

# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Vol. 17

Winter 2011

Issue 1



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

## **“Jail birds”**

Many thanks to Dale Lam (Right) for the fabrication, installation and donation of the new “Jail Door” at the GCHS Museum.



Also, a thank you for a job well done to David Birckhead (Left) who was hired to weld the door hinges into their position.

## **Historical Query;**

A caller to the museum recently asked about the origin of the name of “**Lydia**” a Greene County community. After asking several people in Lydia, no one knew the answer. If you have any information about Lydia, please let me know. Contact Roger Powell at 434-985-2722 or mail to P.O. Box 296, Quinque, Va. 22965. Thank you.

## **New Members Fall 2010**

Scott Lambert, Chesapeake VA Anna Rhoades Little, Falls Church VA Ken and Sandra Fizer, Dyke VA Phil Mundy, Roanoke VA Chelsi Smith, Barboursville VA Loretta Spittle, Springfield VA

## **President's message**

Greetings to all. Instead of starting this note as I usually do, by saying how busy we've been, I have two apologies to get off my chest. The first is to Ben Sims III, to whom I inadvertently gave the surname Simms; the second is to Dorothy Bundy and her husband, who are very much alive and well in northern Virginia, and were not photographed in the late 1800s, sitting in their buggy outside the Courthouse. The nineteenth century couple were in fact, Mr. and Mrs. Brill. My apologies to all.

We list in each issue items that we have been given, and we have some exciting items this time too, which you can read about on other pages. What really pleases me is that, over the course of 2010, we received items from 30 different people. Thank you to all for recognizing the importance of saving these artifacts for the future. And thank you also to people who have given us extra money with their dues, or have made it possible for us to benefit from a bequest or a matching donation from an employer. It all helps.

Some of our donors were not members at the time, and I hope we can persuade them that membership is something that will interest them. January is our membership month, and we always hope to attract more members. So we are offering new members, or renewing members who recruit a new member, a copy of Don Covey's 'Brief History of Greene County,' which we sell for \$15.00 (and Amazon sells for \$21.49). This is a good deal!

We helped to put on two great programs this fall and winter, as you may have seen on the News page of [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org). For our Archaeology Month Joint program with the Greene County Library, archivist Franklin Robinson shared his insights into the best (and worst) ways to preserve family papers. At the beginning of December, we partnered with Greene County's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee to present a program that focused on the black experience during the Civil War. Dr. Spencer Crew, Professor of History at George Mason University and past president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, talked about the Underground Railroad as it related to the War. Afterwards, members of the Stanardsville Shiloh Baptist Church gave us some Church history and then rocked the packed Courthouse with their inspiring gospel singing.

Upcoming events include our annual dinner, this year on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rosebrook Inn, starting at 4:00 pm, and our Annual Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> which will also begin at 4 pm, and will be held as usual at the Courthouse. We are very pleased that Frank S. Walker, Jr., author of 'Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia,' will be our featured speaker. His knowledge of Orange County, which of course included Greene until 1838, is second to none, and we can be sure of an informative and entertaining talk.

As always, I look forward to seeing when you visit the Museum, or hearing from you at [jpamenter@greenehistory.org](mailto:jpamenter@greenehistory.org).

Jackie Pamenter

## *Memories of Grace Episcopal Church*

By Judy Fitzhugh Estes

My mother, Jane H. Fitzhugh and Suzanne B. Haney (George's wife) prepared a meal for the Odd Fellows. This was when there was a wooden cook stove in the basement. This was a time when the basement had flooded so they had to walk on wood planks that were placed up on cinder blocks to keep their feet dry. They carried each plate up the steps to serve the men. She and Suzanne had fun.

The annual Bazaars were a festive event. I can remember when I was 8 years old. My father gave me \$10 to do my Christmas shopping at the Bazaar. I was so excited. I had already scoped it out. I had been in the Parish Hall helping my mother decorate and get ready for the Bazaar. I was waiting in line hoping and praying I would be able to get the items I wanted. There were lots of folks shopping. I was able to buy my presents. For my mother I bought a handmade green and white necklace with matching earrings. She wore them all the time. I got handkerchiefs for my brother and father.

Lucy Duff, Esther Davis, Kathleen Hoffman, Rita McDaniel, Jane Fitzhugh, Mary Thomas Haught, Margaret Trimmer, Ella Bickers, Marion Davis, Miss Mayree McMullen, Miss Ruth Morris, Charlotte Collier – these ladies worked hard all year getting ready for the fall Bazaar. Some items I remember were: Fruit, nut trees, beautiful Christmas ornaments, aprons, afghans, lots of home-made baked goods.

The ECW 50 years ago was called the Ladies Auxiliary. They met in their homes. I would go with my mother just to eat the delicious refreshments. My mother's turn was always in the summer. This was strawberry season. She made the best strawberry shortcake and coffee.

They had dances in the Parish Hall to raise money to pay for the new Hall. My uncles, Maxwell Herndon, Gaines Herndon and Marshall Watson played in the band. The stage was where the kitchen is now.

Troy Haught was the Treasurer. He was always dependable and did a good job.

T.B.P. Davis always arrived at church late.

Theo and Walt Savory were a nice couple. They lived on South River at Millside Farm. I thought it was cool that Walt never wore socks to church. He always wore loafers.

My mother was on the Altar Guild. I can remember we had been at church setting up communion and arranging the flowers and polishing the brass. My mother woke up in the middle of the night, remembering she had not set the table correctly. We both walked up to church with the flashlight and made it correct. We just lived within walking distance – at the Fitzhugh Cottage. Back then, I loved helping my mother arrange the flowers for the altar.

John Kettlewell would travel from Blue Ridge School. He would serve two roles; be in the pulpit and step down to play the organ. Great sermons!

I can remember coming out of church on Christmas Eve service, and the ground was covered with inches of snow. It snowed all night, and we woke up to a winter wonderland. This one particular night, Jean Early Parrott and Glenda Richards Trimmer stopped by to visit with us in our home. We had ham biscuits and coconut cake.

On the corner of Main Street and Celt Road was the Clothing Bureau. Miss Mayree ran this for a long time. There would be folks from Washington DC bringing really nice clothing, shoes, hats, jewelry, coats to donate. Miss Mayree would call my mother to let her know there was a nice shipment of clothing in. So on her lunch break from the ASCS office in town, she would bring her lunch, along with other women, including Cornelia Rucker (Dr. Rucker's wife), and they would try on clothing and eat their lunch, sitting on boxes in the back room, having fun socializing.

My brother Rocky, and the McDaniel boys would discuss getting together after church. My mother would tell Rocky the Mr. and Mrs. Mac already had enough mouths to feed at lunch. And Rocky would say, "One more will not matter." Rita McDaniel was definitely known for her great cooking.

When my daughter, Amy Jo Morris, and Thomas Dickie, Julie and David's son were 5 years old, they were Mary and Joseph in the Christmas pageant. They were recorded as taking the straw out of the manger (David's father, Mr. Dickie, recorded this).

This is a tale as told to me by my mother:

"Next door, at the Odd Fellows Hall, upstairs, my mother, my father, Miss Violet, C.G. Miller, Miss Mayree, T.B.P. Davis, Esther Davis, Dabney Davis, Marion Davis, George Davis, Miss Ruth Morris, Mr. Grover Morris – they would get together and play cards (and smoke cigarettes – you could cut the smoke with a knife). Someone asked Mr. Grover what he was going to give up for the Lenten season. He thought for a moment, and said (with his long drawn out southern drawl), 'Well, I guess I'll give up sleeping with Ruth.'"

These memories bring back a time when life was slower, and we took time to slow down and have fun!

### **Donations --- A heartfelt thanks go to all donors.**

Marc Thomas: 1976 Bicentennial Crazy Quilt

Robert Miller: copy of photograph of his ancestor Robert Miller in Confederate uniform

Karan Callaway: copies of photographs of the Dunkard School in Dyke

Ethyle Giuseppe: Four footed cut glass finger bowls; cut glass salt cellar; bread rising bowl and rolling pin; baseball glove and ball

Loretta Spittle: Side table; checkers table; school records for Annie Lee Call; health training textbook; grammar text book; portrait of Edwin Twyman Call

Ben Sims III: Anvil and 2 hammers used by tinsmith William Franklin Sims, 1850s-1860s

Tom Hayes: Biography of Clarence Lamb

### **Financial Donations**

Maureen Koehl of South Salem, NY; Melvin Morris of Sodus, NY; Phil and Diane Mundy of Roanoke, VA; Charles and Anna Dean of Stafford, VA; and Barbara Rhodes of Alexandria, VA; many others who have rounded up dues contributions (and given us a head start on 2011 dues). We are most grateful for this generosity.

### *The Mystery of the 1976 Bicentennial Quilt*

In October we received a most unexpected donation from Marc Thomas of Shady Side, Maryland. He brought back to Greene a quilt that had been won, probably in 1976, by his now deceased father, and Marc thought the quilt should ‘come home.’ It is a wonderful piece: known as a ‘contained crazy,’ it is a set of blocks that are each pieced in ‘crazy’ fashion. It has vibrant color – yellows, pinks, blues – mostly velvets, and it has lots of very nice embroidery – a wheat sheaf, geese, lots of flowers, and the dates 1776 – 1976 appear more than once. As you can see from this detail picture, the center block is an embroidered American Eagle with seal. The quilt poses quite a puzzle: we have no idea who made it. One block shows the outline of the County, so it is clearly a Greene County piece, but there are only two sets of initials embroidered on to the face of the quilt: AHC and EEP. Information please!!! If you know anything about the making of this quilt, we would love to hear from you: [jpamenter@greenehistory.org](mailto:jpamenter@greenehistory.org) or phone 434-985-1409.



### *A Great Donation of Furniture*

This fall we were also given two very nice side tables, one with a secret drawer, the other with a checkerboard inlaid in the top. They are the work of Charles Preston Harlow, a carpenter who lived and worked in Greene. He probably made them in the 1930s. These two pieces were given to us by his niece Loretta Spittle, who also gave us her aunt’s school reports and a family portrait, and we are most grateful.



### **Membership Note And New Member Incentive**

Now's the time to renew your membership for 2011 so please, take a moment to look at the red code on your mailing label, it tells all you need to know, see below.

**L** – You are a lifetime member, for which we thank you most sincerely, and no action is needed by you.

**11 or 12** – You are a paid up member for the coming year, or even through 2012, and you need take no action now – thank you for being prompt.

**10** – You were paid up for 2010, and it's time to renew your membership – our membership year is January 1st to December 31st.

**7, 8 or 9** – Indicates that you were not a member in good standing last year. We have sent your newsletter because of your past support, and hope you will rejoin now.

**D** – We received a donation from you this year, either money or a contribution to our artifact collections, and we thank you. Won't you consider joining?

**E** – As another organization interested in history, we exchange newsletters with you – thank you for sending yours, we enjoy receiving them.

**G** – We send you a free copy to keep you up to date with the Society. Won't you consider joining too?

Our membership dues are modest: \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family. But they help to keep this organization running, and they show that the community supports us and our work. As an incentive, we are currently offering new members, or renewing members who recruit a new member, a copy of Don Covey's 'Brief History of Greene County,' which we sell for \$15.00 (and Amazon sells for \$21.49). Just include the new member form and dues with your renewal. Our membership form is located on the page 9.

Remember, we can't do it without you.

### **GCHS Annual Dinner:**

The GCHS annual dinner will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rosebrook Inn, starting at 4:00 pm, \$27 per person. Reserve your place by sending a check to GCHS P.O. Box 185 Stanardsville, VA 22973, by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Make the check payable to GCHS. Attendance is not limited to members; we welcome newcomers with an interest in the history of Greene County.

*The Variety Show at William Monroe High School April 8 1965.*



**Caption on the original picture reads:** "The four beauties pictured here are among the contestants for the "Miss Stanardsville Fire Company Contest", part of the Variety Show at William Monroe High School April 9 and 10. From left to right are Buddy Eddins, Raymond Shifflett, Jesse Lee Jarell and Arnold Brill. Other contestants include Frank Lamb, Price Eddins, Sam Henshaw, Seldon Durrer, Bobby Rhodes, Jimmy Rhodes, Frank shifflett, Russell Shifflett, Bill Decker, Galen Morris, Gaither Samuels and Davis Haney." Photograph from the April 8, 1965 issue of the Greene County Record and reproduced courtesy of the Record. Isn't it a pity that there are no photographs of the other contestants!

*Update on Ruckersville Baptist Church and Ruckersville Community Cemetery*

As we reported in our last newsletter, Ruckersville Baptist Church and Ruckersville Community Cemetery were vandalized on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. While much work remains to be done on the church, Pastor, Kyle Clements reported at the end of December that the fellowship hall and Sunday school building were back in full use, "restored to brand new condition." The situation at the Cemetery is less positive, restoration of the gravestones that were broken is both costly and difficult. As far as the persons responsible are concerned, Sean Douglas Heiderscheidt, 18, of Barboursville, and Stephen Fox, 17, of Ruckersville were arrested in late August and have been charged with arson of an occupied church, breaking and entering of a church with the intent to commit a felony, felony vandalism of a church, and felony vandalism of a cemetery. It is understood that there will be two separate trials.

*Nominating Committee Report*

Director and Officer Positions are to be voted on at Annual Meeting: April 17th 2011. The 2011 Nominating Committee consisting of Roger E. Powell and Eugene D. Powell propose the following slate of officer and directors:

**Historian:** Joann Powell for 2<sup>nd</sup> term, to 2014.

**Vice President:** Joann Powell 2 years to 2013.

Elevate Director Cheryl Ragland to office of **Secretary**, term will expire in 2013.

**Board Members:**

Julie Dickey: elect to director, 2<sup>nd</sup> term for 3 years to 2014.

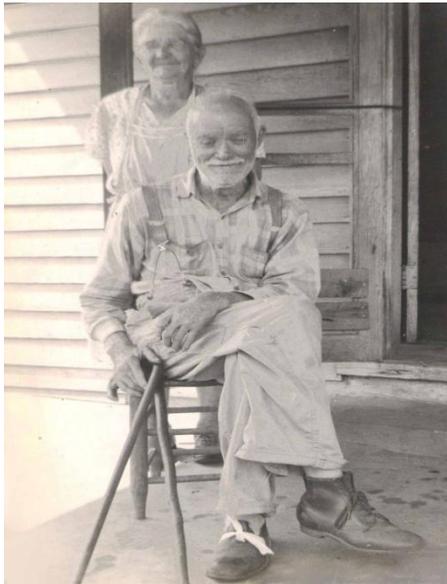
Carlyle Hystad: elect to director, 1<sup>st</sup> term for 2 years to 2013.

Bill Jones: elect to director, 1<sup>st</sup> term for 3 years to 2014.

## *The Genealogist's Tale*

If you were born in Greene County, the chances are that you have lots of relatives here. So it's not surprising that people often say, 'He's was my great-grandfather's cousin,' or, 'He is my grandmother's cousin on her father's side' – and sometimes both. Many residents are keenly aware of their family genealogy – none more so that Eugene Powell, our own resident genealogist, whose 115,000-name database is referred to by so many researchers, both here at the museum and by people from all over the country making email inquiries through our website. So it came as a surprise to Eugene's cousin, Joann Powell, at a recent Society Board meeting, when he told her he had found her (and of course himself) a new third cousin, the late Sterling Gibson. How this discovery came about makes an interesting story.

The story starts with the bottle of Crown Royal with which Eugene spiked some eggnog this Christmas. He called the donor of the whisky, Danny Haney, to thank him again for the gift, and Danny pointed out that a mutual friend, now deceased, would not have approved of such a waste of 'the good stuff.' While they talked, Danny was reminded of something he had intended to tell Eugene: while on a job in the Nortonsville area, he had come across a deserted and overgrown graveyard. The graveyard, in a remote location on a hillside, came to his attention because he noticed a small grove of boxwoods. Box was traditionally planted around cemeteries, so he walked over to take a look. Sure enough, he had time to count some 20 to 25 headstones before going back to work.



Of course, Eugene's first question was: "Well, who's buried there?" but Danny, perhaps not having the keen genealogist's eye for such things (or, more likely, needing to get back to work), had noticed only two names engraved on stones: L. A. Gibson and Molly Gibson. This was enough to send Eugene to his database, where he found entries for Lorenzo Anderson Gibson and Molly Gentry Gibson. Molly Bell Gentry Gibson was the third daughter of Buford Conrad Gentry and Josephine Cornelia Powell.

Last year, Historical Society member Marilyn Durham of Waynesboro, also a member of the Powell clan, had sent us a photograph of Lorenzo and Molly, as well as one of Josephine Cornelia, and we are delighted to share them with you. Josephine died in 1925, but not before having eight more children after Molly. Molly went three better, having 16 children, and lived to be 91 years old. Her 13<sup>th</sup> child was Sterling Gentry Gibson, born in 1918 and died in 2008. Sterling was a well known building contractor in Greene, whose only child died tragically at age 20 in an automobile accident.

Josephine was the daughter of Eugene's great-grandfather's brother. So - ahaa! - Sterling Gibson was a cousin.

Of course, there are as many questions as there are answers in this story. Such as; Why are L.A. and Molly buried there? He died in Orange County, and she in Fredericksburg. It is most unlikely that the two people buried here are not Lorenzo and Molly. Was this a family graveyard? So, of course, it would be helpful to know who else is buried in that graveyard, on a piece of private property. We have just released Volume 3, the final volume of our Cemetery Surveys, and with it have published detailed information on almost all of the county's cemeteries and family graveyards – but this discovery shows that much more family history might lie undisturbed in out of the way places.



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



**Membership Application Form** (Rev. 4/19/09)  
**Telephone: 434 985-1409 or < [www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org)>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Membership Status: \_\_\_New \_\_\_Renewal \_\_\_

**Type of yearly membership (January 1 through December 31) Payment deadline Feb 1<sup>st</sup> of each year**  
**New dues rate effective 1/1/10**

Individual \$15 \_\_\_ Family \$20 \_\_\_ Institution \$35 \_\_\_ Individual lifetime membership \$300 \_\_\_

Please, complete this form and mail to the above address, with a check for the type of membership desired, made payable to the **Greene County Historical Society**. Since you have an interest in history, we encourage you to support the Greene County Historical Society 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, and a Magazine featuring local and family histories, which is published as material is acquired.

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 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

P.O. Box 185  
Stanardsville, VA 22973



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED