

Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Vol. 18

February 2012

Issue 1



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

GCHS Members; if you have not already done so, please send your Email address to the GCHS at <infogreenehistory.org> for our record; we will not share your address with anyone.

Dues Reminder:

Please, pay your dues in a timely fashion; membership extends from Jan 1st through Dec. 31st each year. Your support is greatly needed to keep the GCHS going strong. Your dues are our main source of revenue which directly supports the Society.

Historical Query; Letter received concerning the Shifflettø General Merchandise Store.

I am looking for help in identifying the individual who owned this store and its location. This name is printed on a store token and it lists the address as Mission House, Va., I assume that it is Mission Home, but cannot find any other information on this. I have checked with Norm Addington, Bob Klein, and other older individuals living in Greene County, with no luck. Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Vicky Baugher Hensley
Elkton, VA

(If you have any information about the Shifflettø Store please contact the GCHS at info@greenehistory.org or 434 985-1409

President's Message.

Hello everyone, welcome to your newsletter, which is, as always, full of interesting material. Looking back, we had a highly successful scanning day on November 19th, when Laura Davis of the Library of Virginia and her volunteer assistant Meikiu Lo scanned over 400 separate images for the Civil War Legacy Project. The website <www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/legacy> will display these images when they have all been processed. I warn you that the site is very addictive.

We have been making great strides in collecting photographs, for our collection and for use in the Images of Greene County book that will be published in the fall or early next year. Word of mouth seems to be the best way to find images ó so please tell family and friends. We are looking for pictures of Greene County in the past. Recently scanned images include Miss Nelie Wampler at the Church of the Brethren School, Navy Seals coming in for a landing when they trained here for service in Bosnia, and the first four black school teachers to work in the County. The list goes on. Please add to it by bringing your photos for scanning. Call me at 434-990-1958 or email <info@greenehistory.org> to set up an appointment.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are every bit as interested in history as we are, as is demonstrated by both recent and future events. I was delighted to attend the Community Service Award ceremony and luncheon held by the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of DAR to honor Historical Society members Howard and Jean Hart. The Harts have recently made an extraordinary gift of their U.S. Martial Arms and artifacts collection to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. Had the Memorial not already been a superb destination, it is even more so as this gift is displayed. Please visit <www.vawarmemorial.org> for more on this.

Another well-deserved award ceremony will take place in mid-March, when Middle School teacher Stephanie Hammer will be celebrated, as State History Teacher of the Year sponsored by the Montpelier Chapter DAR at the 116th Virginia State DAR Conference in Norfolk. Stephanie has been largely responsible for the highly enthusiastic participation of Middle School students in the National History Day competition. The topic for 2012 is "*Revolution, Reaction and Reform;*" at History Night, to be held on **March 14th** at William Monroe Middle School (6:30-8:30), the students will have the opportunity to present their projects to the public and display their subject knowledge in exhibits, videos, performance pieces, websites and moreó it will be a very interesting evening. Call 434-985-5240 for more information, and plan to attend.

Two more upcoming events: our annual dinner will take place on Sunday **March 25th**, starting at 4:00 pm, at the Rosebrook Inn. The price is unchanged from last year at \$27.00 per person, and reservations can be made by mailing your check to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973. To whet your appetites for our forthcoming book, we will display some of the images we have collected. Secondly, our annual meeting will be held on Sunday **April 15th**, also starting at 4:00 pm, in the Courthouse. Harold Woodward will present his analysis of the Battle of Stanardsville. Harold packs much information into this talk in a highly compelling manner. Tying in with the Civil War theme, we will distribute our 2012 Magazine, which is devoted to three sets of letters to and from soldiers in the War ó those of Milton Runkle of Greene to his cousin Ophelia, letters to and from Leroy and Marshall Dunn of Dyke, and those of James E. Gowdy, a Union soldier from Conneautville, PA. This project, which came out of our Civil War Legacy scanning day, has provided me with hours of fascinating reading, as I know it will all of you. The magazine is yours with your paid membership for calendar year 2012.

The Cecil Memorial Church

Information gathered for this article by William L. Steo is from the Reverend Watkins Leigh Ribble's book *Where time Stood Still*.

Everyone who has traveled Route 33 since 1925 going through the Notch at Swift Run Gap has passed the little stone Mission Church on the North side of Route 33 about a third the way up the mountain.

According to the Rev. Ribble's book, the Mission Church was started at that location because even though it was only three miles from the County Seat of Stanardsville, it was the feeling of the Highlanders of Greene County that, "We don't hold with those folks down thar!" (See Chapter 10 entitled, "Bushwacked", pg. 86)

Most people called it the Stone Church but it was actually named the Cecil Memorial Church after the Rev. Dr. Willis Cleaveland's son Cecil, who died at the age of seven. Dr. Cleaveland was the minister of that church early in its beginning.



Cecil Memorial Church, Greene County, Virginia

The complete story of The Church and of the travels of Rev. Ribble can be read in his book *Where Time Stood Still*. This book is most enjoyable and if you live in, have lived or wished you lived in Greene County it will make a wonderful read for you. The Rev. Ribble's notes of his many adventures during the Great Depression helping the people of the County will begin to explain the hardships and the culture of the people here at that time. His stories are vivid and at times will have the reader right there with him on the front porch overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains talking with the folks.

Many people whose families go back generations in Greene County will no doubt recognize the names of the people Rev. Ribble visited and indeed some of our residents who are old enough will even remember him personally.

The 182 page paperback book is can be purchased at the GCHS Museum in Stanardsville, or by mail from the Historical Society for \$17.95 plus shipping. The book makes a wonderful gift as well.

1st Sgt. Horace Buckner Johnston, CSA

Submitted by Julie Dickey

Horace Buckner Johnston was my great-great grandfather. The family story as I remembered it was simply that he had been in the Civil War. Eighteen years ago my son copied Johnston's compiled military service record from the microfilm records at the Virginia Tech library. Johnston was a sergeant in Company D, "The Greene Rough and Readies", 34th Virginia Infantry. The last entry was, "paroled April 9, 1865 at Appomattox, Virginia", (the day Lee surrendered to Grant).

This fall I noticed a small gray book on the GCHS Museum's library shelf: 34th Virginia Infantry by Johnny L. Scott, published in 1999 as a volume of *The Virginia Regimental Histories* series by H. E. Howard, Inc., and donated to our society by the author. The book has a Roster of the 1,981 men who served in the 34th Virginia Infantry. Horace Buckner Johnston is listed on page 117: "Co. D; Enlisted 3/5/62 in Standardsville, age 29. present and promoted to Sgt 8/62. He was detached 3/23/63. Present 6/63 until sick 5/27/64. Present 8/64 thru final roll. Mortally wounded at Appomattox, 4/9/65. He died 4/10/65. His remains were sent by train to Richmond but were not claimed. He was buried in Hollywood Cem."

His manner of death is described on page 73 of the same book: "There [Appomattox] on the morning of April 9, Lee made his last fight. The hostilities were short-lived, as the Union cavalry soon blocked the last means of escape. For the men of the 34th Virginia the last engagement of the war took place on the Tibbs farm. In those fial moments Sergeant Horace "Buck" Johnson was struck in the forehead by a spent musket ball. The blow was enough to kill him, but the bullet did not enter his head."

The GCHS Museum library contains another book: *Southerners at Rest, Confederate Dead at Hollywood Cemetery*, by Chris L. Ferguson, published in 2008. Johnston is listed on page 146 as being buried in Soldiers Section K, Lot 34, at Hollywood Cemetery Richmond, Virginia, one of the 18,000 veterans of the Civil War interred there.

I visited that section of the cemetery with my son and grandchildren. At this time Sgt. Johnston does not have a headstone however we have submitted a request to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the standard Confederate style headstone for him. It may be in place for the 147th anniversary of his death.

Johnston had married Amanda Ann Sims, daughter of James and Jane Sims in 1857. They had two daughters, Georgie and Willie. The widowed Amanda married Isaac Burruss Davis in 1870. Georgie married George T. McTyre in 1886. [*Marriage Records, Greene County, Virginia 1838-1900* by Eugene Powell], Willie married Thomas Davis (nephew of Isaac), and she was the mother of Thomas Burruss Davis, my grandfather. Of the 1,981 entries in the Roster for the 34th Virginia Infantry described above approximately 100 contain references to Stanardsville or Greene County. The surnames include Deane (4), Haney (3), Lawson (2), Morris (8), Runkle (4), Shiflett(7) and Snow (6).

I also found my great-great grandfather in one other source in our library: The *Index to Virginia Estates 1800-1865*, compiled by Wesley E. Pippenger. This book lists the types and location of estate documents stored at the Library of Virginia. Johnston is the subject of an Administrator's Bond 1865, given by his widow; these are original folded papers at the Library of Virginia.

Finding Horace Buckner Johnston in our GCHS library has greatly benefited my family. Neither of my two brothers nor I remembered hearing anything about his history, though we had heard many family stories from our grandfather Davis. My grandchildren now have a more personal connection to an important time in our country's history.

The Clipped Obituaries Are Now Indexed.

From time to time, dedicated volunteers have clipped obituaries from the *Greene County Record*. Now, thanks to volunteer Ron Mosher, if you come looking for a specific obituary, you will no longer need to look through all **2,062** to find the one you want. Ron has created an index so that you can readily find the exact page for the obituary you want. These obituaries are mostly from 1975 to 2009. In addition to the Name, Maiden Name, Birth and Death Dates, there are notes where possible, in the index for other items listed in the obituaries, including: Military Service, Occupation, Residence at Death, Birth Place, Parents, Spouse and Church Affiliation. The index is accessible on our Museum's public computer and will enable you to find specific groups that have been listed in these obituaries. For example, it would be possible to find everyone who listed Grace Episcopal as their church affiliation in their obituary, or all the children of one couple.

2006 - 2011 Obituaries;

There is also a new second set of obituaries covering 2006-2011, from the *Daily Progress* and *Greene County Record*. These are printouts from the *Daily Progress's* web page and are in alphabetical order, so no index is needed.

Our thanks go to Ron for putting in many hours to make these resources available. Ron, it wouldn't have been done without you!

Nominations 2012

At the Society's regular Board meeting on January 3rd 2012, four potential board and officer vacancies were identified: the terms of Directors Bill Steo and Dick Early will be coming to an end, as will those of President Jackie Pamenter and Treasurer Roger Powell. All four individuals have served for many years, and while they expressed a willingness to continue to serve, their re-election requires special notice and a special vote at the Annual meeting on April 15th to make this possible. The relevant by-law is shown below:

"Section 4. A person who has been elected as president or vice president or to the board of directors for two consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and the beginning of the term for which he is nominated, provided, however, that this limitation may be waived by a two-thirds vote of those voting at a regular or special meeting of the society after prior written notice to society members of such proposed waiver."

New and Rejoining Members

Our membership is on a calendar year basis, so if you have not done so, please would you renew your membership today, if your address label indicates that your membership expired on 12/31/11 or before. Membership dues are our biggest source of income, and we rely on you to keep us going. Our thanks go to those who took note of the expiry date on the last newsletter label, and have been sending us their dues.

We've already been having a busy membership season: Sharon Arbour from Elkton MD and Gary and Patricia Myers of Stanardsville rejoined, and Sandra Jo Fizer of Dyke and Carol Merrill of Stanardsville became lifetime members. We thank all of you for your interest, as we do the following people who are new members since the fall:

Mark L. Beall of Stanardsville
Betty Sims Brown of Columbia MD
Ann Harper of Stanardsville
Agnes House of Princeton IL
Paul and Cheryl Jones of Stanardsville.

Financial Donations

Several people sent us additional gifts with membership dues or other payments, for which we are extremely grateful:

Nina Catalano of Stanardsville
Melvin Morris of Sodus NY
George Overstreet of Stanardsville
Marianne Shepard of Ruckersville
Spotswood Trail Garden Club

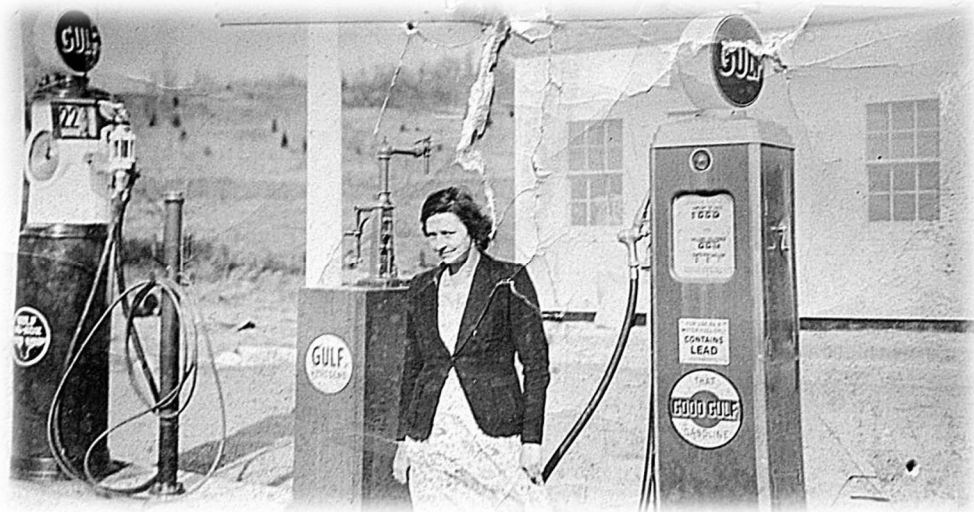
Artifact Donations

We have been delighted with the photographs that many of you are sharing with us, both so that we can produce our forthcoming *Images of Greene County* book and for the Society's archives and future use. In addition, we have received some interesting artifacts to add to our collection. These from 2011 are in addition to those listed in the last newsletter. Our next issue will list all additions since the beginning of 2012.

Material Culture from Prehistoric Virginia, by Jack Hranicky, Dookie Deane of Stanardsville
Transcript of Union Soldier James A. Gowdy's Civil War letters, Tom Dean of Stanardsville
Framed photograph of Miss Nelie Wampler at CBIS, Olen Morris of Stanardsville
Archive of Joseph Garland Knight material, including the Winter 2008 issue of the *Journal of Mormon History*; and Preston H. Leake's transcript of Civil War letters to and from Confederate soldier Leroy E. Dunn of Dyke, Eugene Powell of Quinque, VA
"Images of America: Charlottesville", Cheryl Ragland of Dyke, VA
Transcript (Sent electronically) of Civil War Letters between Milton & Ophelia Runkle, Franklin Robinson of Benedict, MD.

Vintage Greene County Photographs

Copies of the below photographs have been recently acquired by the GCHS from Mike Garth whose grandparents Thomas and Magnolia Garth started the Blue Run Grocery in 1939. Be sure to take note of the gasoline price on the pump to Mrs. Garth's right in photo #2.



Dedication

On October 15th, 2011 the descendants of Revolutionary War Captain Benjamin Head dedicated a cenotaph and a US Veteran Affairs Marker at the Westover United Methodist Church Cemetery in Ruckersville, VA.





Descendants of Captain Benjamin Head

Back row left to right --- Kathleen Mitchell Sweetapple, adjacent to her is her brother James W. Mitchell, (Arlington, VA), Front row, Woodrow and Frances Head Dowell of Charlottesville, VA, Jim Mitchell black cover, & militia uniform his wife Anne S. Mitchell (Houston, TX), holding Maximilian Sweetapple her grandson; Mark B. Arslan, (dark shirt), Cary, NC & wife Anna (with sun glasses) and daughter Alisa B. Arslan, Eugene Powell Quinke, VA, Patricia Westerfield, (holding pamphlet, husband David is missing from photo), Redlands, Calif., Doyle Richard Grant, wife Peggy, (not in view), West Monroe, Louisiana; Amy C. Parker (dark, hair holding pamphlet) and Dr. James C. Parker and wife Carol (with sunglasses).

Also, present in the right rear of the photo are Francis Lay, Culpeper Minutemen Chair of Graves and Registration, (Tricorn hat and sunglasses) and to his left Lance M. Lyngar, President of the Culpeper Minutemen, neither of whom is a Benjamin Head descendant.

Third Generation---Herring---Shifflett

A family story.
by
Gerri Gilbert

Thomas Leland Herring was born on December 24, 1864 in Greene County and died on May 14, 1943. His wife, Cornelia Patience Shifflett was born on June 6, 1869 and died on March 30, 1955.

Thomas and Cornelia had nine sons, Lee, McKinley, Robert, Claude, James, Joseph, Arthur, Henry, and Charlie. They lived close to Mission Home in the mountains. The house doesn't look like much now but once it was a thriving business. Thomas had a blacksmith shop and a store.

With nine boys Thomas felt it was important to keep them busy at all times. Usually this wasn't a problem since all the boys had specific chores and there was always something to do. On the odd slow times he put the boys to moving a rock wall about 3 feet either direction didn't matter which. Granddaddy said they moved that wall about a dozen times growing up.

Fighting must have been a favorite activity among the brothers and other boys on the mountain. Granddaddy told me that his mother always emptied pockets when she was doing laundry and every pair of brass knuckles she found was deposited in a hole in the wall. He took me to the house to show me once; he was sure the wall was full about a third the way up.



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



Membership Form (Rev. Oct. 2011)

Telephone: 434 985-1409 or < www.greenehistory.org >

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Telephone Day _____ Evening _____ Date _____

Email address _____

Contact information update, (if necessary), Name, address, Email address etc. _____

Membership Status: ___New ___ or Renewal ___ Membership is on a calendar year basis starting Jan. 1st with a payment deadline of Feb. 1st. Your current membership is valid through the date on your address label.

Individual \$15 ___ Family \$20 ___ Institution \$35 ___

Individual lifetime membership \$300 _____

Please, complete this form and mail to the GCHS P.O. Box 185 Stanardsville, VA 22973 with a check for the type of membership desired, made payable to the **Greene County Historical Society**. We encourage you to support the GCHS 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, (Printed three times a year), and the GCHS Magazine, (Published as material is acquired), both publications featuring local and family histories.

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/photographs 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



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