

Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2021, March

Volume 27 Issue 1



*Nathanael Greene*

*Major General of the Continental Army*

*Born 1742--Died 1786*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 3RD**

**OPENING OF FARMERS MARKET 2021 AT GREENE COMMONS IN STANARDSVILLE**

**WE'LL BE THERE, HOPE TO SEE YOU TOO – PERHAPS IN YOUR NEW EASTER BONNET!**



*Easter bonnet, donor unknown,  
9999.99.164*

These are from our Easter  
Bonnet Collection



*Easter Bonnet, made and donated by  
Caribel Burke 1997.03.02*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Would you believe after a year, we are still faced with the COVID-19 pandemic? Around this time last year there was a lot of uncertainty concerning what the future would be like with the virus. Now there are many unanswered questions in the minds of the people – *“When will it end?” “Are the vaccines safe?” “Will there be side effects down the road?” “Will most of the US population be willing to be vaccinated?”* And many more.

On March 15, 2020, the Society held its annual dinner at the Lydia Mountain Lodge That was the last event we were able to have for the year. Governor Northam had our Commonwealth go on a LOCKDOWN the week following the dinner. We closed the Society museum on March 20th. Anthea, our Administrative Assistant, has continued with her two work days a week at the museum office. This gives the Society a way for the public to contact us for inquiries and sales by phone and online. She has been quite busy! As things improved by late summer, the lockdown was lifted. So we reopened the museum on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with safety restrictions in place. Through September to the end of February we were open 48 days with 99 visitors. Only six of those days had no visitors. It was interesting to see how many people stopped in just because we were open and they were driving through looking for something to do. Our OPEN sign did the trick. Thank you also to local members and friends for stopping by.

We had planned to have our Annual Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>, but have reluctantly decided it is not a good idea to try to gather then. However, the membership does need to vote on the selection of Officers and Directors. Accordingly, we will email the information to all members unless we usually send you a paper newsletter, in which case we will mail you a ballot and return envelope. We will request at that time that you submit your votes, which we will tally and report back on in July. The Nominating Committees' report is on page 3.

We are delighted to have a booth at the season opening of the Farmers Market on April 3rd. Gift shop items will be on sale and we look forward to seeing many of you and being able to just say “Hi!” Besides the food offerings from many of the usual stalls, we too will have homemade baked goods - cakes, pies, cookies and brownies.....yum-yum.

March 21st is World Poetry Day. I challenge all of you to write a poem about this past pandemic year. Drop them off at the museum. Later you may see some of them published in future newsletters. And of course, we still encourage you to keep a journal of the times.

Remember last year when the lockdown started I suggested it was a good time to do spring cleaning. Ha, it is spring cleaning time again!!

With these uncertain times, I pray all of you will stay safe and well.

Joann Powell

## STANARDSVILLE CEMETERY PROJECT

As you may recall, the Society sponsored Stephen Gump's recent Eagle Scout Project. He is with BSA Troop 174, and his project was the restoration of the Stanardsville Cemetery. The completion of the project has given rise to many favorable comments about how much it improves the entry to our town on Celt Road from the bypass.

This is a large and historic cemetery – some 24 pages of the Society's Cemetery survey Volume 3, are devoted to it and back in 2010, when that volume was published, the late Earl Estes had counted 768 graves. There have been quite a number of burials there since then. Many of Greene County's early families have ancestors buried there and some later arrivals to the County may live in houses whose original owners are there. For example, the original builders of *'that Pink House'* on Madison Road (where this author lives) were Henrietta and Zebulon Kanky Page. Z. K. Page was County Clerk at the time of his death in 1911, and his monument is the tall obelisk near the center of the Cemetery – Henrietta's smaller stone is next to his. Perhaps your house was once the property of someone who is buried in the Stanardsville Cemetery.

Upkeep of the Cemetery entails considerable cost, all of which is borne by the not-for-profit Cemetery Association, so any financial donations would be gratefully received. Checks may be mailed to Stanardsville Cemetery Association, PO Box 53, Quinque VA 22965.

## UP COMING EVENTS

Given the current uncertainties, we have no events planned in the near future other than our table at the Opening Day of the Farmers Market in Stanardsville on April 3rd. As a reminder, the Historic House Tour that has once again been rescheduled, we are planning that event for April 2022.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

With gratitude to Editor Terry Beigie, we continued our series of articles in the Greene County Record in December, writing about the CCC and Greene County during The Depression. <https://dailyprogress.com/community/greenenews/lifestyles/the-ccc-s-legacy-in-greene/> was published on December 17th. It included some very chilly snowy scenes that really brought home



*CCC Camp in Winter 1940s, Shenandoah Camp NIRA, donor Jack Hensley*

how difficult working conditions must have been for the legions of CCC workers in the camps. Many were from Greene and some from states further north, but it must have been a rude shock to the Kentuckians and others from what (until last month's freezes) have been regarded as states in the sunny and warm South.

## **ELECTION OF GCHS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The GCHS Board consists of four officers and six directors, to be elected by the membership in May by mail or email as outlined in the President's Letter. Continuing on the Board are Secretary Dawn Muir and Directors Ellen Thurnau and Jackie Pamerter, but this year the terms of the following board members are up: President Joann Powell; Treasurer Roger Powell; Directors Dick Early, Gary Forrest and Jeanne Rexroad. The position of Vice President is currently vacant. This follows the resignation of Edd Fuller; he is much missed, as is Bobby Rhodes, who died last summer, and also Director David Roach, who has resigned from the Board. All three of these men have given great service to the Society, for which we are very grateful.

The Nominating Committee (Dawn Muir, Chair, with Jackie Pamerter) was tasked with finding a Vice President and 2 new Directors. We are delighted that Jeanne Rexroad has agreed to stand as Vice President and that two members, Scott Mingleorff and Marida Lamb, have also agreed that we should add their names to the slate which consists of: President, Joann Powell; Vice President, Jeanne Rexroad; Treasurer, Roger Powell; Directors, Gary Forrest and Richard Early. Because both Roger and Richard have served in their current positions for more than three consecutive terms, we will request a vote of the membership to waive the provision in our bylaws (Article XVII, Section 4) that one year should elapse between terms of service.

When you receive your ballot from the Nominating Committee in May, by email or USPS, we urge you to vote, so that we will have a board in good standing.

Dawn Muir, Jackie Pamerter  
Nominating Committee

## **ARTIFACT DONATIONS**

We have some interesting artifact donations to tell you about: from Scott Wills, an addition to our Shenandoah National Park coverage in the form of informational posters. Tom Dean added an aerial photograph of his and Laurie's home on Octonia Road, built in the late 1800s by the Shelton family. It shows six or seven outbuildings, some of which most likely date to the original house's construction in the late 1800s. From Ellen Morris Deane, we received numerous family photographs and papers, and a beautiful black and white woven coverlet. Two photographs came to us from Faye Baugher Dean and Shannon Dean, both of buildings no longer in existence – Baugher's Service Station, and the Frank Long Saw Mill. The service station stood at the junction of Route 33 (now Business 33) and Swift Run Road. It was opened by WWII veteran Elmer Baugher in 1946, after returning from military service. Baugher's was demolished, after the land on which it stood was purchased in 1977 by VDOT in anticipation of the construction of the Stanardsville bypass. That is not a typo – the date was 1977, even though the bypass was not built for more than 20 years after that, finally opening in June 2000.

## **VANISHED BUILDINGS AND VANISHED PLACES**

The donation in December by Faye Baugher Dean and her son Shannon of the photograph of Baugher's Service Station got me thinking about how many service stations and small convenience stores there used to be in Greene. From Kinderhook on Middle River, past Gibbons Store on the Madison Road, run by Mrs. Sallie Gibbons, to the Morris Store at Geer and Snows in Dyke, small stores – and some not so small - were there for their local communities. For some stores we have ledger books and receipts; but most of these are from an earlier era, but the basic household goods remained the same until the advent of the supermarkets and big box stores

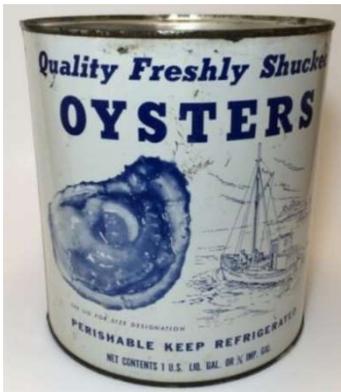
I talked with three GCHS members – Faye, Eugene Powell, and Ellen Morris Deane - about what it was like to work in the family business when they were teenagers in high school. These were



Figure 1 Baugher's Service Station, donor Faye Baugher Dean & Shannon Dean

the days when 'service' station and 'convenience' store really meant both service and convenience. Eugene Powell worked in his uncle Roy's large store at Quinque (now Pic 'n Pac), and Ellen Morris Deane in the Geer Store, which was run by her parents, Galen and Pauline Morris.

All three stores had at least two gas pumps. The kids pumped gas, washed windshields and checked oil levels. Store items included almost everything a household would need in the way of food and other household necessities, from deli meat, cheese cut from a large wheels on the counter, bags of sugar and salt, a freezer stocked with ice cream, to overalls and chewing tobacco, not to mention feed for chickens, pigs, horses rabbits. A typical tab, not much different from decades before, might include flour, sugar, soap, tobacco, a box of shells, corn meal. Many stores, not just the larger ones like Powell's at Quinque, stocked a range of dry goods, including fabric, thread, needles and pins, etc. And most of the stores worked on credit and/or barter. When a family brought in eggs or butter, they were set against the bill for the day, or the credit being worked off.



The stores stocked up for the holidays too. Oysters have long been a Christmas treat in Greene County, and many of the stores took orders for them for the holiday season, but not at any other time. Oysters were delivered in gallon cans from the shore. For families who could not consume or afford that many, a gallon can was opened, the customers brought their quart jars, and oysters were carefully measured out.

On Saturdays, people would walk down from the mountains to the Geer Store to make their purchases. Getting her driver's license meant that Ellen also had a driving job on Saturdays, taking people back up to their homes – think Snow Mountain Road - with their groceries. From Quinque, Eugene made deliveries on his bicycle.

These were the community centers of the day; farmers would stop in on a Saturday evening to play setback and rook, or to sit on the porch and solve the world's problems. In the winter a potbellied stove (fueled with wood, or in the case of Baugher's, coal) was the place to sit. The service stations and local stores had a telephone long before residential customers could have connected one if they wanted to. So the store phone was used by the community when it was needed. Faye remembers a wind-up phone at Baugher's. It connected you to the telephone operator in Stanardsville (Miss Shelton at one point), who would then put through your call. For the cell phone generation, this must be hard to believe.

Baugher's Service Station was closed because a new road was planned. Earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people sometimes found another way. We have an account by member Audrey Morris, friend of Galen and Pauline, of the time when the Geer Store stood in the way of another new road.

*"Route 810 (Dyke Road, as it is today) did not exist until the 1930s. Before Route 810 was built, the road to Dyke was what is now the gravel road – Garth Road – which stops at Mount Vernon Church. You can still view the imprint of the old road to the left of the church. According to Pauline Morris, at that time the Geer Store sat to the left of Garth Road. With the new Route 810 opening up, it became necessary to move the store to accommodate the main road traffic. Today one would probably abandon the old store and build a new one. Not so in those times. With a borrowed team of mules or horses and some sturdy logs, the store was jacked up and moved out to Route 810 [north of the church]. Amazingly, the store never closed during the move! I assume it took some length of time, several weeks perhaps, and perhaps folks came in the evenings to shop and see the progress it had made during the day."* Many thanks Audrey, for a lovely image of ingenuity and commerce on the move! We always appreciate receiving written recollections from our members, mailed to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973, or emailed to [info@greenehistoryva.org](mailto:info@greenehistoryva.org)

## THE FRANK LONG SAWMILL

To the east of Baugher's Service Station on Route 33 in Ruckersville was the site of Frank Long's Saw mill. The mill was mobile and could be taken to a logging site. We are grateful to Frank's great-granddaughter, Pam Buttner, who owns the ledger books for the mill and has loaned them to us. They date from the 1920s to the 1950s, and contain lists of customers and amounts paid for work.



Frank Long Saw Mill, donor Faye Baugher Dean & Shannon Dean, no date

It will take some detective work to decipher just what is being recorded, so we will report back in a future newsletter. As can be imagined, just from a quick look there are many very familiar Greene County names.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to welcome six new members since our last newsletter. These are: Ram Marri of Ruckersville; Richard Downey, Faye Baugher Dean and Shannon Dean, and Deb & Patrick Willenborg, all of Stanardsville. And very many thanks to Rebecca Tate, for converting to a Lifetime Membership.

## **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: Mabel Baker, Frank & Eleanor Biasoli, Donna Davis, William & Alison Kaufmann, Paul & Cheryl Jones, Carol Speirs, Joann Powell, Norris Powell, Janice & Victor Rosenberg, Pat & Rosemary Sherwood, Chuck Swinney. And Gary Forrest made a donation in memory of Bobby Rhodes. We thank you all.

## **GRATITUDE FOR OTHER DONATIONS**

We are very grateful to member Jim McConnell, who has carried out much needed maintenance work on our beautiful house at 360 Main Street, replacing fascia and window sills among other things. He very graciously donated his time for the work. He can be reached at [jimsmakecompany@gmail.com](mailto:jimsmakecompany@gmail.com)

We also much appreciate the anonymous person who faithfully shoveled the snow from the paths and sidewalk at 360 Main Street.

## **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION**

**1942 Bacon Hollow Flood** President Joann Powell has received an inquiry about a flood in Bacon Hollow in 1942. If any member or member's family or friend has any recollection of such an event, we would love to hear about it. We recognize that this is going back a long way – nearly 80 years – but perhaps we can jog memories a little and get some of the older people in this community thinking about what they remember, or digging up long-forgotten photographs that they can share. Phone 985-1834 or email [info@greenehistoryva.org](mailto:info@greenehistoryva.org) if you can help.

**African American Oral History Project** We also planning a new oral history project focusing on our African American community, such histories being sadly lacking in our collections. The history of the county is not complete without these stories. Long-time member Deborah Lee, who has worked on similar projects elsewhere in Virginia, has volunteered to help with this project and of course so has Ron Mosher, who has been instrumental in building the genealogy database that focuses on these families, will be an invaluable resource. More volunteers will be needed – call us at 434-985-1934 for more information or to volunteer help.

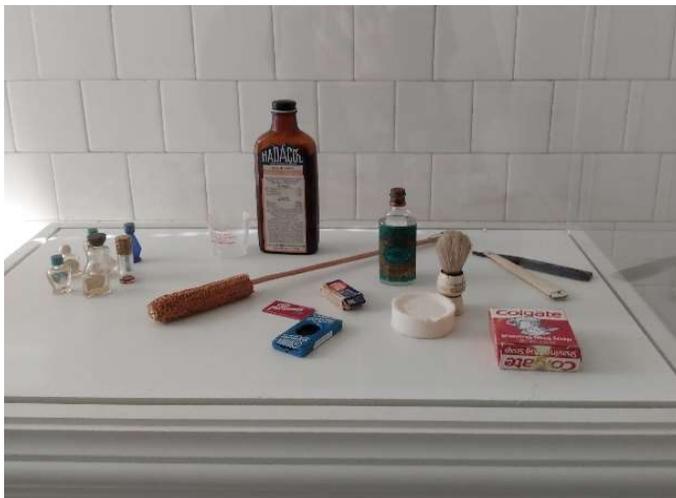
**Ongoing UVA Project** In the ongoing research being conducted by the University of Virginia regarding the enslaved community that worked for UVa or for its benefactors, Shelley Murphy is still seeking to hear from descendants of enslaved laborers who helped to build UVa. If you had enslaved ancestors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

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING – THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AS OF MARCH 2021

Now we are almost one year into the pandemic. February 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the grim milestone for the country of over half a million deaths from the virus, and the Society honored those who have died by flying the Stars and Stripes at half-mast. Greene has now over 1,000 cases and nine deaths. Please stay safe everyone – get vaccinated as soon as you can, and follow the CDC’s sensible recommendations – 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, and stay socially distanced for everybody’s sake. Progress in vaccine distribution is being made and we hope that by the time we write the next episode of this ‘History in the Making,’ it will be easy to schedule a vaccination appointment to get you and your loved ones the shots that are needed to keep us all safe.

In her President’s letter, Joann talks about how we as a society have been faring. To reiterate: we have been pleased with the numbers of people who are visiting the museum, and are also delighted that our online presence is becoming more robust. Visiting our website – now [www.greenehistoryva.org](http://www.greenehistoryva.org) - and buying from the 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.

### COLLECTIONS



*Bathroom items on display at 360 Main Street*

A vital clue in a highly sought after detective novel is in a display in our bathroom. When this book was published in September last year, it became the top selling book in North America. JMRL, our wonderful local library system, purchased 23 copies, including 3 in large print, and even now cannot keep up with demand. We will say no more – except that when you read the book it will be an ‘ahaa’ moment.

We look forward to the day when you can come back and see it in person!! Stay safe.

### MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN

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.greenehistoryva.org](http://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](http://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](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.

**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.greenehistoryva.org](http://www.greenehistoryva.org)

[www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva](http://www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva)

***The Greene County Historical Society***

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