

Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Spring 2007



Nathanael Greene
Major General of the Continental Army
Born 5/27/1742--Died 6/19/1786

Late Breaking News

Preservation Piedmont, a Charlottesville based organization that focuses on preserving the history of the Virginia Piedmont Region has granted the GCHS \$800 to assist our genealogical research center. We will buy a computer for use with our genealogical database and online family and historical research. (Thank you Jackie Pamenter for completing and submitting the grant application. *W.L.S., Ed.*)

New information

Please, make a note that the telephone number at the Greene County Historical Society Museum in Stanardsville has been changed to **434 985-1409**.

Request for information --- Anyone knowing the identity of the children seen here at the Stephen's store in Quinque (Greene County) VA circa 1920's, please contact Jackie Pamerter or Bill Steo. Identified to date from left to right are 1. Boy unknown 2. Girl unknown 3. Boy unknown 4. Plum Dulaney 5. Pearl Watson Robertson (with hat) 6. Polly Watson Copsey 7. Boy unknown.



Annual Meeting Report by Jackie Pamerter

For those of you who weren't able to attend our Annual meeting on April 22nd, you missed a treat. Pat Early from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation gave a wonderful program, full of interest. It was very nice to see three of the poster competition winners and their extended families, plus Teresa Beam, the teacher of the Nathanael Greene 4th graders. All of the 94 posters entered were on display – some will now be displayed by local businesses, and once school is out, we will also be able to display them in the Library. During the business meeting, Joann Powell and Cindy Clatterbuck were re-elected as Vice President and Secretary respectively; Eugene Powell, Julie Dickey and Gerri Gilbert were elected to the Board of Directors.

- #1 – Justin Uglow, Nathanael Greene 4th grade
- #2 – Brett McDaniel, Ruckersville 5th grade
- #3 – Adam Denton, Ruckersville 5th grade
- Hon. Mention #1 – Jordan Sheehan, Nathanael Greene 4th grade
- Hon. Mention #2 – Ashley Clements, Ruckersville 5th grade.

Final update on: "Ode to a good man"

By Henry R. Shelton

In an earlier article in the Greene County Historical Society Newsletter, (later published in the Greene County Record) I appealed for contributions to purchase and install an appropriate marker for the graves of Luther Hill and his wife Lonie.

Thanks to the contributors listed below, the granite headstone was purchased from and installed by Heritage Memorials Inc. Floyd Snow worked out the details with Heritage. Bobby Rhodes and I witnessed the installation on March 6, 2007--after the Heritage heavy truck became mired in the mud on the trail leading to the cemetery. This prompted an unloading of the stone on a smaller truck and bringing in the cement for the foundation by wheel barrow.

Luther's grave is in the Mount Coran Church (B) Cemetery, (Tax Map 20-A-3 Greene County, VA, Cemeteries & Graveyards-Volume III), located near the junction of Middle River Road (Rte.638) and Teel Mountain Road (Rte. 667). From this intersection a short trail (approximately 100 yards long) heading in the direction of the Blue Ridge Mountains, leads to the cemetery. This trail is closed with a rope and "flagging". I would advise using a four wheel drive in wet conditions on this trail but is an easy walk from the road.

This cemetery is grown over with "trash" trees, underbrush, and much poison ivy. I plan to use the small amount of money contributed beyond the cost of the memorial stone to clean up the excess vegetation over growing the cemetery. I have already started to cut some of the trees. Ethyle Guisepe is providing some labor for cleanup but roundup spray for poison ivy is needed.

[See figures 1 and 2 on page 4. (ed. W.L.S.)]

CONTRIBUTORS:

Tom Dean, Charlie Deane, C. W. Deane, Tommy Durrer, Carol Shelton Edwards, Judy Estes, Daniel Haney, James Haney, Agnes Shelton House, Bobby Rhodes, Rodrick Rhodes, Kenneth Shifflet, Peggy Shifflet, Dr. Ken Shelton, Henry Shelton, Bill & Sharon Steo, Stanardsville Vol. Fire Dept.

Contact Henry R. Shelton through JPamenter@GreeneHistory.org



Figure 1



Figure 2

Quotes to ponder

“I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am”.

Francis Bacon

“In youth the days are short and the years are long. In old age the years are short and the day is long”.

Pope Paul VI

“Old age is like everything else, to make a success of it, you’ve got to start young”.

Theodore Roosevelt

“I don’t feel old. I don’t feel anything until noon. That’s when it’s time for my nap”.

Bob Hope

New Members:

Anna Lee Dean – Stafford, VA

Jimmy & Gayle Henshaw – Ruckersville

Ann McDaniel – Stanardsville

Maude A. Pluta – Stanardsville

Paula Robertson - Ruckersville

Nancy L. Smith – San Antonio, TX

Charlene Swartley – Stanardsville

James B. Watson – Ruckersville

In Memory of Donations:

Rose Ann Brill – Waynesville, MO - In Memory of her husband James Brill

Monetary Donations:

Charles Beazley – Denton, TX

Antonina Catalano – Stanardsville

Richard Crocker – Stanardsville

Misty Eppard – Stanardsville

Elwood Gentry – Richmond VA

Sue McKinley – Tulsa, OK

George & Susan Overstreet – Stanardsville

Family History in Greene by Agnes Durrer Kirstein, April 2, 2007

The following is“a copy of a poem that was written about my mother and father when they were married in 1903. The poem was written by Limping Jim Harlow. (I do not know the name of his parents). When my mother passed in 1954, a friend sent the original copy to my father in a sympathy card. It must have been printed in the local paper.

My mother’s parents were: Henry Scott Deane & Harriet Ann Elizabeth Alice Archer.
My father’s parents were: John Christopher Durrer & Sarah Frances Rucker.
My parents were John Sinclair & Mary Elizabeth Durrer”.

“On Monday, while the Christmas tide
Swept goodwill over Greene,
John Durrer kissed his youthful bride—
The pretty Mary Deane.
While J.J. White, with all his might,
Flashed happiness between.

Miss Mary was a noted belle,
Her many lovers knew;
But Johnny in her graces fell,
And broke the bow in two.
John views his prize with goo-goo eyes,
Lit up with hazel blue.

She is a child of Harriet Ann
And lamented Scott,
Was teaching school in Rockingham,
On Blue Ridge mountain top.
Let all this go to cook and sew
And hear the cradle rock.

Johnny wore a coal black suit,
While Mary donned a grey;
She had o’er stepped her sister Lute,
And skipped by Hattie May.
Now little Zell and Miss Estell
Will throw their toys away.

There was a merry, bustling throng
To see the knot well tied,
Jim Piper, over six feet long
And almost three feet wide.
While Hubert B. and Walter V.
Both looked at them and cried.

These pretty damsels led the way
To break the ice and snow;
The first to land was Hattie May,
And next Minnie Harlow;
With Edna Via, whom all admire,
On arm of her big beau.

The school will now be taught by Lute
On mountain’s western slope,
Who may decide to follow suit,
A term applied to court
If Hubert B., like Johnny D.
Get right end of rope.

For Durrer had a three-years’ pull,
Thought his chance was slender
Till Mary said her heart was full,
And she would now surrender.
Let go the rope and up the slope
They glided in December.

John had feathered well his nest,
Cannot call him sappy;
His home filled with all the best –
A king might call him papa.
And now they stand on charned land
Young and strong and happy.”

Greene's finest

The following is the transcription of a newspaper clipping, date unknown, about William Marshall Sims. There is no date on the front or back of the newspaper article, and the name of the newspaper is unknown. Some of the title is missing, but most remains: "Posthumous (illegible) for Marshall (illegible)". The clipping belongs to Nancy Sims LaPrade Smith of San Antonio Texas, who has been trying to find out more about her uncle, William Marshall Sims. Mr. Sims, who died on October 17, 1918, is one of three Greene County servicemen named on the Greene County World War 1 War Memorial.

William Marshall Sims was born on February 17th, 1894, the first son of William Bernard Sims and Bessie Strother Sims. The family lived in Greene from the early 1890s until about 1919 when they moved to Culpeper. Edgar Walker Sims, Marshall's brother, also served but Nancy believes he did not leave the [United] States. Nancy's mother, Eppa Strother Sims LaPrade was the sister of Marshall and Edgar.

Jackie Pamenter

Posthumous (Honor) For Marshall (Sims)

Mr. Gilbert Mundy, who returned from the front in France about one month ago, says that comrades of Marshall Sims told him that Marshall received before he died the distinguished service cross which is the highest honor which can be conferred for bravery, he was also promoted to lieutenant after performing this duty which was so dangerous and sent him to death. The day he received his wounds the commanding officer called for two volunteers to perform a very perilous duty that would expose them entirely to the shell fire and gas which was raging on the grim battle field of death and destruction. Marshall and one of his comrades stepped forward and offered their services. It was so dangerous that it is said their comrades never expected to see them again, but Marshall went through it and only suffered a slight wound and was slightly gassed. He was sent to the hospital, contracted pneumonia and died.

Having been associated with Marshall Sims for a year in business, I know something of his courageous character. He was thoroughly honest, straight-forward and always willing and ready to take the toughest end of the job for his share. He was a true friend and loved his family and relations. When it was necessary he would scrap. I know he made a good soldier and went over the top in France with the same determination to win, as he did in performing his duties when here.

It is consoling to all who knew him, to know that he crowned himself with glory in those dark days and stood the acid test when the souls of men were being tried.

Gilbert Mundy was one of the lucky boys from Barboursville, who saw service in France. He fought in Picardy, and three drives and the Argonne and was never wounded. Marshall, "Jake" and Preston Bradley also were with the 80th and in the thickest of the fight. Marshall Bradley was wounded in the shoulder. Among others returning are Charlie Taylor, Tom Douglass and Willie Webb; all these boys saw service, but were among the lucky ones.

M. H. Williams, Barboursville

Annual GCHS Dinner by Jackie Pamerter, photos by Bill Steo

The Society's Annual dinner was held on March 25th at the historic Rosebrook Inn. After a delicious meal, host Mike Skeens gave us the history of the property, and led a tour. It had been built and opened as the Church of the Brethren Industrial School in 1923, and was subsequently purchased by the Federal government to house families relocated from what was to become the Shenandoah National Park. Mike and his wife Cory, bought the property in the 1980s; having creatively renovated and refurbished several buildings they opened the Rosebrook Inn in 2000. Go to www.rosebrookinn.com for more information about this historic Inn.



Artifact Donations

From Audrey Powell Morris - the following items:

- “Reflections of a Country Church” by: Audrey Powell Morris.
- Post Card of 29 Truck Stop, undated.

From Cynthia R. Clatterbuck – the following items:

- Family Bibles of Claude Swanson Deane and Bertha Lee Keysear Deane and Photo of Claude, Bertha and Mildred Deane taken cir. 1920. Dudley A. Deane’s Funeral and In Memoriam Card. Talbert Deane’s Funeral Card. Generous collection of old family photos as well.
- Family Bible of Albert Franklin Wilhelm and Mary Lucy Keysear Deane and Photo of both taken cir. 1923. A generous collection of old family photos as well.
- Needle work done by Bertha Keysear Deane.
- Bible of Bessie Keysear Wood, given to her by her mother Carrie Lee Watson Keysear. A generous collection of old family photos as well. Bessie Keysear Wood’s wedding dress and watch, Walton Davis Wood’s work pouch “American Telephone Company” Red Cross first Aid book, hat and other papers. Barbara Wood Miller’s baby dress, bonnet and numerous papers.
- Watson family photo collection.
- Keysear family photo collection including Paul Keysear, sisters Mildred, Mary, Bessie and Bertha. Carrie Lee Watson Keysear and William Russell Keysear “Will.”
- Carrie Lee Watson Keysear’s sweater, two everyday dresses, hair comb, eye glasses and under garments. Numerous family photos and the papers on her beloved dog Rusty.

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Please note: The original pages 5 and 11 have been omitted from this copy of the Spring 2007 Greene County Historical Society Newsletter. Page 5 was a list of the items that the Society has for sale. Please click on the Sales link to view this list, and to make purchases. Page 11 was a copy of the Society’s Membership Form. Please click on the Membership link to access and download this form. We welcome new members!