

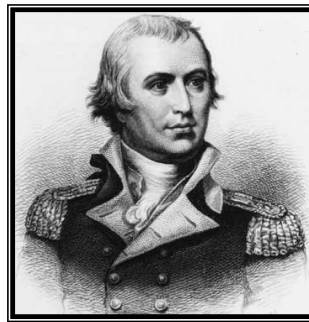
Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2021, July

Volume 27 Issue 2



Nathanael Greene

Major General of the Continental Army

Born 1742--Died 1786

EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS

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|---|--|
| July | Beginning of Oral History Project focusing on Greene African-American Community – ongoing |
| August | View Winning National History Day documentaries by William Monroe Middle School students at 360 Main Street; now through August |
| August 7 th | GCHS Booth at Greene Farm & Livestock Show |
| October 2 nd | Historic Stanardsville Guided Walking Tour in conjunction with Greene County Parks & Rec. Time: 10:30 am. Fee \$5 per person, register online through Parks & Rec. Rain date – October 3rd, 2:00 pm. |
| November 13 th or 20 th | GCHS Booth at Greene Commons Holiday Market - Date choice tbd |
| Dec. 4 th | Holiday Open House 10-4 pm at Museum, 360 Main Street, then Parade of Lights starting at 5:30 pm, with Santa visit afterwards at the Town Hall |
| April 2022 | The Historic House Tour is now planned for April 10th, 2022 |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer Greetings,

As we begin to see our lives getting back to "the way we were" before the pandemic, more people are venturing out and looking for things to do. Please encourage friends and out of town guests to visit the Society Museum.

We reopened the museum in September and of the 84 days open, only 8 of those days had no visitors. For the month of June there were 54 visitors. That is the record for this museum, which opened in October 2015. Many out of town travelers and those staying in local lodging see the open sign and decide to visit. I've had many comments on what a nice, well organized museum we have for such a small town. Some have been in awe of the number of and kinds of artifacts we have in our exhibits. We are tremendously grateful to Cheryl Ragland and Kim Spitzmiller, both former board members and still members of the Society, whose vision of what could be guided the work of turning this residence into such a showplace of Greene history.

If you travel Main Street, Stanardsville, you will soon see and hear some activity at the Museum Complex. **Glenn's Painting & Powerwashing** will be giving the buildings a bright new look with a paint job that is much needed. There will be scraping, grinding, caulking and painting. We are eager for this project to get started and to be finished. We know it will add to the pleasure of visiting a well-kept property, which has also had recent new landscaping with many beds of blooming flowers. Also Maddy White, a member and a 4th year college student, volunteered to weed the historic brick walkway for some community service hours. Thanks MADDY.

In recent months, the Society has been out in the community to let local residents know that a historical society does exist in the county. We set up at the Juneteenth Celebration; have been present at two farmers' market selling baked goods and seeking new members; have a display cabinet at the county visitor center; provided judges for the 4th of July parade; are planning a booth at the Greene Farm and Livestock Show on August 7th; and will be coordinating activities with the county Parks and Recreation Department in the Fall and Spring. Also our website and Facebook page are getting attention. Many inquiries come in seeking information on genealogy, cemeteries, old country houses, and recently a speedway.

A welcome goes out to our two new board members elected in May. These two fit right in and have been busy with Society business already. Marida Lamb has a passion for baking; thus she baked loaves of sourdough bread for our bake sale. Scott Mingledorff has a love for research. He has been busy with two to three research projects for the Society. The Society is pleased to have these two aboard with us.

I pray all is well with everyone and wish all of you a pleasant and safe summer.

Joann
GCHS President

POEM BY ANN TOMS

In our last Newsletter, President Joann Powell challenged us to write a poem about this past pandemic year. Long-term member Ann Toms took up the challenge and put her thoughts into the following poem, which we are delighted to present.

The Pandemic Changed Our Lives

We used to visit with friends
We used to eat with groups in restaurants
We used to visit our parents and grandparents
We used to go on vacations, and little trips
We used to go shopping at the mall
We used to keep our dental, doctor and hospital appointments
We used to go on cruises, and fly in airplanes
We used to hug, and maybe kiss each other
Today it is this way!
Stand 6 feet apart
Wear your face mask
Wash your hands often
Sanitize items constantly
Vaccines are finally available!
Very stressful
Trying to get vaccine appointments
Signing up on computer sights
Making phone calls
Word of mouth
Standing in long lines
Hoping for no bad reaction to the vaccine
How long will the vaccine last?
No one knows!
Praying that someone "up above" is looking out for us!

*By Ann Ratcliff Toms
William Monroe High School Graduate of Class 1961
Written March 22, 2021*

WWII NAVAJO CODE TALKERS, AND COMMUNICATIONS AMONG VIETNAM POWs – OUR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CHAMPIONS 2021

Greene County Historians-in-the-making triumph again!! Our congratulations go to all of the many contestants this year, whose hard work produced excellent results. The May 14, 2021 issue of the Greene County Record* includes a very comprehensive article by Kathleen Borelli about the County winners at the State Level - 14 in all. And not only were Middle Schoolers Caroline Bruton, Kayla Shaller and Mukund Marri eligible to compete at the NHD national level in June, Mukund was a Finalist, placing in the top 10 of 100 best in the country, and Caroline and Kayla won First Place!! Mukund's individual documentary is about the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II. Caroline's and Kayla's group documentary "Communicating Through Cell Walls: The Secret Correspondence of American POWs in Vietnam" not only placed first in the nation, it also won the Naval Order of the United States Award in Naval History.

We urge you to watch both of these documentaries online from the link in the May newspaper article or at 360 Main Street – they will be available to view on one of the Society's computers through the month of August. Each is less than 10 minutes long, and both are compelling pieces of history well told. On behalf of the whole Society, congratulations to all three.

And it is about time that we gave a shout-out to the team of teachers at William Monroe who make all this possible. Barb Aszbach, Stephanie Hammer (who has participated in NHD for more than 10 years), and Allison Hughes have shepherded dozens of aspiring historians through the NHD process. Their hard work and enthusiastic guidance has made a tremendous difference in the lives of NHD students for years. The community owes a huge debt of gratitude to these and the other teachers in our school system, especially in this most difficult of years. Thanks go to Terry Beigie and Kathleen Borelli, tireless editor and reporter of the Greene County Record.

**(https://dailyprogress.com/community/greenenews/news/students-succeed-at-virginia-history-day/article_b4f966c8-b336-11eb-9c95-3fbb5fcd249f.html)*



L-R: Mukund Marri, Caroline Bruton & Kayla Shaller (Kathleen Borelli photograph)



L-R: Barbara Aszbach, Stephanie Hammer & Allison Hughes (Kathleen Borelli photograph)

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

We have some interesting artifact donations to tell you about: from Gwendolyn Prather, a number of items that would have been part of a WWII soldier's kit, including hypodermics, snake bite kit, shaving brush, foot powder, and first aid dressing. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous gave us a copy of the New York Tribune newspaper dated March 2nd 1864, in which the battle of Stanardsville features, and also a 1919 map of Virginia and West Virginia. And Charlotte Williams very generously allowed us to scan a large number of the Scott family's early photographs, including some taken at the Scott family homeplace, which burned in 1962. We also received a late 1950s post card of Route 29 (see more below); several 1940s movie-related items collected by Roger Powell's mother Sarah Riner Powell; and a \$100 Bank of Greene check dated September 28th 1940. We are grateful for all of these donations.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Several people have made donations, including quite a number who, as they renewed their membership, took the opportunity of adding to their check. We are exceedingly grateful for any and all donations, which include those from: George & Susan Overstreet, David & Trish Crowe, Bert & Barbara Nye, Peggy McLean, Laurie & Tom Dean, Linwood & Marlene Imlay, Agnes Donnelly, Barbara & Wayne Ballard, Joanne & Bob Burkholder, Cindy McCormick, Jamie & Chris Duhon, Violet Watson, out of state visitor Dwight Whitney, and Boy Scout Troop 174. The Bake Sales raised \$380. We are grateful for an anonymous donation of \$100 tagged for technology, which will make it possible for us to accept payment by credit card at the museum or offsite. We thank you all.

DONATIONS OF DIFFERENT KINDS

As Joann mentioned in her letter, we have enjoyed two wonderful mornings meeting and greeting, at the first day of the Farmers Market, April 3rd this year, and again at the July 3rd market. As well as being able to get reacquainted with people after Covid lockdown, and meeting new ones, these were also very successful fundraisers at which we sold delicious baked goods supplied by very kind supporters. Our thanks go to the following dedicated ladies for their culinary contributions:

Barbara Ballard
Patty Lee Baugher
Anthea Haselden
Marida Lamb
Audrey P. Morris

Dawn Muir
Brooke Nankivell
Charlotte Powell
Emogene Powell
Lillian Powell

Mary Ann Powell
Jennifer Reed
Jeanne Rexroad
Cynthia Taylor.

From these newsletters you all know by now that the museum at 360 Main Street has been open for business again for quite some time. We are most grateful to Ms. Lois Conley who has been keeping it spic and span for several years now. We thank her very much for her donation of the time and effort it takes to make sure that our museum, office spaces and gallery are places to be proud of.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Photograph by Linwood Mitchell of unknown boy; courtesy of Lanona Robinson

We kicked off our African-American oral history project at the Greene County Juneteenth Commemoration, held at Greene Commons. We must quickly point out that although the organizer of the event was the Democratic Committee of Greene, we were there as the Historical Society not as a Political Society. It was a great opportunity to share some of the limited material that we have about this section of our community and we enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones.

Our collections include items such as a list of Greene County African-American inductees into the American Armed Forces when the United States entered WWI; and in a tragic reminder of the past, a list from the Library of Virginia with the title “*Index to Greene County: Record of Slaves that have escaped to the enemy during the war [1861-1863]*,” with the names and ages of slaves who had fled as well as the names of the slaveholders.

We showed a number of early photographs from our collections, which drew a lot of attention. We do not know who this little boy is, or his dog, but we do know that this is one of many portraits made by Linwood Mitchell, the Stanardsville (or Standardsville as it says on some of his cards – did printers ever get it right?), the photographer who worked so much in and around the town. We don’t even have a date, so we hope that someone who has a photograph of a boy in similar gear might help us out there, even if we never find out his name.

In contrast we know who all of the people are in this 1881 portrait of the Scott family of Quinque. Left-right, front: Lydia Scott, Sam Scott, Sr., Shirley Henry Scott, Frances York Brown Scott. Left-right, rear are Sam Scott, Jr., and John Scott. We thank Charlotte Williams, granddaughter of Sam Scott, Jr., for this photograph.

We need volunteers to help with this project– call us at 434-985-1834 for more information, to volunteer help, or to schedule a time to sit down for a story-telling session.



Scott Family of Quinque, 1881

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

Unfortunately we did not get any response to our plea for information, photos or memories about the 1942 Bacon Hollow Flood. There is no time limit, so do phone 985-1834 or email info@greenehistoryva.org if you can help.

FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

With the Covid Pandemic under control in many areas of the country, this will be a time for road trips for many people. In mid-20th century, many families piled into a station wagon and set off to visit relatives and explore the United States. The landscape looked a little different then, as can be seen from the two postcard images below, from our collections. Both postcards are of ‘*The 29 Truck Stop and Restaurant*’ – now the Shell station on Route 29 a little way south of Route 33. The big sign out by the road shows that it is the same location, but both seem to be from the 1950s.

The small building to the left seems to be post-1952. According to board member Scott



29 Truck Stop mid-1950s, 2007.13.01



29 Truck Stop late 1950s, 2021.06.01

Mingledorff, re the lighter colored of the two pickups “*my hunch is this a 1951 or 1952 International Harvester.... the grill of the vehicle seems to be chrome. The unique thing about the IH trucks would seem to be a vertical grill above a horizontal grill.*” According to the reverse, the owners were Mr. and Mrs. S. Bendel. In not too many years, certainly after 1956, PURE OIL had taken over. This ‘29 Truckstop’ postcard can be dated to 1956 or later by the 1956 Ford station wagon parked facing south next to the building.

PURE OIL had been in business since the 1920s, and gas was still being marketed under the PURE OIL name until 1970, with the slogan “*Be Sure with Pure.*” From the back of this postcard we learn that this was run by K. M. ‘Pete’ Heslep. Other details include – “Dial Yukon 5-2993 or HYkon 5-2463. 24-hour service. Air-conditioned. Restaurant, Sleeping Facilities, Showers. Road & Tire Service, 24 Hour Garage. Diesel Fuel, LPG.” It’s hard to see the detail between the pumps and the doors but you can be sure there was a payphone there somewhere.



Coca Cola Sign 1985.09.18

A payphone yes, but – no Internet, no cell phone, no videos for the passengers in the back. No doubt as families traveled, they stopped for refreshments and to stretch their legs. It’s quite possible that fighting had broken out in the back seat, with cries of ‘*Are we there yet?*’ and ‘*He bit me!!! I did not!!!*’ being endured with gritted teeth in the front seats; stopping for a Coke, an ice-cream cone, some Ruffles chips, maybe a Mars bar at the 29 Truck Stop might have seemed like a good idea. The earlier postcard shows three Coca Cola signs, two facing the road, one on the side; possibly there was a fourth. According to our records, when the Historical Society was collecting artifacts in 1985, the late Caribel Burke salvaged two such signs, we do not know from where. The Society sold one of them for \$100 to help start the museum; we have the other. Possibly they came from the Truck Stop.

Perhaps things settled down in the back of the car after the stop, and the radio was turned on. Thanks to Wikipedia, we know that these were the Top Ten hits in 1957: *All Shook Up*, *Love Letters in the Sand*, *Little Darlin*, *Young Love* (two different versions), *So Rare*, *Don't Forbid Me*, *Singing the Blues*, *Too Much*, and *Round and Round*. Can you remember who sang them all?

We hope this has sparked some memories for our readers. If it has, please send us a note telling what you remember of your summer road trips as a kid 'back then.' Photos too please. And if you are setting out this summer for a road trip of your own, do stay safe.

ELECTION OF GCHS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee thanks all those of you who took time to respond to our request for "votes by mail" for the board and officers of the Society. We met our quorum, and those voting agreed to the waiver of continued service that was necessary, as well as to our proposed slate. As a result, the following officers and directors are in place:

Officers

President: Joann Powell – to 2024

Vice President: Jeanne Rexroad – to 2024

Treasurer: Roger Powell – to 2024

Secretary: Dawn Muir – to 2023.

Directors

Dick Early – to 2024

Gary Forrest – to 2024

Marida Lamb - to 2024

Scott Mingledorff – to 2024

Jackie Pamenter – to 2022

Ellen Thurnau – to 2023.

Each of us can be contacted by leaving a phone message at the Museum at 434-985-1834 or by email at info@greenhistoryVA.org. Let us know what we are doing right – or wrong – we love to hear from our members.

NEW MEMBERS

New members include: Kevin Kelley, Nathan Morris & family, Willard Wheeler and Luke & Rose McDonald, all of Stanardsville; and Charles (Nelson) Harris, of Roanoke. Ron & Jenny Morris of Stanardsville upped their membership to Lifetime, as did Pat Johnson of Chadds Ford PA, for both of which we are very grateful. And we are delighted that people in our Historical Society community gave gift memberships to Pam Morris and Carolyn Lockhart. If you can think of somebody who you know would enjoy becoming a member, we'd love to enroll them too. We welcome all our new members and hope to see you at 360 Main Street someday soon.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

People continually remark about how quickly each week seems to come and go these days, and we agree. If you have not yet renewed, we do hope that you will go on over to our new website – www.greenhistoryva.org - or get out your check book and renew your membership for another year. The membership form and our mailing address are helpfully on the next page. To those who have already renewed for 2021 and beyond we owe a big thank you. We couldn't keep on doing what we do without you. And if you cannot remember whether or not you have renewed for 2021, we will be even more helpful and place a big red sticker on your paper copy of this newsletter, and a big red virtual sticker at the beginning of the electronic version.

BUSINESS CORNER

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: Business members include Jos. T. Samuels Inc., the Charlottesville Realty company run by Joe Samuels (www.jtsamuels.com); Stanardsville Shopping Plaza, home to Greene County's own Great Valu and many other businesses, and owned by members Frank and Betty Ruppert; 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; 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.

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.greenehistoryva.org

www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva

The Greene County Historical Society

360 Main Street
PO Box 185
Stanardsville, VA 22973