church may have answers.

### **YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED**

Sometimes, after members or non-members have read our Newsletter, they contact us with 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](mailto:info@GreeneHistory.org) or phone at 434-985-1834, or in person at 360 Main Street, during our regular open hours, from 10 till 3 on Fridays and Saturdays. If you come by at other times but when Anthea Haselden is working, usually but not always on a Wednesday or Thursday, ring the doorbell - it's your Society!

### **WORKING WITH GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS**

As I write this, some 15 or so of Greene County's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be preparing to walk down the hill to the museum to learn more about their county and the wider world. Another group, 6<sup>th</sup> graders, came early in November. And we hope to be having similar programs for home-schooled students in the future. We certainly stand by to help this year's National History Day students as they prepare their presentations. The theme for 2019/2020 is **"BREAKING BARRIERS."** We have worked with other groups of William Monroe students recently, and we'll tell you more about that in a future issue.

### **FINANCIAL DONATIONS**

We have a number of generous friends to thank for financial donations: Roy Shiflet, Laurel MD; Samantha Spence, Forest VA; Colonial Dames XVII Century, House of Burgesses Chapter, Orange VA, and JMU Lifelong Learning Institute, Harrisonburg VA. We cannot thank you enough for your support of the Society.

### **GREENE COUNTY BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE MEMORIAL**

With the installation of a lovely bench, our memorial is finally complete. Plans are being made to add a driving tour that will take you, in turn, to read the stories, see the pictures and remember the families impacted by the creation of the Shenandoah National Park. Among the eight counties, only the Augusta County memorial remains to be built. In our museum, to enhance visitors' understanding of the events pertaining to the establishment of the Park and the circumstances of former mountain residents, the Greene County Steering Committee for the Blue Ridge Heritage Project and Jim Lawson of Elkton have donated a computer, and other hardware to the Society for use in conjunction with

our displays. Jim also donated a craftsman revival period table, c. 1920s, as well as five related books. We are most grateful for this generosity. We encourage visitors to take a deeper dive into the information that is now available along with the exhibit.

## **SOJOURNERS PROGRAM**



Piedmont Stella Lodge No. 50 of Stanardsville, VA, sponsored an event on October 19<sup>th</sup>, at Piedmont Virginia Community College's Giuseppe Center, in Stanardsville. Members of the National Sojourners, James Monroe No. 59 Jack Jouett Camp, performed a light theatrical production that depicts a fictitious Masonic trial of Benedict Arnold. The members performed in full Revolutionary War period costumes.

Sojourners are Masons who have also been served as member of our country's military. Thank you Sojourners, for your presentation and your past military service to our country.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members of the historical Society since the last newsletter. Many thanks to J. Mark Wood of Mineral and Judy Braun of Stanardsville for their very generous decisions to become Lifetime members. In addition, new members include Piper Gilbert of Dyke; Dale Herring and Bobby Montana, both of Barbourville; Roy Shiflett of Laurel MD; Nancy Walls of Selbyville DE, and James Robinson of Fredericksburg VA. And we welcome back former GCHS President Anne Winn after a number of years' absence. Our thanks to all of you, it's a pleasure to add you to our membership rolls.

## **RENEWAL TIME**

It's that time again – membership renewal. It's worthwhile pointing out something that I, your editor, had frankly quite forgotten. In our by-laws, it states that members are in good standing if they pay their dues BEFORE January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in question, i.e., the upcoming year. Many of you are paid ahead, but even more wait until the first of the year – or later – to renew. This has included me in the past, but I will comply with the by-law this year and renew before year's end. This reminder is by way of saying – November or December would be better!! Then we would do less nagging .If by any chance you failed to pay dues for 2019, those of you who receive a paper copy of the newsletter will see the word 'Renew' on the bottom right corner of the label. That way you'll have no excuse.

As you know, we recently introduced some new membership options, which have been well received. Our membership categories, which range in cost from \$15 to \$500 are there to suit all budgets. Lifetime members commit a significant sum in the belief that we will continue to carry out our mission over many years. We are grateful to every one of you for your membership commitment, however large or small. Greene County Historical Society can only survive with your generosity!!

Jackie Pamenter.

**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](http://www.chesleycreekfarm.com)), owner Chuck Swinney; Armstrong and Associates International ([www.armstrongassoc.com](http://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](http://www.RoyWheeler.com)); Performance Signs of Ruckersville, owners Robbie & Katherine Morris; United Bank, Stanardsville Main Street Branch, Manager Donna Harlow ([www.bankwithunited.com](http://www.bankwithunited.com)); Rappahannock Electric Cooperative ([www.myrec.coop](http://www.myrec.coop)); Charlottesville Sam’s Club ([www.samsclub.com](http://www.samsclub.com)), and The Greene Hills Club on Route 230 ([www.GreeneHillsClub.com](http://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.

We look forward to receiving your dues for 2020, unless you have already paid, for which many thanks.

**Greene County Historical Society Membership Form**

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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.greenhistory.org](http://www.greenhistory.org)

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***The Greene County Historical Society***

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