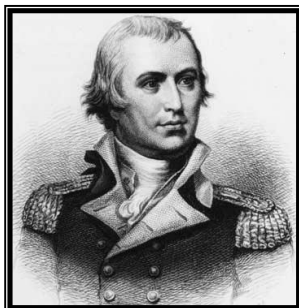


# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Year 2014

Vol. 20 Issue 1



*Nathanael Greene*  
*Major General of the Continental Army*  
*Born 1742--Died 1786*

## Be A Volunteer!

The Greene County Historical Society needs your help. We need additional volunteers to take a once a month, 2½ hour morning or afternoon shift on Fridays and Saturdays, to keep the doors open at the museum, currently in the Old Jail in Stanardsville. We will need at least the same number or more people when we open 360 Main Street. Without more volunteers we might need to cut back to one day a week, which would be a pity when we have so much to offer.

Museum-minding has something for everyone who enjoys local history. Many of the wonderful current group of volunteers are new to this area and have found their shift to be a great opportunity to become better acquainted with the history of Greene County; our research books and genealogy collection provide lots of interesting reading. And those who are from here enjoy being surrounded by items that resonate with their own past. It is a special delight to meet the people who walk in the door ó after all, you are there because you are interested, and they have come in because they too want to know more about this special place. Training is given. Scheduling takes place by email so we must reluctantly say that being able to communicate that way is a necessity. But it is the only one, besides having an interest in Greene County history! For members without email, there are many other ways to help ó please call 985-1409 if you would like to volunteer in another capacity. Please help us to keep our doors open for continued public service. Write to [info@greenehistory.org](mailto:info@greenehistory.org) and we'dl get you set up ó and thank you!

Visit our website ó [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org) and like us on Facebook ó [www.facebook.com/greenehistory.org](http://www.facebook.com/greenehistory.org)

### Upcoming Events

We will have our much-anticipated Annual Dinner on March 16, once again at the Rosebrook Inn, beginning at 4:00 pm. The cost of the dinner will be \$27:00 per person, and your cancelled check is your reservation receipt. Please join us at what has become an event that unites old friends and new for an evening of good food and conversation. Send payment to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973 by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Annual Meeting**

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:00 Pm, in the Greene County Court House in Stanardsville. As well as a short business meeting, Donna Shifflett and Peggy Moyers will present a program about Nathanael Greene, his life and times. Donna's research into George Washington's most trusted aide has taken her across the country, and we can be sure to learn things we didn't know before in this fascinating program. Members and non-members alike are welcome to attend, although only members in good standing at the time of the meeting will be voting on measures before the Society during the business meeting.

## **President's Message**

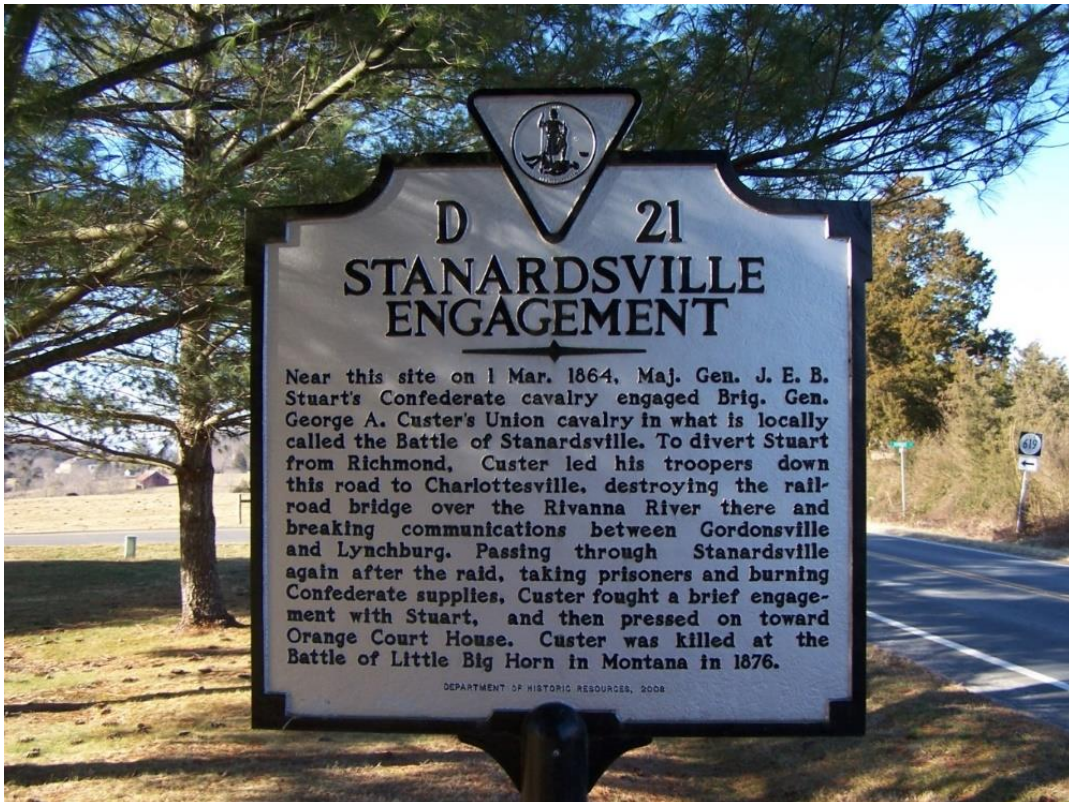
Greetings to all members and friends of the Greene County Historical Society. We have such a full newsletter this time that I will be very brief. We had a great turnout in mid-December for our Open House at 360 Main Street, and you will find elsewhere in these pages an update on progress there so we are about to let the contract for Phase 2, which is the main work of converting the garage into the Linwood Rhodes Wildlife Art Gallery. If you are able, do come to one of our great programs this year. We are commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Battle of Stanardsville on February 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Courthouse, starting at 7:00 pm, with a program by noted Civil War expert Harold Woodward. And at our Annual Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> the program will be an exploration of Nathanael Greene's life and times.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

A Nominating Committee composed of Bill Jones, Jackie Pamenter and Cheryl Ragland presented a potential Bylaw change to the February Board meeting. This Bylaw change would enable the Society to have an additional category of Director, namely Director Emeritus, a non-voting position to be bestowed on retiring or retired board members who, in the unanimous opinion of the Board, have made significant contributions to the advancement of the mission of the Society. The Bylaw change requires a membership vote at the Annual Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Three potential board and officer vacancies were identified: the terms of Directors Julie Dickey and Bill Jones will be coming to an end, as will that of Vice-President Joann Powell. Both Julie and Bill are stepping down and we thank them for their diligent service, in Julie's case for many years. Joann has also served for many years. While she is willing to continue to serve, her re-election requires notice and a special vote at the Annual Meeting. The relevant bylaw is: "Section 4. A person who has been elected as president or vice president or to the board of directors for two consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and the beginning of the term for which he is nominated, provided, however, that this limitation may be waived by a two-thirds vote of those voting at a regular or special meeting of the society after prior written notice to society members of such proposed waiver." In addition, members and volunteers Bobby Rhodes and Troy Harlow have generously agreed to have their names put forward to fill the open Director positions and complete our slate, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Battle of Stanardsville

Unlike 1864, 2014 is not a leap year. To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Stanardsville (February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864), author Harold Woodward will give a presentation on Friday, February 28, 2014, at 7:00 PM at the Greene County Courthouse in Stanardsville. All are welcome to attend, and we hope for a great turnout for this acclaimed expert on the Civil War, especially as it pertains to Central Virginia.



## Membership Renewal Time is Here!

Please don't forget to renew your membership in the Society ó membership dues pay for programs, acquisitions, collections maintenance and many other things. Use the form at the end of this newsletter ó if you receive it by mail, the expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. If you are reading this online and are unsure of when your membership expires, drop us a note at [info@greenehistory.org](mailto:info@greenehistory.org) and we'll let you know. Drop us a note anyway ó we'd love to hear from you. You can easily renew online at our website ó [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org) and pay by credit card through our secure site.

## Status Report --- 360 Main Street

Work has been progressing, with the near completion of the Phase I preparation of our new home at 360 Main Street.

The old one car garage has been removed to allow for a handicapped parking area along with the removal of some small trees and shrubs bordering the east property line to allow for increased line of sight entering and exiting the driveway. (Photos 1 & 2)

A parking lot has been graded and gravel installed at the rear of the property. (Photo 3)

The Nathaniel Greene Construction Co. is putting the finishing touches on the remaining concrete work to repair the driveway stanchions. (Photo 4)





We are working on plans for Phase II, which is the conversion of the two car garage into the Linwood Rhodes Wildlife Art Gallery and meeting room. In addition to the gallery there will be storage space, a small utility room and a handicapped accessible bathroom. Phase II also includes handicapped accessible walkways with parking and the paving of the driveway.

## Found In A Wall

One of the tasks undertaken by Nathaniel Greene Construction was to remove the old garage on the eastern side of 360 Main Street; refurbishing the building would have been expensive, and our parking layout was more efficient with the building gone. Shawn M. Forbes was careful to take the building down piece by piece, and in doing so he came across the treasure shown below. One wooden roller-skate had somehow become lodged in the wall cavity behind the siding. It was difficult to find a comparable skate to date it, but help was at hand. Member Jon Beverly Whitlock had lived in the house as a boy and he recognized the skate as one that he had owned. We had some discussion as to whether it was home-made or machine made before talking to Beverly. He confirmed that the skates had been bought for him in the 1940s or 1950s. We are glad to have one to add to our history of the house.



## More Stanardsville Memories

We received the following letter and decided that Mrs. Williams's reminiscences were too good not to share. She has agreed to write more for us when she has time. Unfortunately the book *STANARDSVILLE ... THEN and NOW*, which was compiled and edited by Mrs. Nancy Morris, is now out of print. The Society has a copy that can be consulted in the museum reading area.

I am Marie Jackson Gilbert Williams, commonly known as Jackie (Jackson by the Tata family, Ethyle Giuseppe and others), the only daughter of Birdine Piper McMullen and Ennis Cecil Gilbert, Sr. As a native of Greene County, to which I return as often as possible, I am delighted and proud of the progress being made in my beautiful County. I was born in the old Mallory house, which was situated where the Primary/Elementary Schools are now, across Main Street from the home of our grandparents, Thomas Jackson and Bertie J. McMullen.

## Memories continued;

I enjoyed reading *STANARDSVILLE ... THEN and NOW*, and thought the Society's members might be interested in additional information about the Spotswood Inn (pp. 39, 41, 42) [the Queen Anne Victorian house opposite the Lafayette Hotel] and The Corner Service Station (p. 48.) [on the south west corner of Main and Blakey Streets, now Stanardsville Auto Repair]. I'll recall some information that might be pertinent and probably some not so pertinent! I'll try not to be too sentimental; if so, you'll ignore the extraneous parts, I feel sure.

After being away for ten years, my parents returned to Greene in 1938. They rented Spotswood Inn from Mr. Collins and did the work necessary for it to be our residence, as well as for commercial use. Mr. Collins and George Jr. lived in the stucco house that was not attached to the Inn, but was within inches of it; they joined the boarders and others for their meals in our dining room/restaurant and we did their housework. Among the first boarders were: Dr. Foster, "Aunt Louwillie" Stephens and a distant relative, "Cousin Eula" Hamn or Hamm, from Barboursville, who were roommates, "Spike" Trimmer, Dick Jones, Mozelle Cowden Brown (before and after she married Mr. Brown), Mary Alice Bristow, Kate Bolton, Jack Hyatt, Sue Jones and Miss Graves, who was an attorney -- I do not think she had a practice, but had a government job. During the week, many employees from the Clerk's Office and Court House joined the residents for lunch at the Inn. After lunch, there were often friendly, competitive croquet games on the North side of the building. Since Main Street, Route 33 [many decades before the ByPass was built "Ed.], was the primary East/West route across the mountain and to the Skyline Drive, there was heavy traffic on the weekends, especially on Sundays, resulting in lots of tourists stopping for lunch or dinner. There was a flashing neon sign that said "TOURIST HOME RESTAURANT" -- it would be regarded as very tacky today!!

At some point, Dr. Foster bought the property from Mr. Collins and built the brick building for his office. As I recalled these facts, my immediate reaction was that Dr. Foster had the stucco house moved back towards the barn (where we had a cow!). I know there was ample space, but in hindsight, it seems more reasonable that he had it demolished. I don't know if there were owners before "Dookie" Deane bought it. He, of course, knows all the subsequent history. Houston and Eva Collier and I believe others, lived in the upstairs of the stucco house and/or brick building. After Mr. Collins remarried, George, Jr., who was like a third son for Mama and Daddy, lived with us in our new home; he was one of my dearest friends until he died in 2004. Among the innumerable memories I have of our years living at the Inn is that of the National Guard and Army caravan going East on Main Street on Sunday, December 7, 1941. This troop movement started before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor had been broadcast on the radio. Spike Trimmer drove Margaret Blakey (I can't recall if they had yet married), "Booster" Blakey and others around trying to find someone who would tell them why this was going on. Another memory, irrelevant for others but very special for our family, was that Dr. Foster delivered my little brother, Thomas Ivy Gilbert, on May 19, 1944, in the bedroom on the left upstairs. His children, "Tuck"öer, Lynne and Piper "P. J."ö Jackson, had a 50th Anniversary celebration for my husband and me at the Gilbert Homeplace (apparently I coined that word!) on June 7, 2002, and arranged for us to spend the night at the Queen Anne Bed and Breakfast. I wonder the source of the picture on page 42 because I had one like it, which I cannot find, of course. I'm curious to know if that is Daddy? [Can anybody help with this identification? Ed.] From the Editor. We thank Jackie Williams for these lively reminiscences and look forward to more of the same.

## **Memories continued;**

We knew that the late Bill Trimmer was a Pearl Harbor survivor, and the following note came from his daughter, Gail Trimmer Untermann, in response to our query about the Pearl Harbor troop movements: *“Uncle Spike and Aunt Margaret lived on Blakey Road with my cousins Pam and Peggy. Dad was a Pearl Harbor survivor and was on the USS Pennsylvania at the time. He was below deck at the onset of the attack and then ran topside to see what was going on. He was on a catwalk and looked to his left to see a Japanese plane heading toward him. He hit the deck as the pilot starting shooting. He was hit in his back by the shrapnel flying right above his head. He still had the scars when he died in 2010 at age 91.”*

## **New acquisitions**

Once again, over the last few months we have received some interesting items that help to illustrate the history of Greene. Chad Morris gave us at reduced cost a set of receipts from the C. P. Deane store in a place known for many years as Kinderhook, close to the Madison County Line. But these early receipts show that in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this place was called Lamb, after its first postmaster. We have more paper ephemera thanks to Cheryl Ragland, who purchased store receipts circa 1960 from the Dyke Store and Post Office. At the same auction she also acquired and donated the Dyke VA Post Office sign and a 2-gallon crock with connections to the B.G. Snow family. Delores Alt gave us a cane-seated office chair from the Greene Telephone Exchange in Stanardsville; and Mary Lou Frey and the Lamb brothers gave us the original lock from the Greene County Jail, with a (working) replacement key made by Dookie Dean. This lock is huge! Take a look next time you are in the museum, as well as at the piece of the original jail door that is on the window sill in the foyer. Finally, our acquisitions include two items from 360 Main Street: a circa 1960 wine bottle from Richards of Petersburg VA, and the wooden roller-skate about which there is an article elsewhere in this issue.

## **Financial donations**

We are most grateful for a number of financial donations during the past few months. Several people have contributed to our House Maintenance Fund, including Cheryl Haney Deane of Madison, Sylvia Jones of Earlysville, Anna Rhoades Little of Falls Church and Jackie Williams of Richmond. As well, the following people kindly made donations along with their membership renewal or separately. We are extremely grateful to: Nina Catalano, Stanardsville, Arden and James Coulsby, El Cajon CA, Bill Henry and Jo McKeown, Stanardsville, F. Claiborne Johnston, Richmond VA, Peggy McLean, Charlottesville, Melvin Morris, Sodus NY, Spotswood Trail Garden Club, Stanardsville and Chuck Swinney, Dyke.

## **Membership**

We have three new members since our last newsletter; we welcome Gretchen Stelling of Stanardsville and David Davis of Hagerstown MD, and most recently, Jeanne Rexroad of Stanardsville. Thank you all for joining. In addition, we are delighted that several members converted their annual memberships to the Lifetime category, and for this we thank Barbara Haney of Mechanicsville, Mieko Rucker of Ruckersville and Floyd Turner of Reading PA.



The Greene County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 185  
Stanardsville, VA 22973



## Membership Form (Rev. July 12, 2013)

Telephone: 434 985-1409 or < [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org) >

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information update, (if necessary), Name, address, Email address etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: New \_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_ Membership is on a calendar year basis starting Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> with a payment deadline of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Your current membership is valid through the date on your address label. **Please consider a donation to the House Fund.**

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_ Family \$20 \_\_\_\_ Institution \$35 \_\_\_\_

Individual lifetime membership \$300 \_\_\_\_ **House Maintenance Fund Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail to the GCHS P.O. Box 185 Stanardsville, VA 22973 with a check for the type of membership desired, made payable to the **Greene County Historical Society**. We encourage you to support the GCHS by becoming a member, and participating as you desire. Joining will ensure that you are invited to all of our events, and in addition you will receive our Newsletter, (Printed three times a year), and the GCHS Magazine, (Published as material is acquired), both publications featuring local and family histories.

As a member of the GCHS, I am interested in the following. Check all that apply:

Museum Minder\* \_\_\_\_, Genealogy \_\_\_\_, Family Cemeteries \_\_\_\_, Events \_\_\_\_, Historical Buildings and Structures \_\_\_\_, Officer or Board member \_\_\_\_, Submit Articles/photographs for the Newsletter or Magazine \_\_\_\_, Other \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Museum Minding requires a commitment of only 2½ hours a month on a Friday or Saturday, either 10-12:30 or 12:30-3:00. Training is given, schedules are flexible, you meet interesting people, and we thank you for helping us to keep the doors open!*

The Greene County Historical Society

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED