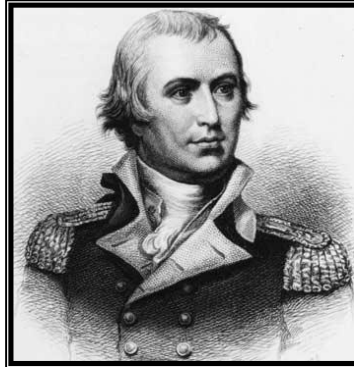


Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



May 2012

Vol. 18 Issue 2



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

Note from Clara D. Herring to the GCHS.

In our last newsletter we referred to the Episcopal Church on Route 33 going up the mountain as "Cecil Memorial Church." Clara Herring, new member from Charlottesville, wrote to say "It was never called Cecil Memorial Church. It was called Cecil Mission Church. I went there as a baby until we moved when I was 14." Thank you Clara for this information. Clara also has a photograph of herself at 9 months old, taken in front of the church when it was being built, and she was the photographer who snapped the shot of the Herring brothers in the story on page 10 in the previous newsletter.

Request:

Anyone wishing to receive the GCHS Newsletter by Email in PDF form and in color should contact the Greene County Historical Society at www.GreeneHistory.org. Receiving your Newsletter by Email will save the Society the cost of printing and postage.

Nominating Committee

The Society's Board of Directors is comprised of ten members ó four Officers and six Directors (see page 4 for a group photo). As noted in our last newsletter, there were four potential board and officer vacancies for the upcoming year: the terms of Directors Bill Steo and Dick Early would be ending, as well as those of President Jackie Pamenter and Treasurer Roger Powell. At the Annual Meeting the special vote to allow all four individuals to continue to serve was taken and passed, and all four individuals were re-elected by the membership.

President's Message.

Hello to all, we have been having a busy and productive spring. Our March dinner was a great success, with more people than ever enjoying a delightful meal at the Rosebrook Inn. As you will see later in this newsletter, at our Annual meeting Harold Woodward spoke to a crowded courthouse about the significance of the skirmish that took place here in Greene County at the end of February 1864. We are grateful to Cheryl Ragland for taking the detailed notes that are included here, which Harold has checked for accuracy. I personally learned a great deal from this talk, even though I had heard it before. Our business meeting followed, and I am honored to have been re-elected as your President for another term. Refreshments on the lawn concluded a most enjoyable afternoon.

In response to many requests for information, we are pleased to be able to tell you that a rebuilt Ruckersville Baptist Church was rededicated in March, eighteen months after it was severely damaged by fires set by two young men. You can read the complete story on the Greene County Record website at <http://www2.greene-news.com/news/2012/mar/08/sanctuary-ready-services-ar-1750244/>.

We have been amazed and elated with the number of people who have come forward with photographs for us to scan, both for our "Images of America" book on Greene County and for the Society's archives. Some have also given us photographs to keep, knowing that this way they would be safely preserved. We thank all of you. The pictures we are collecting will be archived and available at the museum in the future and many of them will make their way into the book. Even though it is time to be thinking of chapters and text, we are still collecting! Call me at 434-990-1958 or email info@greenehistory.org to set up an appointment.

Finally, I want to share with you all a challenge. I was interested to receive a note from member Heidi Ladd, attached to some photographs of buildings in Greene County that have the distinctive "False Front" architecture of a bygone age. One of these is in Stanardsville but Heidi found four more. Can you find them all? Are there more? We'd be interested to hear from you, especially if you can give us information about the history of these buildings (and, of course, if you have early photographs). The Old House website dates this style to 1860-1905. Thank you Heidi, for getting me thinking about our architectural heritage.

Jackie Pamerter

Dates to remember;

1. Strawberry Festival **June 2nd** court Square --- GCHS Museum will be open 9 AM to 3 PM.
2. **July 4th** Parade, Wed., Main Street Stanardsville 10 AM --- GCHS Museum will be open 9 AM to 1 PM.
3. Greene County Fair, Tuesday, **July 31st** through Saturday, **Aug. 4th**.
Fair Times Tues.-Fri. 5:30 PM-11:00 PM. Sat. 4:00 PM-11:00 PM.

GCHS Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was held at the Rosebrook Inn in Stanardsville, VA on March 25th and was well attended. Everyone present enjoyed great food and drink as well as conversing about our local history and genealogy.



Greene County Historical Society Board of Directors 2012



From left to right:

First row: Roger Powell, Cheryl Ragland, Joann Powell, Jackie Pamerter.

Second row: Bill Jones, Carlyle Hystad, Eugene Powell, Richard Early, Bill Steo, Julie Dickey.

***Confederate Sons of America Grave Marker Update:
Submitted by Julie Dickey***

The new marble grave marker for 1st Sergeant Horace Buckner Johnston was erected in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va. January 2012, less than two months after I applied for it. Sgt. Johnston's great-great-great grandson, Thomas Edward Dickey (middle), and his great-great-great-great grandchildren, Alder Elizabeth Dickey (left), and Jackson Reese Wakeman Dickey (right), visited the grave site on April 20, 2012, which was 147 years and 10 days after Johnston's death at Appomattox. They are Johnston's descendants by his daughter, Willie, who married Thomas Davis of Greene County, Virginia.



Membership

We've been processing lots of renewals and are glad that you keep them coming. The address label on your newsletter indicates when your membership expires or if it says "Expires 12/31/11" or earlier, you need to renew to keep current and to receive the magazine, which we have distributed to current members with this newsletter if they do not have it already. We welcome nine new members/member families and are honored that we have four new Lifetime members.

New Members

Clay & Kay Ancell, Vienna, VA
Nan & Ray Clarke, Stanardsville
Cheryl Harrison, Columbus OH
Clara Herring, Charlottesville
Paul & Cheryl Jones, Stanardsville
Kristie Kendall, Warrenton
Mike & May Saxton, Glen Gardner, NJ
John & Antoinette Tucker, Ruckersville
Harriet White, Severna Park, MD

New Lifetime Members

Deb Erickson, Stanardsville
Guy Estes, Santa Fe, NM
Marianne Shepard, Ruckersville
Buffy Horner, Arlington, VA

Financial Donations

We are most grateful for the many financial donations we've received from supporters; every one means a great deal to us.

Before listing them, one in particular must be singled out. At our Annual Meeting, on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1661, Harry Daniels presented the Society with a check for \$175.00, in memory of Andy Wilson. Harry explained that the mission of the SCV was to provide public service in memory of those who served during the Confederate War, and that Camp 1661 was closing. He and the sole other remaining member, Goo Eddins, were disbursing the organization's money, and believed it to be appropriate to donate a portion to us. We will find a way to spend this money that will help to keep Andy's memory alive, and we thank Harry and Goo for entrusting this money to us.

Other financial donations include those from:

Robert Allan, Ruckersville
Fran Bernier, Stanardsville
Richard Conley
Mrs. R N Crews, Houston TX
Cheryl Haney Deane, Madison
Tom Hayes, Stanardsville
Thomas & Dorothy Lawson, Stanardsville
Bill Henry and Jo McKeown, Stanardsville
John Peterson, Greensboro NC
Olen Morris, Stanardsville
Anne Reel, Stanardsville
Ron & Linette Sparacino, Stanardsville
Chris & Carolyn Taylor, Greenville NC
Violet Watson, Quinque

**Greene County Historical Society Collections Artifact Donations
January-May 2012**

Norm	Addington	Family genealogy: Gibson & Martin families
Shelviajean	Allen	Evergreen Church History; Miss Nelie Wampler info
Lillian	Baird	Pair of c. 1940s parasols from Miss Violette's store
Mark	Ball	3 new testaments
Elaine	Barnett	Framed print of Nathanael Greene
Norma	Collins	Tax receipts of William Clark 1855-1914 (showing I.D. Blakey as Sheriff in 1855)
John W.	Cox	Notebook and accompanying CD entitled The Cox Family of Orange & Greene Counties
Margaret Ann	Curran	Papers from Genevieve Eddins and John Morris
Ellen	Deane	Photos: Grade 7, Quilting party; Sudie Lawson Jones memoir; Jennings/Thompson genealogy, handwritten, nd
Marie	Durrer	Photos: Miss Ruth Moore
Marian	Durrer	19 th century and early 20 th century textbooks and music books; box of 19 th century photographs; 1940s? fan advertising Stanardsville Motor Company
John & Dana	Faulconer	Five DVDs of 18 th & 19 th century merchant documents from Graves Mill & Wolfstown
Gertha	Houston	Hoe head
Philip	Kleinheinz	Research Paper: Thomas Jefferson and builder William Philips in early Greene County
Betty	Kovac	Photo: James Gowdy
Jenelle	McMullan	1912 Calendar, almanac
Bob	Miller	Numerous Miller family papers & genealogy information
Audrey	Morris	Photo: Men on wagon
Olen	Morris	Early 1900s Red Cross Minutes transcript
Linwood	Rhodes	Wildlife Collection: Paintings, prints, maps, photographs, mounted trophies, ceramics, memorabilia
Mike	Saxton	2 PO Boxes from old Ruckersville Post Office
Bill	Steo	Old Keys, Civil War Chronology
Harriet	White	History of Mount Paran Church

GCHS Annual Meeting

The GCHS Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, April 15th at the Greene County Courthouse in Stanardsville, Va. and was very well attended. Election of some GCHS Directors was held and everyone present enjoyed speaker Harold Woodward's talk about Greene County during the Civil War.



Harold Woodward



Some of the attendees.



GCHS President Jackie Pamenter (left) accepts a monetary donation to the GCHS from The Sons of the Confederacy Veterans Camp 1661 represented by Goo Eddins (middle) and Harry Daniels.

Our Annual Meeting keynote speaker, Harold Woodward, is a noted local historian. What follows is a summary of his most enlightening talk, as recorded by Society Secretary Cheryl Ragland, on the Battle of Stanardsville and its significance in 1864.

More battles were fought in Virginia than in all the other states put together. The Battle of Stanardsville tends to be forgotten, due to being overshadowed by the events before and after. It was the first battle in Greene County, involved less than 2,000 men (on both sides), and lasted a few hours at most.

At the time, Greene County was unique compared to the surrounding counties: people had a different outlook, they had voted against secession, and had fought to stay out of the war. In one sense, it had become the "Mountain People" vs. the Confederacy. The County did, however, support the War. James Offield was the highest ranking officer in Greene. The County had strategic importance to the Confederacy because of Route 33 (Rockingham turnpike) role in supplying the Confederacy and the fact that Stanardsville had an established storage facility. Soldiers from the County were known as the "Greene Rough and Readies".

The Spring of 1862 saw the first significant troop movements through Greene; 7,500 to 8,000 troops camped in and around Stanardsville. Many (mostly General Ewell's men from Louisiana) came down with the fever, and were buried at Shiloh Baptist Church. Through the winter of

1863 & 1864 (after the Battle at Gettysburg), the Confederacy had been successful in every battle. During this time Stonewall Jackson died, having been wounded by his own men. The Confederates were south of the Rapidan (Orange county), and the Yankees were mostly in and around Culpeper. After Gettysburg, they didn't seem interested in fighting. After the first of the year (Feb. 6, 1864), the Yankees went on the offensive. It appears they were trying to confuse Lee and divert attention. Later in February they launched a two-prong attack on Richmond from two directions – Kilpatrick from the North and Dahlgren from the West. The hope was that one might be successful in capturing President Davis, so that he could be ransomed for peace. In response, Lee began to reinforce the Rapidan front. Custer began a campaign to further divert attention.

On Feb. 28, 1864, II Corps of Yankee troops (15,000 men) began a drive to raid Charlottesville. They took Rt. 29 from Mt. Pony to Madison until they met the "Madison Invincibles", who numbered only 400 at most. Custer took Madison. At this time the emphasis changed; parties were sent in every direction, and farms, churches, etc. (anything that would aid the war effort) were burned to the ground (including 20 churches in Madison County). In response, the local people began to take up arms. On Feb. 29, Custer left Madison with 5 Cavalry units (about 1,500 veteran troops) and proceeded to Charlottesville via Wolfstown, burning and looting the whole way. They crossed into Greene, where they met the 4th Virginia Cavalry, the only Confederate troops remaining between Custer and Charlottesville. The Yankees easily overtook them and pushed on to Earlysville. To summarize, Custer's mission was threefold: to provide a diversion for the attack on Richmond; to destroy the bridge over the Rivanna, and to take Charlottesville (an important rail town). These actions were intended to cut off the fertile Breadbasket farms of the Confederacy in the Shenandoah Valley from the Confederate Capitol in Richmond.

Meanwhile, Dahlgren and Kilpatrick reached the outer defenses of Richmond. Dahlgren was killed when they encountered the Va. Cavalry in Powhatan, and his orders to capture President Davis were found. According to Mr. Woodward, these events may have turned thoughts to the assassination of President Lincoln.

Custer proceeded as far as the Rivanna, where he encountered 200 men from the Confederate Artillery, who were from Maryland and on furlough. These troops were all that stood between Custer and Charlottesville. Although basically unarmed, they put up enough of a resistance, that Custer stopped at the Rivanna. This was the Battle of Rio Hill. Custer retreated in shame back along the same route. Burning and looting in Greene and Albemarle occurred during this retreat. At the South River, 400 Virginia Confederates, who had been scattered, were called in to put up a stand at the river. The battle lasted only a few hours, and Custer managed to get across the river. There was no record of any casualties. This was the "Battle of Stanardsville."

At this time the Confederate people were more fired up than ever, and they faced another year and three months of war. More and more men of ages 16 to 55 left the counties. In their absence, outlaws began to hang out and prey on people. Stores began to close. Churches abandoned services. The Confederate army couldn't do anything, because they were entrenched in the battle of Petersburg. In April, 1865 the war ended when Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. But it was still not safe for months, until the men returned home. Charlottesville never fell during the War. After it ended, the City surrendered, and thereby escaped the ravages of war.

Although the surrender was unconditional (no restrictions, POWs, etc.), the movement to kill Lincoln (in response to the letter found on Dahlgren's body) probably led to four long, harsh years of Reconstruction. The Union government retaliated against the South. Instead of rebuilding, the South was held back.

When Harold's presentation concluded, Jackie thanked him and presented him with a copy of the Harpers Weekly issue of March 26 1964, which includes a front page report on the Battle of Stanardsville, an Illustrated History of Greene County, and our current Magazine, containing letters written during the Civil War.

Query from Rebecca Grainger

I am writing concerning a photo that appeared January 19th, 2012 in the Green County Record newspaper. The photo was made in front of a gas station that used to be at Swift Run Gap. It shows the year of 1951 and two men: "Slim" McAlister and Doug Morris. My cousin- who lives in Ruckersville - sent me the article because I am forever researching our McAlister and Morris ancestors of Greene and Albemarle counties. Somewhere, someplace I remember seeing something about a "Slim" McAlister. But after going through research papers and old photos, I still can't find anything on him. I have a Greene County Cemetery book but nothing to be found in that either.

I am researching the surnames of: McAlister, Wilkerson (John), Shiflett (Madison), and Dunn to name just a few and would like information about them. Primarily, I would like any information about "Slim" McAlister.

Also, can anyone tell me where Swift Run Gap is located?

I enjoy reading the newsletter and look forward to getting it. Wish I lived closer so I could participate in some of the activities of the Society. I will work on getting together photographs and articles of my Greene County ancestors to submit.

Thank you,
Rebecca Grainger

Editor's note: Swift Run Gap is located on US Route 33 and runs up the mountain to its highest point, at the entrance to the Shenandoah National Park, about 7 miles West of Stanardsville.

Preserving History

Clip, Tape and Copy Workshops at the GCHS Museum.

How lucky we are to have so much written history for our small but close knit county. It's time to preserve this history, and make it more readily available to those researching our history and ancestry.

Announcing *bi-monthly* Clip & Tap parties.

Where; The Old Jail Museum **When;** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

1st Wednesday of Every Month	Noon to 3 p.m.
3rd Wednesday of Every Month	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

What time works best for you? Here is an opportunity for *everyone* to help. The 1st Wednesday for the lunch crowd, and the 3rd Wednesday for our Night Owls.

Ron Mosher will host our Cut & Tape Workshops twice a month for the next 2 months. Afterwards we'll evaluate our progress and in the fall decide if we'll continue, extend or adjust this program to make it easier for more members to help with this large but fun and interesting task.

Continuing in June, the GCHS will have a program to save, preserve and make available, our written Greene County history. We have a large number of older newspapers and notebooks filled with already clipped newspaper articles. These need to be organized and copied to preserve them, and to make them easier to access and read.

Supplies and refreshments will be provided by your host.

Any questions? Contact Ron Mosher at rdmosher@comcast.net or 434-825-6268.

See you there!

Mystery Photos.

If you know who these people are related to, or anything else about them, please contact the GCHS.

Photos given to the GCHS by Marion Durrer.



Bessie Mary Dudley



Mr. Orndoff



Agnes Stephens Utz



Henry Maupin

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



Membership Form (Rev. Feb. 28, 2012)
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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED