

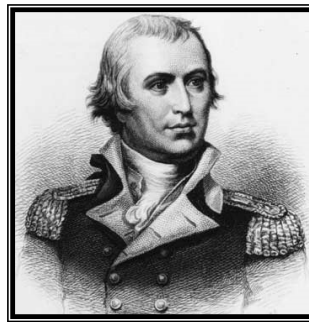
Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2020, November

Volume 26 Issue 3



Nathanael Greene

Major General of the Continental Army

Born 1742--Died 1786

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SOCIETY LOGO

Many of you have been receiving our newsletter for a very long time!! Since the Society was founded, we have headed page one with the Greene County seal, which had been designed by our dedicated member Lelia Bickers. But times change: the Board decided we should be represented graphically with a logo that more accurately projects our mission. We went to noted local artist and member Chee Ricketts for advice and she graciously agreed to help us think through, and then develop, a new logo. This issue presents the design we chose. The focus as always is the map of the County, but overlaid on that is a representation of one of our most important functions – as the repository for the family ancestries and histories of the many thousands of people who have lived here, gone elsewhere from here, stayed here and died here.

Across the face of the logo is ‘Greene family tree,’ with deep roots and many branches. The genealogy database developed and still maintained by our first President, Eugene Powell, contains information about the births, marriages and deaths of over 100,000 people, spreading across the United States and beyond. More recently Lifetime member Ron Mosher began and is maintaining a complementary database of the Greene County families with African-American heritage. It already numbers in the thousands. We are proud of the efforts of both of these dedicated researchers.

We are most grateful to Chee for her help, and hope you like our new logo. As they say in all the best advertisements, look for us wherever good information about the history of our County is found.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings, to my fellow Greene County Historical Society members and all our supporters. We are near the end of the year 2020, a year like none other. The Covid-19 pandemic, racial social injustice and the 2020 presidential election have dominated the news. I hope some of you are journal keepers and have been writing how your life has been changed during these historic times. Your thoughts and observations about changes to you, your family and community will be valuable for our future generations. We need to see these historic times through the eyes and voices of many. So keep those journals, it's not too late to start and it's not over yet!!

As you will have seen, our new logo heads page one. Chee Ricketts helped us to think through what we wanted to achieve and then designed the logo for us. We are most grateful to Chee for her time and expertise in helping us.

Despite the closure of the museum through August, Anthea, our administrative assistant, continued her usual two days a week of work, keeping up with mail, banking, emails, phone calls, on line orders and much more. As well, she has devoted a lot of time to redesigning our website. Note that we have a new URL, one that includes 'va' at the end. So next time you visit us online, be sure to go to www.greenehistoryva.org instead of plain old 'greenehistory.' I think you will be impressed. We are very grateful to Anthea for all the work she has done.

We reopened the museum in September with the usual Friday and Saturday 10 to 3 schedule, and are delighted to have had visitors every open day except one. That happened to be a very rainy day! Only 8 of our 20 or so volunteers have signed up to mind the museum. We greatly appreciate these hearty souls, while we fully understand why other volunteers are reluctant to come out - yet. We wish them peace, safety and wellness.

At this time, our fundraising is dependent upon membership dues, donations, brick walkway sales and online gift shop sales. All of these can be purchased online from our website. Check your holiday list and see what you might be able to give from our gift shop listings. The year 2021 dues will be due the first of the year, and we look forward to receiving your renewal, perhaps with an added donation. For the person who has everything, you might consider the gift of their own membership.

We have been staying connected with our membership and the world at large in different ways. Look for us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva> and like us when you visit us. Three years ago we started the monthly email, by a different Board member each month, to tell more local stories and to give current information to those members whose email addresses we have. We recently started a regular article in the GREENE COUNTY RECORD that delves into the history revealed by some of the artifacts in our collections. Thank you Terry Beigie, GRC editor! We hear a lot of positive feedback concerning these articles. Then of course you get this Society Newsletter three times during the year. Your calls to us at 434-985-1834 are always welcome, Anthea is usually there on Wednesdays and Thursdays and we answer voicemails promptly.

The Society is sponsoring its second Boy Scout from BSA Troop174 for his Eagle Scout Project. Stephen Gump's project is the restoration of the Stanardsville Cemetery. He and his Scout helpers have cut down overgrowth, cleaned debris from around the cemetery, repaired a fence and worked on repairing the concrete wall along Celt Road. Soon you may notice at the front entrance a nice new sign with the name of the cemetery.

Two volunteers who wish to remain anonymous spent many hours this summer landscaping around our museum buildings, with new plantings and mulching. We are grateful to them and also to the Spotswood Trail Garden Club, which has been very active in keeping our property beautiful. And

my thanks go to Griffin Powell and Jerry Williams for taking down two small diseased trees in the museum yard and disposing of them. Stop by to visit the museum and see how attractive the landscaping looks. There are also some new items to see in the museum.

Happy Holidays To All, and please stay safe and well.

Joann Powell

UP COMING EVENTS

Given the current uncertainties, we have no events planned in the near future. However, thinking positively, we hope that the Historic House Tour that has now been rescheduled for April 2021 will go ahead as planned. We'll put out more details closer to the date, and if we have to re-schedule, we'll be sure to let you know by email and in the press.

IN MEMORIAM

We are truly sad to report that Bobby Rhodes of Stanardsville died on August 8th. Bobby was many things to so many of us - friend, story teller, historian, shoulder to cry on, and so much more. To the Society, he was a faithful Board member and source of wisdom, as well as being someone who saw things that needed to be done and did them. Thank you to the many people who have made contributions to the Society in his memory. We also mourn the loss of long-time member and generous donor Sylvia Jones of Earlysville. Our thoughts go to the families of both.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

We have some interesting artifact donations to tell you about: from George James Lamb, Rosser Lamb's 25 gallon cast iron lard kettle, with a stand donated by David Roach; from Connie Knight Gilmer, Trail volumes for 1960-1963, as well as a '55 '56 Future Farmers jacket and some High School memorabilia; from Audrey Morris, "*A Voice in The Hayfield*" by Ron Morris; from Susan Black (now of the Isle of Man, which is, according to Wikipedia "a self-governing British Crown dependency situated in the Irish Sea between Great Britain and Ireland"), a 19th century plat of the Dawsonville area. We also acquired from Cynthia Robertson, the Watson family scrapbook, a 2-volume Watson family history, and a Snow family recipe book. Our thanks to all.

GRATITUDE

Once again, we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Donnie Mays of Earlysville, who stopped by recently to maintain and reset our tall case clock. He has taken very good care of us since we acquired the clock and is now officially retired. But we were glad to see him, and wish him a happy retirement.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome two new members since our last newsletter. These are: Cathy Boyd of Stanardsville and Jane Jarrell Mallet of West Lafayette IN. And welcome back Violet Watson of Quinque, after a long absence. Thank you for supporting us.

GREENE COUNTY AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Greene County is full of history, but did you know that the County is home to nine sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of the nation's resources that are considered worthy of preservation. Created in 1966 under the National Historic Preservation Act, the register is maintained by the National Park Service; it builds on coordinating and supporting public

and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources. As of 2019, 95,000 sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places across the country. Greene County is happy to have nine properties already listed, which include four houses, the County Courthouse, the Octonia stone site, one mill, and not one but two historic districts - the Stanardsville Historic District and a portion of the Skyline Drive Historic District.

You may wonder how eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is determined. Key questions concern the property's age, integrity, and historical significance. Typically a property must be at least 50 years old and look much as it did in the past. However, historical significance is one of the biggest factors. For this, attributes to be addressed include: whether the property is associated with events or activities that were important to the area, state, or the whole country; did people significant to American history have ties to the property; is the building a pristine example of a particular architectural style or construction type or the work of a master architect or designer; and finally, might the property yield important information about the past through archaeological study?

If someone feels that a property is significant, they can begin the nomination process. They first fill out a form describing the property and its significance, and submit it to the state historic preservation officer for review. In Virginia, this officer works in the Department of Historic Resources. An accepted nomination is sent to the National Park Service for final review and eventual listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. A listed property receives honorific recognition, and this designation also allows for planning considerations and possible rehabilitation tax credits for the property owner. Not every building that is nominated is listed. The process takes time and a passionate advocate who is both willing to research the property and become familiar with its history and significance and to present that in a compelling narrative within the nomination form.

Many County residents already know the history and significance of some of Greene's listed sites, such as the County Courthouse and the Town of Stanardsville, as well as the history of the Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive. But what about the other properties?

The Powell-McMullan house was listed in 2002; it is a wood-frame farmhouse built around 1800 in McMullan Mill, off South River Road, for Ruth Powell Breeden, a daughter of early settlers to the area. Later, Jeremiah McMullan had a Greek Revival addition made to the house. He was the son of another early settler and worked as a Methodist preacher who rode the circuit in the area preaching at various locations. This house showcases vernacular architecture in the Blue Ridge area. Long-time members may recall that we had an article about the house by then owners Kevin and Leta O'Connor in Volume 18 (2004-2005) of the GCHS Magazine.

Another listed residence is the Beadles House. This is a late 18th century log house built by Captain John Beadles, who served in the Revolutionary War. Important early construction features of this house survive intact, including batten doors, beaded ceiling joists, and hand wrought nails. Because these features are still visible, the house offers a unique and rare opportunity to examine late 18th century construction plans and details. Volume 15 (1999) of the GCHS Magazine had an article by Maggie Wilson about this house.

This year, Greene County added its ninth site to the National Register of Historic Places, with the A. J. Mill listing in September. All of these resources show the diversity of properties found throughout the County. We hope that as more people study the history of the area, and of the County in particular, and work to keep the landscape and character-defining features of the County intact, our history will not be lost and more properties will be preserved for future generations.

Dawn M. Muir, GCHS Secretary

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Several people have made donations in memory of our friends and supporters who are deceased. Donations in memory of Bobby Rhodes include those from Virginia Clayton, Kevin Frazier, Don and Ann Harper, John & Anthea Haselden, Anna Rhoades Little, Jackie & Don Pamenter, Joann Powell, Jeanne Rexroad, Henry & Ann Shelton, and Louise Sullivan. Daphne Daniel sent us a generous donation in memory of Phyllis & Dookie Deane. We thank you all and are grateful for your support as well as theirs over the years.

Many of our members are kind enough to either add on a donation to their membership dues, or just plain send us a donation check. We are grateful to every one of you for your membership commitment, however large or small, and for other financial donations you are gracious enough to send our way. Greene County Historical Society can only survive with your generosity!! Financial donations include those from Violet Watson and George & Susan Overstreet.

OUR COLLECTIONS

As Joann mentioned in her letter, in order to keep the GCHS in the public's mind, we have started a series of articles in the Greene County Record that build on artifacts in our collections. They have been well received, so for those of you who do not take the Record, here are the links to each of the first 3 articles.

Greene County Celebrates The 19th Amendment was published on August 27th, 2020:

https://dailyprogress.com/community/greenenews/lifestyles/history-greene-county-celebrates-19th-amendment/article_aed81460-e7d0-11ea-a162-ab76e930dcde.html.

WOMEN						
Sept 17, 1920	1	Blakey Mary N.	March 17, 1852	68	House-keeper	Stanardsville
" 20 "	2	Bushong Frances R.	Nov 29, 1871	49	" "	"
" 29 "	3	Bickers Taylor Thava	Apr 11, 1897	23	" "	"
" 29 "	4	" L.L.	June 29, 1899	21	Truck Driver	"
" 29, 1920	5	" M.B.	June 27, 1876	44	Housewife	"
" " "	6	Blakey Mary Neal	July 12, 1891	29	" Keeper	"
" " "	7	" Margaret	Feb 12, 1855	65	" "	"
Oct 1, "	8	Blakey Sarah J.	Apr. 9, 1847	73	" "	"
" 2 "	9	Bickers Mable C.	May 25, 1899	21	" "	"
" 2 "	10	" Jane	July 29, 1872			

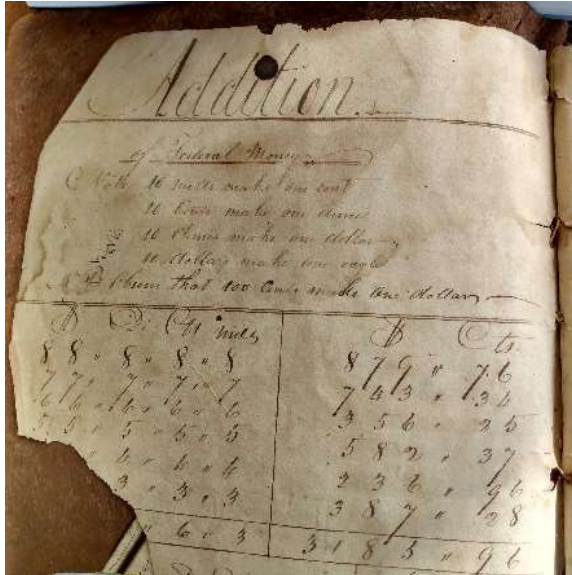
This page of Voter Registrations lists a number of Stanardsville women who registered in 1920, almost as soon as they could. Mary Blakey, aged 68, a Stanardsville woman listed, as most women were, as 'housekeeper,' registered on September 17th, only 3 weeks after Congress ratified the Amendment.

Ethyle Cole Giuseppe, Her Life and Interesting Times was published on October 1st, 2020. The 101 years through which Ethyle lived contained so much interesting history that this article is to be continued in a future issue. https://dailyprogress.com/community/greenenews/lifestyles/ethyle-cole-giuseppe-her-life-interesting-times/article_d8cd0340-0321-11eb-9ff6-d76d78c85633.html.

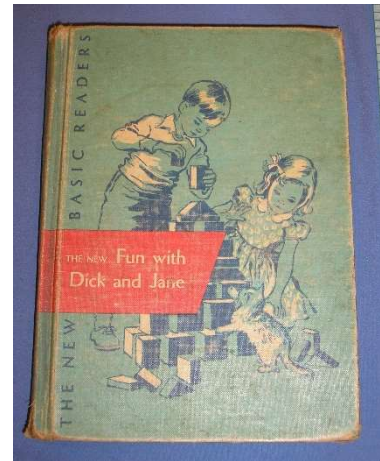
Education Then and Now was published on October 29th 2020:

https://dailyprogress.com/community/greenenews/lifestyles/greene-county-your-history/article_53b71a84-1932-11eb-83eb-833801e4c11a.html. See how well you can do with the

beautiful handwriting of this student, who was probably no more than 15 years old. Did you know that ‘10 dollars makes one eagle?’ We owe thanks to Richard Early, who donated this workbook; it had belonged to his ancestor James Thompson Early, who was born in 1805. The book is covered in leather of some kind, probably home-cured, and James wrote his name on the inside of the front cover.



This article starts in the mid-1800s, when ‘English money’ as well as ‘Federal money’ was used in arithmetic examples. We have a lot of interesting information about later education and schools in Greene, so



this article will also be continued at a later date. Included in our collection are several published readers from different decades of the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of the later ones will be very familiar to our older members.

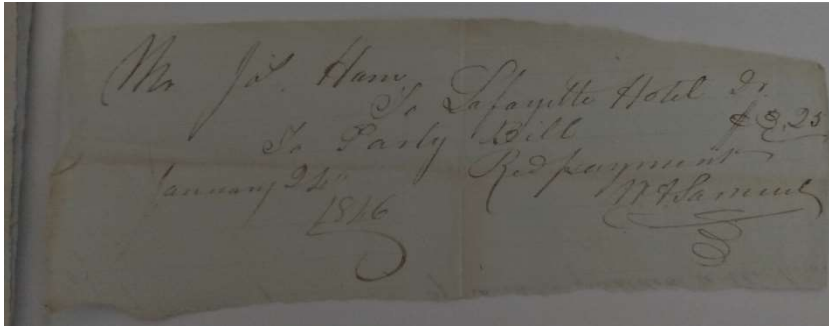
ELECTIONS

We don’t have to tell you that the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, extending the vote to women, occurred in the same year as a tumultuous Presidential Election, which in Greene was administered by the very capable hands of Voter Registrar Jennifer Lewis-Fowler and a dedicated and tireless team of staff and volunteer Election Officials as well as our volunteer Electoral Board. We wanted to share a memory of a greatly loved previous Voter Registrar, Sandy Shifflett, who died much too early on September 6th, 2017, at the age of 67. Sandra Faye held that position for 14 years, and her successor shared with us a photograph of her that was taken in the Voter Registration Office. Thank you for your service everybody; Sandy would have been proud of the work that you did.



1845 CHRISTMAS PARTY?

With a strange holiday season coming up, it's heartening to see that there were parties before and to know that there will be parties again. This receipt, which is dated January 24th, 1846, is for a payment by Joseph Ham, the Stanardsville tailor, to The Lafayette Hotel. The amount is \$3.25, and it is to pay Mr. Ham's Party Bill. Perhaps this was a Christmas party? At the time he was 26 or 27 years old and single; he had yet to buy the building on Main Street where his 'Joseph Ham Tailor' sign would hang, and which now houses the new Mexican eatery and retail store, but presumably he was already plying his trade as a tailor, so he may have had employees as well as friends and family.



We wonder so many things - how was the Hotel decorated? What did people wear? What kind of gifts did they exchange? What kind of food and drink did they have? What was the weather like?

Some gifts might have been much as they are today and like some of our other collection

items, such as jewelry – a cameo perhaps – or maybe a little box like this one, which is less than 2 inches wide. At the time of the party, likenesses such as the one below had not even been contemplated, but by the late 1800s they must surely have been high on people's lists. As might books have been - Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, published in 1844, was very popular in the US at that time. We have Mabel Collier Baker to thank for the box, and Eugene Powell for the cameo and the portrait of unknown sitters.



As for the weather – according to one Central Virginia diarist, Christmas 1845 “*was very mild...with no snow and no very cold weather.*” But just two months later, the ‘Great Gust’ occurred. Over the period February 27th to March 2nd, 1846 Norfolk and Portsmouth endured a ferocious storm. Looking back from 1879, an August 19th article in the Norfolk Landmark had this to say: “*The great storm of 1846, known in all this section as "The Great Gust" commenced at 8 o'clock on the night of Sunday, March 1st of that year, and the rain and sleet were terrible. It continued all day Monday and terminated Monday night with heavy fall of snow. The tide rose 12 inches higher than it had for 45 years, inundating the wharves and coming beyond the north side of Water Street half way up to the market house.... The storm was equally severe at Portsmouth, Old Point and Hampton, and great loss of property resulted.*” Oh my goodness! Let's hope that the storm did not come inland too.

AN EARLIER DONATION FROM THE DEANE FAMILY

Not wanting to leave you with the impression that Phyllis and Dookie Deane's daughter Ginger is older than she really is, we want to correct our report in the last issue. Ginger was not the child who accompanied Dookie when he purchased the round table, it was her older brother, Craig. No matter who, the table is a beautiful addition to our collections.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In the ongoing research being conducted by the University of Virginia regarding the enslaved community that worked for UVa or for its benefactors, Shelley Murphy is still seeking to hear from descendants of enslaved laborers who helped to build UVa. If you had enslaved ancestors living in central Virginia (1818-1900) contact enslavedlaborersuva@gmail.com.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING – THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AS OF NOVEMBER 11TH 2020

Following on from our last newsletter, now we are 5 months further into the pandemic. As of the 20th of June, Greene County had only 48 cases and one death. On November 16th, with cases, hospitalizations and deaths increasing horrendously across the country, Greene had 334 cases and four deaths. Please stay safe everyone – the CDC has finally come out with recommendations that seem only sensible – that wearing a mask can protect you from somebody else who is infected but doesn't know it, as well as you protecting others if you are asymptomatic.

We reopened the museum at the beginning of September, with strict distancing, mask-wearing and hand sanitizing protocols. We have been pleased with the numbers of people who have visited, and are also delighted that our online presence is becoming more robust. Visiting our website – now www.greenehistoryva.org - and buying from our website is a good way to support us when visiting is perhaps not an option. We are doing 'porch pickups' for local buyers who can stop by and retrieve their purchases from our convenient front porch. I'm sure that when Ivy and Irene Bickers built that porch they would have had no idea how convenient it would become. It's interesting to think that they lived through the 'flu pandemic of 1918, so the sight of people in masks would not be strange to them.

COPIES OF THE TRAIL LOOKING FOR A HOME

Elsewhere we tell you about Connie Knight Gilmer's donation of 1960s issues of *The Trail*. Her donation including two volumes that we already have, the ones for 1957/58 and 1959. We do not have room to store duplicates, so they are free to anyone who would like to pick them up.

MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN

People continually remark about how quickly each week seems to come and go these days, and we agree. Joann mentioned in her letter to you all that it is renewal time again and we do hope that you will go on over to our new website – www.greenehistoryva.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.

BUSINESS CORNER

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: Our newest Business member is Jos. T. Samuels Inc., the Charlottesville Realty company run by Joe Samuels (www.jtsamuels.com). Other business members include: 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; 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.greenehistoryva.org

www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva

The Greene County Historical Society

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PO Box 185
Stanardsville, VA 22973