

GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY'S NEWS

It is with pleasure that we welcome over THIRTY members who have joined the Society since the issuance of our first quarterly Newsletter in January! This response is most gratifying, especially when considering that many of our new members reside in diverse parts of the United States. The many congratulatory letters and cards received were also most appreciated.

If you have friends and relatives who have not joined the Society, but who might have an interest in our work and be prospective members, we would be happy to send them complimentary copies of this Newsletter. Just forward their names and addresses to the Membership Committee, Greene County Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Stanardsville, Virginia 22973.

One of the Society's principal goals continues to be the establishment of permanent headquarters. Proper and adequate space is needed for the staff offices, for archives, and exhibition to make the total facilities of value to the public. The Board of Directors welcomes suggestions on suitable premises within the county that might serve our purposes. A special fund-raising drive towards this objective will be announced at the annual meeting in April.

The Publications Committee will issue the Greene County Magazine, Volume 1, in April to commemorate the first anniversary of the founding of the Greene County Historical Society. The annual publication will be a permanent feature in the Society's program.

Election of officers for 1979-1980 will be held at our annual meeting in April. Please plan to attend.

FOREST HILL ACADEMY

The building that once housed Forest Hill Academy is located in the Town of Stanardsville on Route 230 and is presently owned by Iner Jarrell. The unpretentious little building conceals a wealth of local history.

Francis M. McMullen, Esquire, built the Academy in 1870 and served as its first rector. It was a single-story frame structure characterized by a gable roof and blackboard interior walls. It also had a rostrum, elevated about 18 inches, that apparently held the teacher's chair.

The Academy's rector was a gentleman of prominence in the community. He was not only an educator, but also a Judge in the local courts. It is noteworthy that Judge McMullen built Forest Hill Academy in the same year in which public education was established in Virginia. The private Academy was not conveyed to the Greene County School Board until 1876.

One of Judge McMullen's students was Sallie A. Shearman, 1844-1926, of Quinque. Senator John S. Chapman wrote in Miss Shearman's obituary: "The subject of this sketch was educated under the tutelage of the late Judge F. M. McMullen and his wife, Mrs. Jennie McMullen, who conducted a boarding school in Stanardsville. Often she would speak of the strict enforcement of the rules of this school."

Forest Hill Academy at Stanardsville has been pictured in Public Education in Virginia and in V.E.A. Journals.

(References: Public Education in Virginia Journal, Vol. 5, No. 4, 1970; Deed records, Greene County Court; Obituary of Miss Sallie A. Shearman, 1926.)

Doris Comer