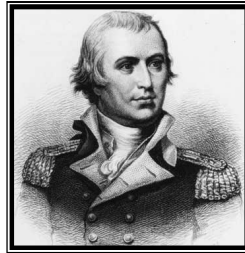


Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Year 2013, *Summer Special edition*

Vol. 19 Issue 2



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

The GCHS Annual Meeting Program was entitled:
"Women Who Helped Shape Greene County: Gone but Not Forgotten."
Read more about the meeting on page 2 and view more pictures on Pages 9 and 10. Below: Jean Blakey brought the bronzed baby shoe of Violette Moyers, whom she profiled.



Hot off the Presses: Our *Images of America: Greene County*' book is reprinting, according to the Arcadia Publishing website. They will not reprint until they sell all of their original print run, so congratulations, buyers, we bought them out.ö

Help Needed: The GCHS needs a volunteer to manage our website which can be accomplished from home using their computer and internet connection. Tasks would involve adding information to the site as it becomes available from GCHS. Please, contact us and help us grow.

President's Message:

Greetings to all members and friends. There is much to tell. First, we are delighted to have put Linwood Rhodesø bequest to work, buying 360 Main Street in which to house our collections, create a Gallery of Wildlife art, open a meeting place, and provide genealogy research facilities. See more details in an article in this newsletter.

Images of America: Greene County continues to sell ó both from the museum and at local outlets such as the Greene Pharmacy and Noonwhistle Pottery in Stanardsville, and the Ruckersville Gallery and the Greene County Visitor Center. We are delighted with the reception that the book has received, and I am personally extremely pleased with the pleasure it appears to have given both long-time residents and newcomers alike. It was a somewhat daunting project when we took it on, but well worthwhile.

Since our last newsletter, we held a very successful Annual dinner, in March at the Rosebrook Inn. Over 60 people braved a weird but beautiful snowstorm to enjoy each other's company, the delicious food prepared by Cory and Mike Skeens and Julie Dickey's preview of our Annual meeting program with her description of the life and times of her mother, Esther Davis.

The Annual meeting was held on May 19th, as usual in the Court house in Stanardsville. Over 70 people attended - almost 50 of them were current members, which gives me great pleasure, and makes me think that we should have tried harder to persuade the other 25 or so to join. The program was coordinated by Joann Powell, and during it Joann, along with Jean Blakey, Judy Estes, Gerri Gilbert, Audrey Morris and Jerri Tata gave short biographies of 11 notable Greene County women. The front of the Courthouse was filled with photographs and other memorabilia of these women for us all to enjoy, and we thank the participants for making this such a memorable program. While I know Joann would like to put together a book of biographies and photographs of a much larger number of Greene's unsung heroines, we will plan to make the eleven from this program available in an upcoming issue of our magazine. The membership re-elected Cheryl Ragland as Secretary and Eugene Powell to another term on the Board, as well as electing Joe Freni as a Board member to replace Carlyle Hystad, who stepped down. I thank Carlyle for his service and hope he will continue to help us. I thank Cheryl and Eugene for signing on once again and for all their past help, as well as thanking all Board members for their service. I welcome Joe, who will be a valuable asset.

Four years after Jennifers Wiley and Hugman took on the task of computerizing our collections database, we now have two new interns ó Helena Groves and Rachel Midura ó hard at work for the summer bringing the catalog up to date, and doing much more besides. They are writing about their experiences in a blog - <http://agreeneperspective.wordpress.com/>. At the bottom on the right is a little box that says "FOLLOW" (like Alice in Wonderland's "drink me") ó it would be encouraging for Helena and Rachel if you too would "follow" the blog. It is fun and easy.

Recently we have welcomed new museum-minders, including Phil Clark, David Roach, Sr., Kim Spitzmiller and Ellen Thurnau, and we hope to have a lot of participation from our members and the community as we work on our new home. The seventeen-year cicadas of "Brood 2" are about at their end ó what will the Society, Stanardsville and indeed the world at large be like when their offspring crawl out of the ground in 2030?

Best wishes for a happy summer,
Jackie Pamenter

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project: Honoring the People Who Made Shenandoah National Park Possible.

Submitted by Bill Henry
437 Evergreen Church Road, Stanardsville, VA

As far back as the 1880s there had been talk of developing a national park in the Southern Appalachians. The great western parks - Rocky Mountain, Yosemite and Yellowstone - were immensely popular, but they were located far from the east coast, the center of the US population. Business interests and state governments were beginning to realize the economic importance of national parks as a draw for tourism, and the growing conservation movement of the early 1900s was interested in setting aside places to save the east's rapidly disappearing forests and wildlife. Ultimately, it was decided that the Appalachian region would receive two national parks, one in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina and one in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

The National Park Service was not authorized to spend money to purchase land for a national park. When the western parks were created the federal government already owned the land, so Virginia had to procure the land for its new park, and then turn it over to the Park Service. As plans advanced for Shenandoah National Park a reality began to dawn on the park's creators - parks in the west displaced no residents; however, the area designated for Shenandoah was inhabited by at least 3,000 people!

Almost none of the owners wanted to sell their land, only a few agreed to move out voluntarily, and some said they would defend their homes with their guns. Because Virginia officials judged a national park to be in the public's interest the power of eminent domain was invoked. Those owners with clear title to their land received some compensation, but most families did not possess a title to the land on which they lived. Some were tenants or caretakers for absentee owners, a few were squatters, and others resided on land that had supported their families for generations, but, because everyone in the community knew who the land belonged to, they never felt the need to formalize their ownership. Those without deeds most often were granted no compensation.

No records identify how many residents moved out of the mountains on their own as plans for Shenandoah National Park progressed, but a special census of people still living in the new park, taken in 1934, revealed 465 families remaining that would still need to be relocated. Some of these families were eligible to obtain homesteads in one of the seven resettlement communities that were being prepared around the park: near Flint Hill and Washington in Rappahannock County, at Ida Valley in Page County, north of Elkton in Rockingham County, near Madison and Wolftown in Madison County, and at Geer, in Greene County. Other families received relocation aid from welfare departments, and a small number of elderly residents were given the right to remain in their homes.

At the time the families were being moved out of the park The Great Depression was hitting the nation with full force, and many people needed a place to live. As soon as a family moved out of their house it was appropriated by a homeless family or by a nearby family who

saw the now vacant house as better than their current home. Park rangers were constantly evicting people who had moved into a recently emptied house, and this gave rise to the practice of dismantling or burning a home once the occupants moved out, often while the family looked on. In a small number of well-publicized cases people refusing to leave their homes were removed bodily, their belongings carried out, and their houses burned.

Today Shenandoah National Park provides a place for recreation and enjoyment. The forest and the wildlife have returned, and it is easy for visitors to overlook the foundations and chimneys of old home sites, the former roads, the cemeteries, and other reminders of the people who lived on the land before the park. Many descendants of the people displaced by the park have an understandable resentment toward the park that now preserves their families' lands, but there has been no public acknowledgement of what was given up by those people who truly made the park possible. Our society creates memorials to honor sacrifices made for the benefit of our country, but no memorial exists telling of the sacrifices forced on the people of the Blue Ridge so that Shenandoah National Park can be here for our benefit today.

The newly formed Blue Ridge Heritage Project seeks to recognize the displaced families by creating a memorial to tell the story of and to honor the sacrifices made by the people of the Blue Ridge. The project will accurately educate visitors about the people who lived in the mountains before the park; and, through living history presentations, exhibits of photographs, and displays and demonstrations of the tools and utensils of daily living we hope to bring to life the day to day world of those who had to give up so much to make Shenandoah National Park possible.

The Project needs people who are able to help locate, obtain, and develop an appropriate site for the memorial; people who have the skills to promote the project through traditional print and broadcast media, by developing and maintaining a website, and with the use of social media; people who are willing to work with fund raising; and people who want to be involved in the design and creation of the memorial and related displays, exhibits, and demonstrations.

To learn more about the Blue Ridge Heritage Project contact Bill Henry at 434-985-7905 or at onarock01@yahoo.com.



Some homes such as Nellie Sims' were purchased by the Federal Government and torn down during the development of the Shenandoah National Park in 1935.

Pictures of mountain residents of the 1930s may be viewed at;
<http://www.nps.gov/shen/historyculture/mtnresidents.htm>
(GCHS Editor.)

New Members

Since the first week of February, we have been delighted to welcome 25 new members to the Society ó one of these, David Roach, became a lifetime member and we thank him for his generosity. We also thank Bob Miller Sr., for taking out a lifetime membership for his son, Bob Miller, Jr., who originally joined the Society in 2007.

New members are: Mark Barnes, Potomac, MD; Travis Baugher, Ruckersville; Greg Gilbert, Charlottesville; Bob & Marge Grassi, Ruckersville; Carol & James Grzymkowski, Ruckersville; Jim and Carol Haney, Stanardsville; Alton Keel, Stanardsville; Performance Signs LLC (Katherine and Robbie Morris), Ruckersville; Sandra & Philip Morris, Stanardsville ; Paul and Marilee Newman, Stanardsville; Greg Pass, Woodbridge; Joyce Deane Pittman, Ruckersville; David S. Roach, Sr., Stanardsville; John & Kim Spitzmiller, Stanardsville; Doriene and Bob Steeves, Dyke; John Stover, Ruckersville and Ellen Thurnau, Stanardsville.

Acquisitions, February to June 2013

We have received a number of interesting items during the past several months. We are extremely grateful for all of them, but particular thanks go to George Covington of Columbus, South Carolina, who, at an auction, came across the day book of the Herndon and Wilhoit country store, and decided it should come home to Greene County. If you have any information about this store, we would very much like to hear from you.

Spotswood Trail Garden Club	Club scrapbooks 2003-2010
Gary Myers	Mid-20 th century ballot box
Barbara Ballard	1994 Greene County Centennial memorabilia - 2 jigsaws and a mug
Elaine Barnett	Greene County photographs
Barbara Bickers	Memorabilia from Lelia Bickersøtime as County Clerk, including a hooked rug, a wooden plaque and a metal seal embosser; also scans of Bickers family photographs
Evangeline Cleage	1979 paper towel roll printed with helpful hints
George Covington	1870s Herndon & Wilhoit Store day book
Ethyle Giuseppe	<i>The Farm of Linwood A. Rhodes</i> - property history by Woodie Brown Parrott, and plat; also farm implements
Clara Herring	1930/1931 account records for Ben W. Dean from the E.B. Morris Sons store in Stanardsville
Bob Miller	Photo montages from the June 2012 reunion and Miller Civil War headstone dedication, and Miller family records; Greene County map
Gary Myers	Parts of the airplane that crashed in Greene in 1955
Woodie Parrott	<i>The Land of Captain John Beadles</i> ó property history
Kim Spitzmiller	Order of American Mechanics Memorial Badge for Erastus Deane

Financial donations

We are grateful to the following individuals for donations over and above their membership dues: Marilyn Durham, Waynesboro, George & Susan Overstreet, Stanardsville, Ron Sparacino, Bill Henry and Jo McKeown, Marcy Jo Oatlands, Elizabeth Milks, Roy and Ann Dye, Sandy Fizer, Fran Bernier and almost \$50.00 in anonymous contributions to the donations jar.

A Note About Oral Histories.

Several years ago (1999-2000) a project to record oral histories of Greene County's oldest citizens began as part of the work for a Ph.D. thesis. Unfortunately, the thesis was never written, perhaps because the quality of the recordings was in the main very poor. Even though we have had the micro-cassette tapes transferred to CDs so that we could listen to the interviews on a computer and therefore be able to tweak the sound levels, they are still not very good.

We are very fortunate that member Greg Gilbert, from Charlottesville, who is a media professional with many years of experience in audio-visual production, has offered to conduct oral histories for us in the county. Joann Powell is heading up the project and will be working with Greg (once her work on the Stanardsville July 4th Parade is over). But please think about who we should be recording, as week by week many of the most senior members of the community are passing on.

Please send an email to us at info@greenehistory.org or leave a message on the museum phone (434)-985-1409, with your suggestions as to who we should record, and someone will get back to you.

New Headquarters for the Greene County Historical Society

The Greene County Historical Society is very proud to announce its recent purchase of the property at 360 Main Street in Stanardsville for use as our future headquarters and museum. Known to many as -Blanche's house, the property includes 1.16 acres and several outbuildings as well as the house, which was built circa 1908 by Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Bickers, grandparents of Blanche Whitlock's late husband Bill Whitlock. The purchase was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the late Linwood Rhodes (1929-2009) and his sister Ethyle Giuseppe. The bequest from Linwood includes the stipulation that the Society build a gallery to house his extensive collection of wildlife art and trophies, and that we include a meeting room to be open to the public. The property at 360 Main Street (on the South side at the Route 230 intersection) will enable us to do that and much more.

Over a two month period many buildings and building sites in and very close to Stanardsville were considered by a search committee comprised of Eugene Powell, Bill Steo, Gerri Gilbert, Jackie Pamerter and Cheryl Ragland ó all had positive attributes, but 360 Main Street fit our needs most completely.

The GCHS Board of Trustees formed a "Purchase Committee" composed of Jackie Pamerter, Cheryl Ragland and Bill Steo to follow through with the purchase, with the help of member Bill Martin of Nest Realty. The committee met with a great deal of encouragement as we worked, including that from Jim Quisenberry from Cavalier Home Inspection; Greene County officials Bart Svoboda (Zoning Administrator), Steve Borders (Building Inspector), Alan Mazurowski

(Health Department) and Larry Snow (Commissioner of Revenue); Dennis Seale of VDOT; Gary Lowe, Mayor of Stanardsville; Robert Harvey, Roto-Rooter Service technician; Brian Ray of Roger M. Ray & Associates Inc. for the plotting of our site plan; and our lawyer Michael Powell, from the law office of Early and Powell.

The Board is delighted to be able to preserve one of the many historic homes in Stanardsville, and eager to begin the alterations needed to ready the house and grounds for our use. The project is a huge step toward a quality museum and a public meeting facility that the Society hopes will flourish in the years to come for the residents of Greene County and its visitors.

We will keep the membership posted on all alterations and improvements as we work on this fine house and its outbuildings. We are setting up a "House Maintenance Fund" to ensure that the House and grounds will be properly cared for over the ensuing years. We encourage the members and non-members to donate to this fund which will be used to keep the house and grounds in excellent condition. Donations are tax-deductible.

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare the house for the Grand Opening please contact Jackie Pamerter or Bill Steo through the "Contact Us" tab on our web site www.greenehistory.org. We will need help with general house cleaning, pruning of shrubs and outdoor cleanup.

The Society will send out invitations to members and press releases to the general public to announce the "GCHS Grand Opening" for all to attend. We hope that the event will take place before the end of the year.

Thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.



Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Bickers
outside 360 Main Street, circa
1908(Photos courtesy of
Mrs. Barbara Bickers)

GCHS headquarters continued.

360 Main Street, Stanardsville



Our two car garage will be converted into a public meeting room. The above picture is an artist's conception of what it may look like after the conversion. Thank you, Paul Harrington for the drawing.



GCHS Annual Meeting

Joann Powell introduced the program, which was titled: *“Women Who Helped Shape Greene County; Gone but Not Forgotten.”* Members Judy Estes, Jean Blakey, Joann Powell, Gerri Gilbert, Audrey Morris and Jerri Tata gave short biographies of 11 notable Greene County women, in the following order: Jane Fitzhugh (Judy Estes); Violette Moyer (Jean Blakey); Lelia Bickers (Judy); Carrie Lawson (Joann); Mozelle Brown (Judy); Mamie Runkle (Gerri Gilbert); Ruth Morris (Judy); Nellie Sims (Audrey Morris); Birdie J. McMullan and Martha H. Morris (Jerri Tata); and Lizzie Haney (Judy).

The meeting finished on a festive note. In honor of the fact that the Society was started 35 years ago, one of the founders, and current board member Julie Dickey, contributed a pictorial birthday cake, which all enjoyed, with lemonade and conversation, on the courthouse steps.



The audience gathers for the start of the GCHS Annual Meeting



Joann Powell begins the program.

Guest Speakers at the Annual Meeting



Judy Estes



Audrey Morris



Jean Blakey



Gerri Gilbert



Kendall & Jeri Tata

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



Membership Form (Rev. July 12, 2013)

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 through Dec. 31st with a payment deadline of Feb. 1st. Your current membership is valid through the date on your address label. **Please, consider a donation to the House Fund.**

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

Individual lifetime membership \$300 ____ **House Maintenance Fund Donation \$** _____

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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