

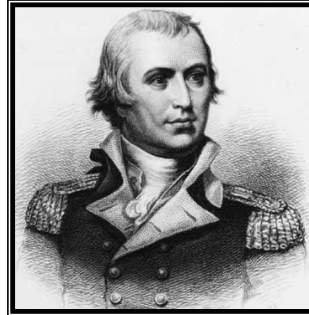
Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2020, February

Volume 26 Issue 1



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.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| March 15 | Annual Dinner, Lydia Mountain 3-6pm |
| April 5 th | House Tour - Beazley, Celt and Amicus Roads area |
| April 18 th | Genealogy Workshop, to be held at Bethany Baptist Church |
| April 25 th | Archaeology Program - celebrate 50 years of Earth Days, details later |
| May 17 | Annual Meeting at the Courthouse, Stephanie Hammer speaking about the life and service of William Dennison Call |

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 if you'd like to become a Museum Minder.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to All,

As I write, we have once again just said a big thank you to all our volunteers with our Annual Thank You Party. We toasted them and their guests on February 16th at Kilauren Winery on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. We thank Bob and Doriene Steeves for their continuing gracious hospitality for this event – you can enjoy it for yourselves once they open again for the season in April. <http://www.kilaurenwinery.com/>

We will also be continuing to support our National History Day students later this week as they host their annual History Night at the beautifully renovated William Monroe Middle School. It will be a treat to serve as judges for the evening once again, in their spectacular new space. Over the years we have always been amazed at the amount of research done by the students and the excellent quality of their work. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read more about our involvement with County students.

There was a fine turnout for the Holiday Open House back in December. Sherman Shifflett's book talk was well received, with many questions from the audience. He sold several copies of his book "*Remembering a Blue Ridge Mountain Father*," and more sales resulted from an article in the Greene County Record. We have copies for sale in our Gift Shop and online store.

As you can see in Upcoming Events, we've got a number of programs on the horizon. Of course, please plan to attend the annual dinner on March 15th, which we are holding this year at the new Lydia Mountain Lodge <http://www.lydiamountainlodge.com/>. It's only fitting to be able to see (we hope for good weather...) a panoramic view of the county for which we all care from this truly spectacular venue. Please get your reservations in, by check, as soon as possible (written to GCHS, and mailed to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973). The cost is \$30 per person.

Our Historic House Tour of houses in the Beazley Road area is creating some buzz – see page 4. The owners are looking forward to welcoming lots of visitors and sharing the history of these homes. Garrett Enor's Eagle Scout Project, a *Stanardsville Walking Tour*, has been creating interest, and people are asking for guided tours now as well as using the app, which can be downloaded from our own website, www.GreeneHistory.org, as well as from the Greene Tourism site and those of the Town of Stanardsville and the County of Greene.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming events. Thank you to all volunteers and members, who between them all help to put together our events.

Take care,

Joann Powell
President

GREENE COUNTY BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE MEMORIAL

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project's newsletter came out recently, and we are pleased to provide a link to the Project's website - www.BlueRidgeHeritageProject.com. As better weather arrives, stop by our Greene County BRHP Chimney in the middle of Stanardsville and read about the people, the mountains and the Park.

PLANTING SEEDS

We love to give tours of the museum to students, and last fall we were asked by a William Monroe Middle School teacher for an introduction to local history for language arts classes - and could we tell some ghost stories? Not the gory Freddy Kruger kind, but stories based on history - or at least on accounts of local events that might bring a shiver. We decided to give it a try.

On the appointed day, President Joann Powell told about the County's formation from Orange and gave a photographic tour of the historic homes, businesses and government buildings in Stanardsville. I stepped in when she came to a building with a story. When the Lafayette Inn was a hospital during the Civil War, a distraught patient had committed suicide - guests report seeing him from time to time. At the Court House, a prisoner with a gun, shot the judge who - he was convinced - "*bad it in for him.*" At the old jail, a group of Confederate prisoners who had been held overnight managed to dig their way out. Not especially scary, but might give a person pause next time they pass by these places.

The following week, the students began projects with topics based on local history. Each group made a poster, wrote an article for the Greene County Record, developed a video presentation and displayed an artifact (some brought arrow heads while others built models of historic buildings). One goal was for them to learn how to work together so everyone would be making a contribution.

Later, we (and their parents) were invited to see and hear their presentations. Many began with the County's beginnings. Others focused on a specific topic such as the history of the Lafayette Inn or copper mining in the mountains. Almost all eventually got around to a ghost story. Mixing ghost stories with real history might seem to be unusual, but perhaps these students will become interested in learning more as a result of their projects - and one day will be members of the Historical Society. We hope so.

In a slightly different vein, we were asked to give a tour to a Lifelong Learning Institute group from James Madison University. We began our tour with the marker at Shiloh Baptist Church that is dedicated to Confederate soldiers who died of disease in this area, and we stopped by the museum before setting off on our walking tour of historic buildings and their stories. It was a beautiful and sunny day. Many remarked that they have frequently passed Stanardsville on their way, but never stopped. They were surprised and pleased by what they saw and promised to come back soon to take a longer look. And with that, we are very pleased.

Jeanne Rexroad

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members of the historical Society since the last newsletter. These are: Robert Wasilewski, Christian Clark, and Evelyn Deane, all of Stanardsville; and Cory Salsbury of Freedom, PA. And we are very grateful to Ann Vonnegut-Frieling and Chris Von Frieling for increasing their membership to the Nathanael Greene level. Thank you all for your membership and support.

* * * * *

GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

APRIL 5TH, 2020, 2:00 – 7:00PM

WHERE – In the area of Beazley Road, Route 624, Stanardsville

BUYING TICKETS -Tickets are \$20:00 before April 5th, \$5 for children aged 14 or less. They can be purchased at the Greene Pharmacy, the Noon Whistle Pottery, Greene County Visitors Center, and of course at the museum at 360 Main Street or from board members.

PLACES TO SEE

THE BARN AT EDGEWOOD, 777 Beazley Road - Buy tickets here on the day, \$25 or \$5 for children

SISTERS VIEW, 702 Beazley Road: formerly Randolph Powell's 1950s farmhouse

SWIFT RUN BAPTIST CHURCH, 4306 Amicus Road: established 1824

EDGEWOOD FARMHOUSE, 1017 Beazley Road: formerly Dr. Robert Beazley's home, 1884

LONG RUN FARM, 1931 Celt Road: formerly Chester Eppard's 1950s farmhouse. (from Stanardsville, last house on Celt Road before Beazley Road intersection)

The Powell and Eppard farmhouses have been renovated and converted into vacation rental properties. Come and learn about the 'Before and After' of these houses. You will also hear some family stories about each farm.

* * * * *

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Recent artifact donations include the following: a horseshoe and a souvenir glass, Isaac and Bethany Pippin-Hoovler; 1874 tax sale documents and WWII-era matchbook from Melone's Gas station, Jackie Pamenter; a pair of early 1920s desks from the Lower Pocosan Mission School, Whitt & Martha Ledford; all from Stanardsville; 19th century round oak table and seven chairs, Ginger Deane, Ruckersville; late 19th century Greene County store ledger, Sherman Shifflett, Louisa VA; two ledgers for money orders, from McMullen Mill Post Office, donated by Rosemary & Russell North, of Faber VA. As with most small historical societies, we are pressed for space, and GCHS accepts only items that have a clear Greene County provenance, such as the above.

We are extremely grateful for all these donations. But you might wonder what happens to them all once we get them. Well, there is only so much time in each day, so sometimes not much happens at first, besides the effort to write down as much information as we can at the time of donation to identify the piece, its background, and information about the donor so that we can thank them, acknowledge their gift, and get back to them for more information if possible. We have a new collections database that is taking a little time to master, but that will be very useful in the years ahead. Volunteer Rosemary Sherwood, in addition to regularly museum-minding, has also taken on the job of photographing items, and this serves two purposes: the first so that a picture goes with the description in our files; and the second, is to be able to post photographs and information on our website, as we are able.

So the following articles are focused on acquisitions at various stages.

AN ACQUISITION AND STANARDSVILLE'S PAST AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

After a recent visit to the museum by a group of home-schooled students, who, by the way, were very interested in what we had to show them, one student returned with his mother and sister, bringing us two artifacts from their property. One is a horse-shoe, dug up in a meadow, proudly presented by the young student. We think we have a budding historian in Isaac, who particularly liked our library with its books and historical documents. The other, which came from a barn at his home, and was dusty but unbroken, is a curiosity. It is a *'Souvenir of Standardsville,'* [sic] made of red glass with a clear pressed glass base. The wording exactly matches that on a similar souvenir that had been on display in the octagonal cabinet in our Hearth & Home Room. Both are now on display. As well, there is a reference to the same ware in a 1975 article about local antique collectors John and Susy Marshall from the Greene County Record (thank you Gathelene and Bobby Rhodes, for sharing that). But here's the thing: this souvenir glassware was only made between the 1880s and 1920s. Standardsville was a tourist destination in the 1880s and at the beginning of the 20th century! Read on!!



In his detailed article about the Lafayette Hotel (GCHS Magazine, Volume 18), the late Don Covey* describes how James Saunders and Dr. Edwin Hunter were trying, in the 1870s, to create *'a sort of spa or retreat for people from such places as Charlottesville and Richmond.'* Perhaps this is what Mr. and Mrs. Saunders were attempting throughout the time they managed the Lafayette. They made the hotel into a small convention center, entertaining groups of presumably learned men: political groups, lodges, and even chess enthusiasts - a floor cloth marked as a chess board was placed on the dining room floor enabling everyone to follow the moves. The Saunders' daughter, Nettie, celebrated her eleventh birthday at the hotel with all the children of the community. Entertainment included wooden-wheeled skates that were used in the dining room - what did the housekeeper think of that?. There was a croquet court approximately where Blakey Street now lies. There were special foods, such as cheese sticks, and a sort of apple dumpling; and it was probably during this time that Friday night oyster dinners became a custom, which it is considered even today.

In the 1890s, the Eagle Hotel, much more recently built than the Lafayette and with, presumably, more modern facilities, overtook it as the premier lodging in town. There were in fact several more hotels over the years along Main Street, the Lafayette Inn, under various names and the Eagle were joined by the Spottswood Inn and the Horse Shoe Inn. There were many more businesses in the town than there are today, and one has to assume these souvenir glasses in their various shapes were for sale in the shops and perhaps in the hotels. The glass in the 1975 newspaper article, unfortunately not clear enough to reprint, is yet another size and shape, but with the same inscription. If any of our readers has another of these pieces, we'd love to see it or a good photograph, and hear its history.

With all these places to stay, perhaps we should not be surprised about the existence of souvenir glassware. It would be wonderful to have more accounts of tourist activities in Standardsville and beyond from the turn of the 20th century. Many people know of the 'rough, tough' repute of Greene later in the 1920s. Given the beauty of this place, its reputation as a destination for rest and relaxation deserves more publicity. Perhaps souvenir glassware is an item that should be revisited? If so, we know that one thing we would make sure to get right is the spelling of the name of our town.

*Don Covey gratefully acknowledged the work of Dr. Cecil Culander, M.D., deceased, in his article. Dr. Culander was the father of member Martha Ledford, whose husband, Whitt Ledford, ran the hotel for many years in the early 2000s.

AN ACQUISITION AND PROJECTS RIPE FOR UNDERTAKING

Back in the fall, Rosemary and Russell North, of Faber VA, brought us two Post Office Ledgers from the McMullen Post Office. Mr. & Mrs. North said the ledgers were found, in the 1980s, in a box by the roadside in Nelson County. We are very grateful that they decided it was time they had a new home.

McMullen Post Office opened in 1886 and was closed in 1956, when mail service was taken over by Stanardsville Post Office. The ledgers recorded money orders processed by the Post Office - Money Orders Issued from 1909 to 1931, and Money Orders Received from 1909 to 1951.



*National Bellas Hess & Co
catalog 1929*

'Payments Issued' entries include those to such catalog companies as Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck, and National Bellas Hess & Co. The latter was at the time one of the biggest catalog retailers, selling women's and men's clothing, household goods and, as they say, much more. Bellas Hess catalogs include rather fancy dresses, such as the ones to the left all the way down to very mundane underwear. But they did carry quite expensive clothing. Don't we wish we knew what items were being ordered and eagerly awaited?

Payments Issued range in amount from \$1:00 or so up to much larger sums. Other payments were to companies like the American Seed Co., Rosebud Perfume Co. of Woodsboro MD and Fitzhugh Drug Store of Charlottesville; one payment is to a New York tour company.. This ledger is a treasure trove of information about where people living in rural areas shopped, and how they shopped.

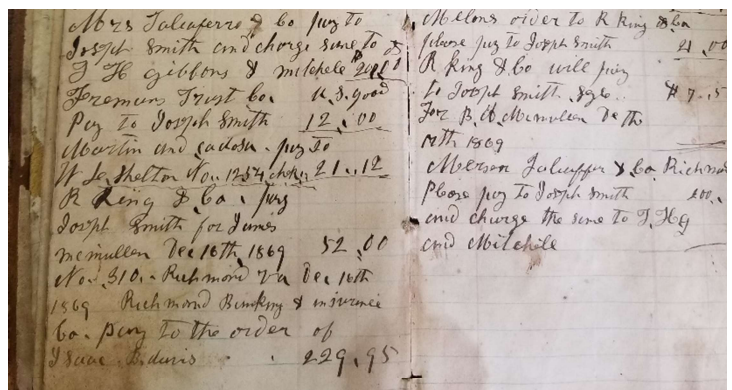
Since the ledgers cover a long time, and go all the way up to 1931, they will be a window into how much the Great Depression affected buying habits here.

There is a research project in the making if ever there was one.

And of course, the 'Money Orders Received' ledger tells a completely different aspect of Greene County's story.

More recently, Sherman Shifflett, who had been the speaker at our Open House in December, gave us a ledger book from 'a store in Greene County,' so far unidentified, with entries dated the mid to late 1800s. Amounts, at least on one of the pages seem to be large enough for these to be wholesale accounts.

It would be very easy to become engrossed in the stories that artifacts such as these tell. Should any of our readers be interested in delving more, get in touch with us at 434-985-1834, or Jackie.pamenter@gmail.com, and we'll see what we can arrange.



Greene County Ledger mid-late 1800s

AN ACQUISITION NOT YET ACQUIRED

When in 2004 Don and Jackie Pamerter were renovating Forest Hill Academy, the school behind their house that was built after the Civil War by schoolteacher Francis Marion McMullen and his wife, little was left from its early days. Apart from some schoolboy scribbling on a wall – “*School gets out first week [sic] of April*” – perhaps the most interesting was part of a stamped envelope found inside the wall behind where the schoolteacher would stand. Thoughtfully the mouse that had carried it off left the postmark intact – Stanardsville August 27 6 AM 1906.

Even to a non-stamp collector, it is interesting – quite aside from the fact that it was franked at 6 AM! The envelope was printed by the Hartford Manufacturing Co. between 1903 and the end of 1906. But was it from Die 110 or Die 113? The information about where the envelope was printed was from “*Bartels’ Catalogue and Reference List of the United States stamped envelopes.*” It appears that Mr. Bartels paid close attention – see Note 3 and Note 4. We do not know how much one paid for a ready-stamped envelope above the 2 cent cost of the stamp.




Seemingly, Die 113 was a recut of Die 110, leading to extraordinarily small differences in the look of the stamps – such as *‘the termination of the upper and lower ribbons.’* Thank you Google – and apologies to those of you reading the excerpt at right on paper with a magnifying glass and not on an enlargeable screen.

Die 110. TWO CENTS, Carmine.—Upright rectangle, with rounded corners, standing on end, measuring 29x25 mm. Centre of stamp contains profile bust of Washington to left. Above bust, in curved label, inscription “UNITED STATES POSTAGE.” In upper corners, between label and toothed frame line, large numeral of value. Under bust, “WASHINGTON”; “1732” at left; “1799” at right; inscription below, “TWO CENTS.”

Die 111. FOUR CENTS, Brown.—A square, with rounded corners, measuring 27x27½ mm. In centre of stamp, profile bust of Grant to left. Above, in curved label, “UNITED STATES POSTAGE.” In upper corner, between label and toothed frame line, large numeral of value. Directly under bust, “1822–GRANT–1885.” Inscription below, in curved ribbon, “FOUR CENTS.”

Die 112. FIVE CENTS, Blue.—An ellipse, lying lengthwise and measuring 29½x25½ mm. In centre of stamp, profile bust of Lincoln to left. Under bust, “1809–LINCOLN–1865.” Inscription above, “UNITED STATES POSTAGE”; below, “FIVE CENTS,” separated by a colored oval containing figure 5.

Die 113. Recut Die of 110.

Wmk. No. 14. 

Note 1.—The Knives are the same as those of the previous issue.

Note 2.—The 1 cent stamp shows three distinct shades, i. e., Bluish green, Yellowish green and Olive green. The 2 cent is found in three colors, i. e., Carmine and Red (frequently called Vermilion), and Pink. The olive green and red were the first printings.

Note 3.—Early in 1904 it was noted that the 2 cent die had been altered due to recutting causing thereby marked differences in the engraving of the details of the design, especially in the terminations of the upper and lower ribbons, and often in the descriptions. The saw teeth of the inner frame line, are likewise frequently very irregular and in two cases, Barrett types 96, 112, an additional tooth appears above the base of left figure 2. In the catalogue the varieties are listed in accordance with the descriptions published by L. G. Barrett.

Note 4.—In answer to an inquiry about the apparent alterations of Die 110 the Third Assistant Postmaster stated:

Washington, Nov. 4th 1904.

Replying to your letter of October 31, and returning the three two cent envelopes submitted by Mr. J. M. Bartels of Boston, I have to inform you that the lettering, etc., on two of the dies which show whiter lines than the other have been retouched by the engraver.

When the dies become so much worn that the white lines fill up with ink in embossing the stamp upon the envelopes, it is customary to have them retouched in order to overcome the difficulty, and so long as this custom is continued the differences noted by Mr. Bartels cannot be avoided.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) EDWIN C. MADDEN,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

COME AND SPEND SOME TIME AT YOUR MUSEUM

As you know, the museum is kept open by the constant support of the volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays. Now we have additional times. We have just passed the anniversary of the arrival of our wonderful Administrative Assistant, Anthea Hazelden. She is always pleased to meet our members (and their friends who should be members...) Anthea’s presence has increased the number of hours that we are open. When she is working, usually but not always on a Wednesday or Thursday (it’s best to phone to make sure), ring the doorbell! She will be pleased to come down from the office and let you in. Our exhibits are self-guided, so Anthea can get back to work, while you browse and get to know what really is in all those cabinets. Together with our regular 10 till 3 on Fridays and Saturdays, this gives us open hours on four days a week, which is very gratifying. We are always pleased to hear from you too: by email at info@GreeneHistory.org or phone at 434-985-1834.

NOMINATIONS

One board position is up for reelection at our Annual Meeting on May 17th. Ellen Thurnau’s first 3 year term expires. We thank her for her service, and are very pleased that she has agreed to stand for a second term. We will vote on that nomination at the meeting.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Since our last newsletter, we've received almost \$4,000 in donations!!!. Most of this is from two very generous and supportive friends. We collectively thank our President Joann Powell for her \$2,000 gift, and Lloyd Vaught for the \$1,000 he donated. Words aren't enough to express our gratitude. In addition, and as important, some of you include an extra amount when you send in your dues, for which we are always grateful. And we want to remind you that some employers will match donations, and such matches are very welcome. We thank the following: Paul & Cheryl Jones, Bill Henry & Jo McKeown, Chuck Swinney of Chesley Creek Farm LLC, Ann Vonnegut-Frieling & Chris Von Frieling, all of Stanardsville; Gwen Conklin, Richmond; Sylvia Jones, Earlysville; Cheryl Deane, Madison; Carol Speirs, Fredericksburg; William & Alison Kaufmann, Egg Harbor Township NJ; Barbara Keller; Cory Salisbury, Freedom PA; and Tracy Laws of Stanardsville and her employer. We cannot thank you all enough for your support of the Society.

IN MEMORIAM

Three more longtime supporters of the Historical Society have died since our last newsletter was published in November, and we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge their passing.

NANCY MORRIS had the longest association of all with the Society. She was a Charter Member, editor of the Magazine for many of the early years when it was issued almost every year, a longtime contributor even when not the editor, a board member and persistent booster of the Society's aims and accomplishments, as well as donor of artifacts. As Editor of the unique and sadly long out of print "*Stanardsville Then And Now*," published at the time of Stanardsville's Bicentennial in 1994, Nancy compiled an amazingly useful book of facts, lore, personalities, buildings and history. She was a wonderful help in supplying photographs and stories for our "*Images of America: Greene County*" book, published in 2013. And she was a good neighbor and friend. Nancy died in November 2019.

MARGARET ANN MORRIS CURRAN came back to Greene County to live not many years ago, having made her career elsewhere. She joined the Society over 11 years ago, not long after she retired here, close to where her mother, Genevieve Eddins Morris, lived. Her father, John Joseph Morris, had been a very active member of the Greene County community. Margaret Ann donated a number of fine items to the Society's collections. She would be the first to agree that she had been a very private person, but I can also say that she, too, was a good neighbor and friend. Margaret Ann died last month.

MARIE JACKSON ("JACKIE") GILBERT WILLIAMS lived in the Richmond area for much of her life, but was born here in Stanardsville to Birdine Piper (McMullen) Gilbert and Ennis Cecil Gilbert Senior. She wrote a delightful biography of her grandmother, Birdie Jarrell McMullen, and her mother, for the first issue of our Newsletter in 2015. Her donations to our collections include a beautiful quilt that hung in the hallway at 360 Main Street until a short time ago, and the spectacles and their case that belonged to her grandmother, the maker of the quilt. She died at the beginning of February.

All three of these ladies were a pleasure to spend time with and they are much missed.

RENEWAL TIME

As always, here is a reminder to please pay your dues for 2020 if you have not already done so. Lifetime members commit a significant sum in the belief that we will continue to carry out our mission over many years to come. 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!!

BUSINESS CORNER

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: Our newest Business member is the Stanardsville Shopping Plaza, home to Greene County’s only laundromat, (next to Mountain Gas), 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.

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.greenhistory.org

www.facebook.com/greenhistoryva

The Greene County Historical Society

360 Main Street
PO Box 185
Stanardsville, VA 22973