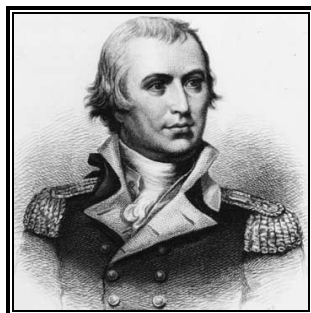


# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



May 2010

Vol. 16 Issue 2



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

## **Thanks To Outgoing Secretary Cynthia Clatterbuck**

After many years of dedication as our Secretary, Cindy Clatterbuck has decided that other endeavors must take precedence, and has tendered her resignation, which the Board accepted with regret. Cindy has been generous with time and energy, and many things that add to our success would not have been done without her. In addition to secretarial duties, she has worked hard organizing the surname, building, school, church and obituary records for use by researchers. Cindy, thank you for everything you have already contributed; we hope you will continue to work on the projects that you know need to be done.

## **Greene County Cemetery Record Book III**

Eugene Powell and Roger Powell have finished the third and final copy in the series of Cemetery Record books. The book will be available for sale this summer at \$22 per copy plus shipping. Shipping cost will be determined after printing and will depend on the weight of the book. Please, contact the GCHS if you wish to purchase a copy.

## **Membership Reminder:**

If there is a "**Membership Expired**" sticker on your Newsletter, you may rejoin to receive membership benefits by mailing your check for; \$15 individual, \$20 family, to GCHS PO Box 185 Stanardsville, VA 22973. Please, include an email address if you have one. Membership forms may be printed from the GCHS website as needed at <[www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org)>.

## President's message

Greetings to all. We have, as usual, been busy. Professor Katy Powell's March talk about families displaced from their homes when the Shenandoah National Park was formed was a great success; over 100 people attended, a capacity crowd. That same weekend we held our annual spring dinner, which was enjoyed by all. We continued to commemorate the Park's founding at our Annual Meeting a month later, and by all accounts that was also a fascinating program, ably run by Vice President Joann Powell. I say 'by all accounts' as I was not here to attend it, having been stranded in the UK along with many thousands of others by the ash cloud emanating from Eyjafjallajökull, the erupting Icelandic volcano (which, by the way, is pronounced EY-ya-fyat-lah-YOH-kuht, if you wondered).

Did you ever wonder how the jail looked early in its history? Thanks to Eugene Powell and Bill Jones, we now know more than we did. In March, while searching through early documents in the County Clerk's office, the words '*repairs to the Jail*' caught Eugene's eye. In 1874, the Board of Supervisors was considering how to make the Jail more secure. Museum minder Bill Jones took on the sometimes difficult job of transcribing two sets of Board of Supervisors' minutes. A meeting was called on February 16<sup>th</sup> "*for the purpose of considering the order of the County Court inspecting the repairs to the Jail.*" The Board decided to build a 'Cage,' or cell, as follows: "*to be constructed of Iron Bars to be 2½ inches wide and ½ inch thick strongly riveted together. Said Cage to be 7½ feet long, 6½ feet high 4½ feet wide with bottom and as well as top and door securely hinged the hinges to be riveted on, and the door and have good lock fastening. But the said Cage completed & put up in the Jail shall not cost over \$400.00...*" The Cage came in under budget. On April 18<sup>th</sup> the Board met again, and agreed to pay J. W. McMullen and Q. R. Hume \$322.87, "*the cost of said cage*". Other renovations had been done at the same time: Joseph Smith was paid \$10 for "*repairs to jail*" and \$3.10 to "*White wash Jail,*" Jacob and Blakey \$6.23 "*for Window Glass and Putty,*" J. R. Munday \$5.00 "*for sash for Jail,*" and James B Herring \$2.20 "*for putting Glass in Jail.*"

Searching through these minutes casts a spotlight on life in the 1870s. A further interesting fact from the Board's accounts for February 16<sup>th</sup> is that J. W. McMullan was paid \$2.00 for "*transfer Ct House lot to County.*" We can wonder: 'Transfer from whom?' 'For how much?' 'What was the lot size?' More research might tell us. At the end of the April meeting, the chairman, N. B. Chapman, ordered that the Board adjourn to the first Saturday in May. More research would also tell us when the Board of Supervisors changed their meeting date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. For now, my thanks go to both Eugene and Bill for having brought this piece of our history to light.

For those of you living in or near Greene, here are two dates to remember. Stanardsville United Methodist Church will be having its annual Strawberry Festival on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and, with Joann Powell chairing the committee, we will be celebrating Independence Day on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Parade starting at 10 AM in downtown Stanardsville. There will be music, vendors and food, and we hope to see many visitors at the Museum on both occasions. Also, on July 3<sup>rd</sup> Dookie Deane will also open the Log Cabin on his property to visitors, who will be able to look at the large collection of Native American artifacts that he has collected. As always, I look forward to see many of you when you visit.

Jackie Pamenter

## Old Cemetery Found In Greene

Reported by Bill Steo

GCHS Board member Cheryl Ragland brought to the attention of the GCHS Board of Directors at one of our spring meetings the fact that there is an old "Unknown" cemetery located on her farm here in Greene County which she recently discovered. The Board members present did not know of this cemetery so it was determined that Eugene Powell, Roger and I would go there to gather more information.

We all met with Cheryl and arrived at the cemetery for an examination of the area. After spending about two hours there we discovered some head stones with hand carved inscriptions and determined that members of the Ham family are buried there.

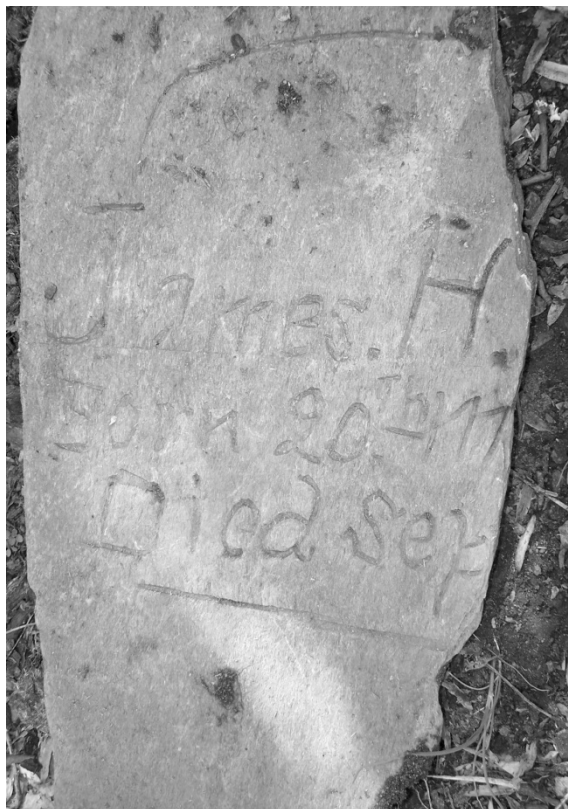
The most complete and readable stone was that of Mary Ham, (See picture below), which reads, "Mary A. Ham was born 1827 Died Oct. 1903".

A second stone discovered which in part reads, "James H..... Born 20<sup>th</sup> M ..... Died Sep....."

Mary Ham



James H.



About a week later I returned and located approximately 12-16 additional graves sites but unfortunately no additional stones with inscriptions were located. It should be noted that no stones were moved from their found locations and Cheryl has had a fence constructed around the cemetery so cattle will not trample the area. Also, I have made a hand drawn map of the possible grave sites for future reference which is filed at the GCHS Museum. If anyone has any additional information concerning the "Ham" Cemetery please, contact the GCHS.

**Annual Meeting Report**

The annual meeting was held on Sunday afternoon at the Greene County Courthouse. Joann Powell the Vice President of the GCHS conducted the meeting. The guest speakers were Shenandoah National Park Ranger Karen Beck-Herzog and Donna Bedwell who is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator of the Shenandoah National Park Association.

Ranger Karen Beck-Herzog gave a slide presentation entitled “Shenandoah Connections – Past, Present and Future” concerning the formation of the Park.

Donna Bedwell informed the group of the planned activities coming in June 2011 to commemorate the Park’s formation 75 years ago.

People are encouraged to visit the Shenandoah National Park website at < <http://www.nps.gov/shen> > as more information becomes available for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.



Pictures above are from Ranger Beck-Herzog’s presentation and depict construction activities creating the Park.

### **GCHS Secretary needed**

Board member Cheryl Ragland has temporarily taken on the task of Recording Secretary at Board meetings, for which the Board is most grateful. Other key Secretarial duties include maintenance of the membership list, recording of sales, and the Post Office and banking duties associated with both of those functions, along with attendance at Board meetings once a month. Please call Jackie Pamenter (990-1958) if you would like to be more involved with the Society and could help with these key activities.

### **Membership:**

Membership in the Society is strong and growing. We thank all of you who take the time to read our Newsletter, attend our programs, and just plain support us with encouraging letters, emails and membership dues. Below are some names of members, new and old that you may recognize.

### **New members:**

Lillian Baird, Stanardsville, VA  
Tom and Laurie Dean, Stanardsville, VA  
Shirley Flynn, Satellite Beach, FL  
Terri Gulyas, Ruckersville, VA

Buffy Horner Arlington, VA  
John Humphries, Ruckersville, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. Lino W. Puricelli, Springfield, VA  
Susan Berry Rankin, Stanardsville, VA

### **New Lifetime Members:**

The GCHS Board of Directors has voted to award Honorary Lifetime memberships to Mrs. Ethyle Giuseppe Mrs. Barbara Rhodes.

These ladies have done something remarkable for the GCHS. With the encouragement of both Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Giuseppe, the late Linwood Rhodes included the Society in his will with a very generous bequest. We thank them both and look forward to working together to further the Society's mission by serving the community. The ladies join 19 others who have shown their ongoing support by becoming Lifetime Members.

**Original Members:** Volume I of the GCHS Magazine contains a membership list – there were 125 members dedicated to preserving the history of the community. Some of those were husband and wife, giving us double support from one family. Many have unfortunately passed on, and we are diminished greatly by their passing. We are cheered on by those who are still members and we list them here with pride. Thank you.

Mabel C. Baker, Kensington, MD  
William Dichtel, Stanardsville, VA  
Julia Davis Dickey, Stanardsville, VA  
Marie C. Durrer, Ruckersville, VA  
Dr. Frank C. McMains, Baton Rouge, LA  
Ruth Moore, Stanardsville, VA  
Audrey Morris, Stanardsville, VA  
Nancy Morris, Stanardsville, VA  
Olen Morris, Stanardsville, VA  
Glennis Neuhauser, Melbourne, FL

Woodie Brown Parrott, Stanardsville, VA  
Eugene D. Powell, Quinque, VA  
Gathelene P. Rhodes, Stanardsville, VA  
Mamie G. Runkle, Stanardsville, VA  
Ann Shelton, Charlottesville, VA  
Benjamin L. Simms, III, Arlington, VA  
Louise Sullivan, Earlysville, VA  
Charles W. Swinney, Dyke, VA  
Stewart Estes Wood, Henrico, VA

**The Mountain View Tea Room:**

The photograph at the left was given to the GCHS for reproduction in the Newsletter by Greene County resident Mike Davis of “D & D Flooring”. The picture was probably taken in the mid 1930’s. Notice the car and the gas pumps in the lower left hand side of the picture.



Caption on photo states, “Mt. View Tea Room Cabins with hot and cold showers 4 Mi. East of Swift Run Gap on U. S. Rt. 33 Lydia, VA”



The Mt. View Tea Room building today.



The gas station building at the Mt. View Tea room property today.

Anyone having additional photos or information concerning the Mt. View Tea Room should please, contact the GCHS.

## Donations:

We have some wonderful donations to report, in various categories – monetary donations as well as artifacts and books. Member Nancy Sims LaPrade Smith of San Antonio TX, who died in February, most generously left \$1,000 to us in her will, as well as bible pages with genealogy information listed below. We are extremely grateful for these gifts.

New members Kurt and Edie Flaig made a generous \$80 donation in addition to their family membership, and this gift will be matched by Kurt's employer, Dominion Power.

We also received monetary donations from Fran Bernier, Nina Catalano, Cheryl Haney Dean, John Humphries, and Joann Powell. We thank them all.

Artifacts we have received this year include an envelope, postmarked Stanardsville 1859 (Eugene Powell), a corn shucker, a hand-forged fireplace tool, lap ring for a horse harness and a mechanical lawn trimmer, (Bobby Rhodes); an album of Greene County school photos (John J. Davies, III); a collection of photos of the Brill and Long families (Dorothy Bundy); a photo of the view looking East at Ruckersville (Jenelle McMullen); a collection of Confederate bank notes and reference books (Bill Steo); 71 genealogy research CDs (Norm Addington); 4 pages of 1840s family bible records from the Jennings Maupin and Sally Miller families of Greene and Albemarle (estate of Nancy Sims LaPrade Smith); a wooden wheelchair (Irene Keysear); a horse shoe hammer, hurricane lamp, home made whistle, treadle sewing machine circa 1909 and Dean family biography (Clara Dean Herring and Robert Elmer Herring); and several items from the Mount Paran United Methodist Church, which closed in 1985, including a 1926 bible, silver baptismal bowl, communion cloth and the original front door key, circa 1854 (Haywood and Zelia Lawson). Cox Family History, (John W. Cox).

We have also to thank Ann Shelton, who has promised to us her great-grandmother Susan Almond Brown's 1875 wedding dress and a portrait of Mrs. Brown.

Books we have been given include the first Foxfire Book (Gerri Gilbert) and the National Geographic photo essay 'Journey Through Hallowed Ground: The Birth of the American Ideal' (Cate Magennis Wyatt).

Finally, we are indebted to the Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Shop in Charlottesville and member Bill Henry. Bill obtained for us a lockable display cabinet that the shop no longer needed, and installed it in the new Greene County Visitor Center in Ruckersville, (next to the Blue Ridge Café on Route 29). Thank you Bill, for making this possible. This gift enables us to mount changing displays from our collections in the Visitor Center, for viewing by the community as well as visitors to the County.

This is quite a list!! We apologize if we have left anyone or any item out in error, let us know and we will print a correction next time. Meanwhile, keep those artifacts coming!

## *The Great Fires of Stanardsville in the 1930s*

Four fires swept through Stanardsville in the 1930s, causing much damage to the fabric of the town. These and other notable events were described in the book '*Stanardsville ... Then and Now*,' which was published in 1994 to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town. The book is, sadly, now out of print, but member Vic Vickery has transcribed the series of stories about these events, and we are delighted to reprint the first of them here in the Newsletter. We are grateful for permission to reprint this material to the following people and institutions: Nancy Morris, Editor; Mayor Gary Lowe, for the Town of Stanardsville; and \*STAR\*, whose predecessor organization, Stanardsville Pride With Action, was instrumental in helping to get the book published. Our thanks go to Vic, who says the text is taken verbatim from the book; the chart has been scanned and resized for better readability. Current building identifications have been added in square brackets where necessary. We'd be delighted if you would come in to the Museum to read the other accounts.

### *The First Fire – January 16, 1930*

“Fire, fire,” came the cry in the early morning of January 16, 1930. The fire was discovered by Mrs. Sam H. Moyers and Mrs. Marye McMullan who saw flames leaping from the rear of Blakey & Co. store. The Blakey & Co. (James B. Blakey and estate of Zirkle Blakey) was located at the site of the present filling station on the south side corner of Main Street and Blakey Ave [now Stanardsville Auto]. The two women raised the alarm and a bucket brigade was formed. This was the first of four major fires that would change the face of Stanardsville. This first fire of January 1930 destroyed four buildings in the center of the town.

The frame construction of Blakey & Co. store was soon engulfed in flames. The fire spread quickly to the post office on the east side of the store building. The T. Clingman Graves service station building and the Graves home, (which stood on the side of the old Eagle hotel run by Mrs. Magnolia Blakey) was the next victim of the cruel fire. The Graves building and home were located on the west side of the Blakey store (now the site of Watson & Durrer Insurance Agency) [now the Town Center building owned by Alan Pyles]. The Graves' brick home and business were quickly gutted. The fire fighters turned their attention to saving the new Eagle hotel (on the site now occupied by the NationsBank addition) [now the Bank of America building], owned by Mr. and Mrs. Len M. Marshall. Blankets were hung on the side of the building facing the fire and these were kept hosed down. The townspeople were successful in preventing the fire from spreading to the hotel and thus to the surrounding frame buildings. Within an hour the fire was under control.

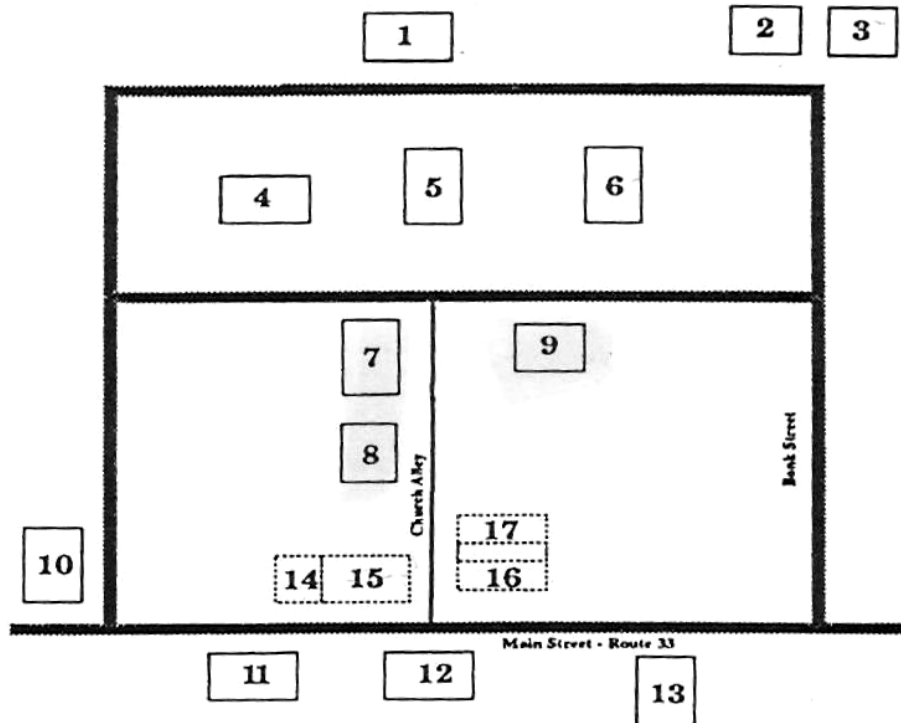
The entire contents of the post office building were destroyed, including the fixtures, mail and the uninsured personal property of Postmaster Linwood G. Mitchell. Only the items locked in the safe survived. The post office opened temporary quarters in the jury room at the courthouse. Blakey & Co. (Mr. James B. Blakey and the estate of Zirkle Blakey), lost their entire stock of goods, valued at \$17,000 and only insured for \$10,000. The account books in the store safe were unharmed. The store building belonged to Zeb P. and C. G. Miller. It was valued at \$5,000 and insured for \$3,000. The Graves building and service station was a new structure which had cost \$14,000 to build. It was insured for \$6,000. The building is referred to repeatedly in contemporary accounts as (Continued Pg. 9)



Fires continued:

“The beautiful filling station.” On the day following the fire Mr. Graves had his gas tanks replaced and by Monday the debris had been cleared, a temporary building put up and the station was back in business. Mr. & Mrs. Graves’ personal possessions that were saved were moved to the Grover C. Morris home. Telephone and electric service were disrupted by the fire but then restored the next day. The *Greene County Record*, Thursday, January 16, 1930 reported the cause of the fire was surmised to be “rats gnawing on matches on the upper floor of the store building.”

The Fire of January 16, 1930



**Legend:**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Creamery Building                 | 12. I. O. O. F. Building  |
| 2. Disciples’ Church                 | 13. Episcopal Church  |
| 3. Colored Odd Fellows Hall          | 14. Post Office on east end of Blakey store - burned  |
| 4. Greene County Jail                | 15. Blakey & Co. Store – burned. Entire building owned by Z. P. & C. G. Miller                        |
| 5. Greene County Courthouse          | 16. Old Eagle Hotel had been removed before T. C. Graves constructed his filling station & residence. |
| 6. Greene County Clerk’s Office      | 17. T. C. Graves Filling Station & Residence – burned   |
| 7. Methodist Church                  |   |
| 8. Billy Gray’s House                |   |
| 9. Former Hatchery Building          |   |
| 10. Blue Ridge [now Lafayette] Hotel |   |
| 11. Russell Powell’s House           |   |