

# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



## Spring-Summer 2009



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

### **Contact information;**

#### **Museum hours;**

Friday --- 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Saturday --- 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Hours are also by appointment or happenstance.

**GCHS U.S. Mail address;** P.O. Box 185 Stanardsville, VA 22973

**Museum Tel. #** 434 985-1409

**GCHS Internet Web Site;** <[www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org)>

**Museum location;** 38 Court St. (next to the Court House), Stanardsville, VA 22973

### **GCHS Request**

The GCHS is looking for a copy of the book titled Where Time Stood Still by Watkins Leigh Ribble. We would like to have a copy of this book permanently housed at the Museum for reference use. The GCHS is willing to have the book photographed and returned to the owner if a copy can not be donated or purchased by the Society. Please, contact Jackie Pamenter or Bill Steo at <[www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org)> or call and leave a message at 434 985-1409.

## *President's Message*

Greetings to all. We have had a busy few months, starting with a wonderful dinner, once again at the Rosebrook Inn, and attended by almost 50 people. We sold several copies of Don Covey's illustrated *Brief History of Greene County* (a bargain at \$15.00), and we made almost \$70 by raffling a beautiful photographic essay on Greene County by local photographer Elaine Barnett. Our thanks go to Elaine (see [elainebarnett.imagekind.com](http://elainebarnett.imagekind.com) for more of her books). Judy Estes was the lucky winner.

A month later we had equally good attendance at our highly successful annual meeting. Julie Dickey and Joann Powell had got together a group of the people who were in and around the Court House to talk about the fearsome experience of the gas explosion nearly 30 years ago, on October 24<sup>th</sup> 1979. Speaker after speaker told of the day's events from their perspective. It was a most exciting meeting, and we hope to be able to publish an illustrated booklet, thanks to the transcription services of Court Reporter Debbie Lawrence of Lane's Court Reporters & Videotape Service, and videography by Misty Kolb. Delightful refreshments were provided by Julie, Joann, Sharon Steo, Audrey Morris, Patti Baugher and Brooke Dudding – many thanks ladies, for helping to make this such an enjoyable occasion.

Volume 20 of our magazine came off the presses just before the meeting, and we were able to hand deliver copies to many members. It is a thick issue, which many of you will be receiving with this newsletter, and makes fascinating reading. Member Sharon Steo has been (and still is) hard at work transcribing many volumes of the County's Voter Registration Records, and part of that work makes up our magazine. Thank you Sharon, for doing a huge amount of work, and for allowing us to publish it.

In between the dinner and the meeting, we were also open for the house tour of Madison and Greene organized by the Dolley Madison Garden Club of Orange County. Our thanks go to Betty Jo Bowman and Judy Estes for beautiful flower arrangements for the Museum and Courthouse respectively. Among our visitors was a lady who told me she had heard the Courthouse explosion from her home in Somerset VA, while she was hanging out her washing on the fateful morning almost 30 years ago.

Mrs. Ann Early Shelton of Charlottesville, VA and Richard N. Early of Stanardsville, VA have donated a shadowbox containing memorabilia from the lives of Anna Lohr Early and R. Nimrod Early, (See page 10).

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a piece about the interns who are working with us this summer. I am looking forward to having a catalog that not only describes *everything* in our collections, but also has a picture attached. Jennifer Wiley and Jennifer Hugman have only been at work for a few days, but have already made progress. There will be more to tell in our next newsletter.

Finally – I hope very much that one of our Museum-minding volunteers, Ron Mosher, is going to get our website – [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org) – back on track this summer. Watch for news.

*Best wishes, Jackie Pamentor*

**100 Years Ago**  
**1909**



1909 Ford Model T "Tin Lizzy"

**In the United States:**

- \*\*Federal spending: \$0.69 billion \*\* US Unemployment: 5.1%
- \*\*Cost of a first-class US stamp: \$0.02 \*\*Average Weekly Wage \$12.98 per week for 59 hrs.
- \*\*Life expectancy was under age 50. \*\*The first credit union in the U.S. was established.
- \*\*The Model "T" Ford ("Tin Lizzy") was starting to roll off the assembly lines
- \*\*NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded.
- \*\*259 miners died in a fire at the St. Paul Mine in Cherry, Illinois.
- \*\*The first event was held at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- \*\*People could buy homes from the Sears Catalog of Modern Homes.
- \*\*Benny Goodman, Burl Ives, Katherine Hepburn, Douglas Fairbanks, Barry Goldwater, Gene Krupa, Simone Weil, Carmen Miranda, Queen Juliana (Netherlands) and Al Capp were born.

**Around the world:**

- Construction on the Titanic was begun.
- German researcher Paul Ehrlich found a cure for syphilis.
- Shackleton's expedition tries to reach the magnetic South Pole.
- The Roman Catholic Church named Joan of Arc a saint.
- Construction was begun on the modern city of Tel Aviv, Israel.
- In the Ottoman Empire thousands of Armenian Christians were slaughtered.

SOURCES: [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com) & [www.Suite101.com](http://www.Suite101.com)

## *Cataloging the Museum Artifacts*

As of May 26, 2009 two graduate interns have been hired by the GCHS Board of Directors through the University of Virginia's Institute for Public History (IPH) for the express purpose of identifying, photographing, describing and cataloging all of the artifacts in our possession. Phyllis Leffler, Director of the IPH, worked with the Board to secure the two interns to complete this task during this summer. And, we are delighted to be able to say that the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), has given us a grant of \$2,000 to help the Society pay for the work. We owe a debt of gratitude to Phyllis for finding us two interns with highly relevant experience, and, as important, lots of enthusiasm, and we are most grateful to VFH for making this work possible.

The interns selected are Jennifer Wiley and Jennifer Hugman, two newly minted graduates of UVa.



Pictured left to right are; Director of IPH at UVa, Phyllis Leffler  
GCHS President Jackie Pamenter  
graduate intern Jennifer Wiley and graduate intern Jennifer Hugman.

## *Dr. E. D. Davis - A Little Oral History From Dookie Dean*

Dookie Dean came into the Museum one day not so long ago, and was talking to Don Pamenter about Dr. E. D. Davis. Dr. Davis practiced as a physician in Greene County from 1889 to 1934.



Dookie's father and Dr. Davis jointly owned the first automobile in Stanardsville, some time in the early 1900s. Dr. Davis never learned to drive very well; he preferred to get around on his horse (we have his medical saddlebag, with his initials stamped on it, on display). He was a good doctor. He would walk down the street, and people would greet him and say they didn't feel well. He'd reach into his pocket and bring out some pills. He'd say "You just take these for a few days, and you'll feel all right." I'm sure many of them did.

Dr. Davis's office was on Main Street, opposite the Gilbert House. As you might suppose from this photo of Dr. Davis in his office, it was somewhat crowded. Dookie says that when you went to the doctor's office, you had to pay attention to where you walked, because there

were so many things on the floor.

Dr. Davis was very good about payment; if you didn't have the money, you didn't have to pay him right away – unlike Dr. Early, up in Wolftown, who always insisted that you pay something, although not necessarily money. It might be you could pay in meat, or fruit, or eggs – but some payment was required.

Thank you Dookie, for this memory – keep them coming please!!

## **Artifact & Book Donations**

- \*Misty Eppard Kolb, Stanardsville: Tape of “Memories of Main Street, Stanardsville, April 2008”
  - \*The late Lillian Brill (Roger and Pete's mother) Stanardsville: Newspaper clippings obituaries, weddings, etc from the 1940 to early 1950's
  - \*Kathy Hensley Caswell, Jacksonville, AR: “The Children of the Shenandoah, Hensley Descendants Volumes 1&2” by: Kathy Hensley Caswell
  - \*Eugene D. Powell, Quinque: Powell Family Reunion Photo 1948
  - \*Cynthia Clatterbuck, Brightwood, VA: Brown tea pot belonging to Mary Frances May Watson, 1800s, Early 20th century postcards. “Domestic Life In Virginia In the Seventeenth Century” and “ Orange County Marriages 1747-1850”, “34th Virginia Infantry,” by Johnny L. Scott. “Patriots of the Upcountry, Orange County, Virginia in the Revolution” by William H.B. Thomas. “Madison County, Virginia - A Revised History” by Margaret G. Davis. Charlottesville City Directory 1956
  - \*Richard Shotwell, Ruckersville:  
Notebook inscribed “John G. Herndon’s Guardianship 1858” with records of payments concerning his wards, Eliza Mildred Herndon, George Thornton Herndon, and Nathaniel Greene Herndon, of Greene County. Early photograph of Ruckersville, winter scene taken on what is now Rte 33 close to the junction of the new access road to Lowes (the original of the photograph reproduced on page 102 of Don Covey’s “Brief History of Greene County”).
  - \*Jackie Pamerter, Stanardsville: Small envelope, pre-printed with three Cents postage, handwritten on top left “Stanardsville Nov. 30th 1860”
  - \*Dookie Dean, Stanardsville: Eleven 19th century marbles, four factory made, seven handmade
  - \*Geneva Shifflett, Stanardsville: Photograph of the William Monroe High School building that was in use between 1925 and 1962
  - \*Ethyle Giuseppe, Stanardsville: Copy of an 1860s list of donors for repairs to the South River Church, with amounts owed and collected.
  - \*Jean Blakey, Stanardsville:  
Collection of accounting documents belonging to Joseph Ham, who was a tailor in Stanardsville in the mid-19th Century, (see separate news item in this issue), Album of photographs of the October 24th 1979 Courthouse fire.
  - \*Dorothy R. Bundy, Springfield, VA: Several Brill family photographs, and a copy of a W.H. Brill & Sons advertisement from the Greene County Record of December 23, 1915, two textbooks used in Stanardsville schools by Anna Bell Brill and Fanny Margaret Brill; inscribed with the dates 1898 and 1900.
- Mrs. Ann Early Shelton, Charlottesville, VA and Richard N. Early, Stanardsville:  
Shadowbox with Anna Lohr Early and R. Nimrod Early memorabilia.

### **New Members**

Margaret M. Curran – Stanardsville, VA  
Jerry & Lori Gore – Stanardsville, VA  
Mrs. Jamie P. Austin – Staatsburg, NY  
Jennifer & Madelyn White – Barboursville, VA  
Karen Morris Baugher – Ruckersville, VA  
Martha Dabney Leclere – Stanardsville, VA  
Jacqueline D. Gray – Court House, VA  
James H. Baber – Charlottesville, VA

### **Life Time Members**

Zirkle & Jean D. Blakey – Stanardsville, VA

### **Monetary Donations**

Swanee S. Bullard – Stanardsville, VA	Robert Parrott – Waynesboro, VA
D. Wayne & Doris Sullivan – Charlottesville, VA	Glenn Shelton Key – Chicago, IL
Violet H. Watson – Quinque, VA	Annette Harlow – Laurel, MD
Cheryl H. Deane – Madison, VA	Melvin C. Morris – Sodus, NY
Ed & Sharon Lumadue – Stanardsville, VA	Patricia J. Hurst – Rapidan, VA
Bobby & Gathelene Rhodes – Stanardsville, VA	Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. – Benedict, MD
Woodie Brown Parrott – Stanardsville, VA	Joann Powell – Stanardsville, VA
F. Claiborne Johnston, Jr. – Richmond, VA	
Zirkle & Jean D. Blakey – Stanardsville, VA	
Bill Henry & Jo McKeown – Stanardsville, VA	
Fletcher & Virginia Fitzhugh – Stanardsville, VA	
Edmund J. & Deanne V. Zyromski – Barboursville, VA	

### **Donation In Memory of Tommy Ryland Durrer**

Alan & Joyce Breeden – Columbus, NC

### **Donation In Memory of Donald Thurnau**

Joanne Burkholder – Greene County Farm Bureau, Inc. – Ruckersville, VA

## **Membership Information**

A housekeeping point – we will try to indicate your membership status (paid-up or lapsed) on mailing labels in the future. If it says ‘lapsed,’ it’s time to pay! Our membership year is January to December, but I know it is sometimes hard to remember whether one has paid subscriptions or not. The cost of the new magazine as well as postage makes it important for us to only mail to people who want to be members and are paid up. I apologize for being a cracked record on this point (doesn’t that date me! ‘What’s a cracked record?’ says the current generation). We are working to get it right.

## **Events**

### **4th of July Parade**

Stanardsville's annual Independence Day Parade and Celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th, with a parade down Main Street followed by a patriotic-themed program on the Court House Square, with a reading of the Declaration of Independence and musical performances, and entertainment by the Hi Horse Cloggers. As usual, the Greene County Historical Society will be awarding prizes for the most creative parade participants. Food, including pork BBQ offered by Habitat for Humanity at the Methodist Church, ice-cream, and soft drinks will be available. Volunteers for everything from parade organizing to trash pick-up are needed. If you wish to volunteer, or register as a parade participant, please call \*STAR\*, Stanardsville Area Revitalization, at 985-6663.

### **Greene County Fair**

Make a note that this year’s Greene County Fair will be earlier than usual – it will be held the first week of August, from Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Fairgrounds. The Society will be there, and we hope to see you.



## *Joseph Ham's Financial Soft Ware – circa 1860*

On the day of the Strawberry Festival Jean Blakey brought us an amazing donation. It came from Miss Violette Moyer's Store, and besides thanking Jean, we have also to thank Richard Herring, who conducted the 1999 sale of Miss Violette's estate after her death. He brought this item to Jean for safekeeping, suggesting that it should not be auctioned. Now that we have the means to look after it, Jean has given it to us, and we are enormously grateful to both Jean and Richard.



The item in question could be described as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century's answer to Quicken, the accounting software that many of us use to keep track of our income and expenses. Its owner was Joseph H. Ham, a Stanardsville tailor, who was born about 1819 and died in 1876. Contained in a (soft) linen folder with labeled pockets are many dozens of dated and signed receipts, both itemized bills for sums that Mr. Ham paid and invoices for the amounts he received. It will be a major task to sort through this paperwork, but when that job is done it looks as if we will have an astonishingly

detailed picture of mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century life in Greene. We'll keep you posted on progress towards making pictures of the bills and receipts available to look at in the museum.

Here is one example from Mr. Ham's Quicken: a stamped receipt dated July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1867, is for payment by Mr. Ham of his account with F. M. McMullen, who kept a school in Stanardsville (a school that either was then, or later became, Forest Hill Academy, at the schoolhouse on the Pamenter property). The amount is \$103.00, and includes children's tuition (Salli, Sam, Lee and Dora) for 40 weeks, and a fuel charge of \$2.00 for each child. \$103.00 was a large sum indeed. A common way of calculating the present day value of dollar amounts says \$103.00 would be worth \$12,154.00 today! We have information about the family in our database (thank you Eugene): at the time Salli would have been about 16 years old: Sam, Lee and Dora would have been 14, 10 and 12 respectively. We know that Salli was taught Latin, French and English, the younger children 'Eng. Branches' – presumably reading and writing.

Mr. Ham's granddaughter Dora married Miss Violette's father after the death of her own mother. Miss Violette was a teacher, but when her father died she came back to help her stepmother run what became known as Miss Violette's Store. She became a beloved figure in Stanardsville during her long life, and Miss Violette's Store was a local landmark for many years, until it was torn down a few years ago. It was well known that Miss Violette never threw anything away – so it is thanks to you too, Miss Violette, that we have this wonderful gift!

## *Ann Lohr Early & R. Nimrod Early Memorabilia*

At a recent meeting of the Montpelier Chapter of the DAR in Stanardsville, Ann Early Shelton and her brother Richard Early presented Jackie Pamenter with some treasured memorabilia of their parents, R. Nimrod and Ann Lohr Early. It includes Mrs. Early's membership badges from the Colonial Dames and DAR, and Mr. Early's Army uniform patch and dog tag, as well as a Masonic ring that he wore in Europe during World War I.

The shadowbox, which was made by Mrs. Shelton's husband Henry, also includes an envelope dated August 28, 1918 addressed to Corporal Richard Nimrod Early. The envelope is his father's stationery from the Virginia Legislature, where he represented Greene County.



Pictured above are; Jackie Pamenter, Richard Early, and Ann Early Shelton