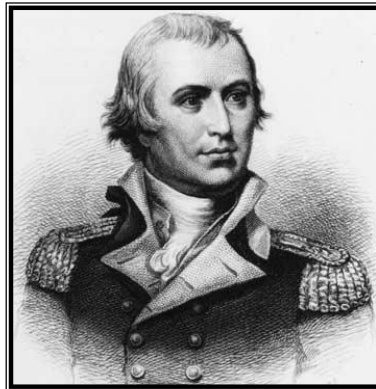


Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Fall 2013

Vol. 19 Issue 3



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

Events

The end of the year seems to be fast approaching; please mark your calendars for two events in December. We will be open later than our usual 3:00 pm on **Saturday December 7th** prior to the Annual Stanardsville Parade of Lights, so stop in to see us in the Old Jail next to the Court house.

The following weekend, on **Sunday December 15th**, we will be having an Open House down the road at 360 Main Street, from **1:00 till 4:00 pm**, so that we can share with you the excitement of our new space. No exhibits yet, but many of you have expressed an interest in seeing what we will have to work with, and we are delighted to share with you.

Our parking will be limited but you can park at the Library and walk down the hill, or in the Greene Pharmacy parking lot across the street, which Vickie Watt has graciously said we can use. We will share refreshments and our plans, hopes and dreams. We hope to see you at both places.

President's Letter

Greetings to all members and friends. There is so much going on with your Society that it is hard to know where to start, and once I do, it will be harder to stop me! I'll try to be brief. This summer has seen a lot of yard work at 360 Main Street, pruning back the foliage that had grown up since Blanche Whitlock moved away. It now looks once again as if it is loved. One major piece of pruning was to take off a very few of the lower branches of the huge Cedar of Lebanon at the front, so that now you can see the house more clearly. Thank you Hank Williams for that work. At the end of the summer, county and VDoT officials approved our Site Plan; we are well on the way to getting the major pieces of the landscape work done ó removing the large torn-up stump at the entrance, extending and repairing the driveway, and making proper parking spaces. My personal thanks, and those of the Board, go to Bill Steo, who with Bill Jones and Joe Freni, has been an almost daily presence at the property.

Maintaining and improving the house, gallery and grounds will cost money, so we have established a house maintenance fund to which we invite members and non-members to contribute. Giving the fund a wonderful start is a \$1,000.00 donation from Vice President Joann Powell, and we are extremely grateful for this generosity.

We have a change in our Board membership. After countless years of serving on the Board, starting as our first President in 1978, Eugene Powell has stepped down (as he has been threatening to do for quite some time!) At my urging, Kim Spitzmiller stepped forward to fill the remainder of his term and has been appointed by the Board in accordance with our by-laws. Kim brings a wealth of experience that will be immensely valuable as we go forward; she and her husband are renovating an 1830s house in Greene, and as well she has a great knowledge of antiques that will help us to design exhibits. I am delighted she is assisting us. Eugene is by no means off the hook; he continues to respond, often several times a week, to genealogy inquiries from around the country. And, as important, I know I can still call him to get his advice. More personal thanks go to him from me for all he has done and continues to do.

Helena Groves and Rachel Midura did a wonderful job this summer bringing the catalog up to date, and doing much more besides. They enjoyed working with us in Stanardsville, but are now many miles away: Helena went to Kathmandu and Rachel to become a docent at a small museum in Italy. We enjoyed their presence this summer and wish them both much future success.

One of our goals is to increase membership by increasing our visibility; for many people Facebook is the place to find out new and interesting things about people and organizations they care about. So, with the help of Michelle Ehrich of the Greene County branch of the Jefferson Madison Regional Library we have established a Facebook page, where we can showcase our history as well as our present and future plans. Thank you Michelle for your help with this task. Please Like us if you are on Facebook, and invite your friends to Like us too. Some recent posts include photos of one of our very latest acquisitions, an 1877 quilt top, about which more on Page 4. Next up for renovation, with the help of member Ivan Henao, will be our website, www.GreeneHistory.org and the photo gallery we have there. Helena's and Rachel's work this summer will provide much material for both the website and our Facebook page.

We will have an **Open House** for all at 360 Main Street on **Sunday December 15th, from 1-4 pm**. Please come and visit what will become a museum filled with the history of this beautiful County.

Best wishes for a happy fall, Jackie Pamentor

Mystery Cave

It has been brought to the attention of the GCHS that a "Cave/Grotto" has been located behind the County Administration Building on Celt Road. Kim Powell from the Greene County Schools attended our October meeting to ask if anyone has information concerning this "Cave/Grotto".

GCHS Board members and GCHS member Shirley Flynn have said that possibly the area was used as a root cellar and at one time may have actually housed a body in wait for burial - see Shirley's statement below;

"I actually explored the little cave with my great-uncle Mac Moyers, Grandmother Ruth's brother, and had heard from the family that years earlier some man (forgot who) wanted to keep his wife's body there until he died and they could be buried together. It was creepy and exciting for me as a 10 year old, or younger. It had a small rusty door then."

If anyone has additional information please contact the GCHS. (Reported by W. L. Steo, Ed.)



New members

We are most grateful to Ron Mosher for his decision to become a Lifetime Member of the Society. Ron has been a tireless museum volunteer for many years and continues to work on copying the clippings files and folders to preserve them. Thank you for everything Ron. We are also very pleased to welcome Andy Graff of Charlottesville as a Lifetime Member. In addition, since the end of June, we have been delighted to welcome 19 new members to the Society; Peter & Desiree Bernier, and Warren & Barbara Brecht, both couples from Stanardsville; Tom & Gayle Edwards, Ruckersville; Diane Enroughty, Henrico VA; Jim & Jenni Frydl, Ruckersville; Dieter & Holly Gerke, Barboursville; Scott Graham, and Tierney O'Neil & Steve Wasserman, Stanardsville; Cecil & Cynthia Taylor, Ruckersville; Shawn & Cheryl Todd, Dallas TX; and Jackie Williams, Richmond VA (an article by Jackie will appear in the next Newsletter).

Acquisitions, July to November 2013

We have not received a large number of items to add to our collections this summer, but they make up for lack of numbers in their interest.

In 1833, the book *Comstock's Chemistry* was purchased in Stanardsville from the Price/Hill Store, according to the store Day Book, which Wendy Mathias is indexing. An 1843 edition of the book became available at an online auction, so it was donated by Jackie Pamerter to illustrate the kinds of textbooks that were being used at that time.

The tombstone of Burnett J. Shiflett, who was only 14 when he died, was donated by Mrs. Judith Thomas, from the Wildwood Valley area of Greene; Mrs. Thomas was pleased to know that we would look after this poignant grave marker for a young boy. We would be interested to receive any information you may have about him.

Finally, Mrs. Gene Morris Oakey of Richmond and her daughter Donna Oakey Hughs brought us two early Morris family items. One is a pair of baseball pants said to have been made by Gene's father, who was well known as a barber in Stanardsville. The other is a delightful initialed quilt top made to celebrate the engagement of Gene's grandmother, Martha Cornelia Haney. Martha's wedding to Ezekiel B. (Budö) Morris took place early in 1878 and the quilt was never completed. It is a variant of the Evening Star pattern, with a set of initials embroidered in the center star of each block. Still attached to some blocks are extremely fragile slips of paper with the corresponding initials. Fortunately, Martha had sewed the slips to the fabric; pins would by now have possibly rusted and stained the top. See our Facebook page for a photo of Gene and Donna, with Jerri Morris Tata, her cousin, and Jerri's daughter Kendall.



Financial donations

The tremendous gift of \$1,000.00 from Joann Powell gets our House Maintenance Fund off to a flying start. Jerri Tata and Anne and Jim Reel added to it. Ethyle Giuseppe donated back to us her well-deserved \$30 prize in the July 4th Parade. We also received financial donations from: Margo Howlett and Greg Pass, and over \$112.00 in anonymous donations, \$85 of which came from one member who did not wish to be named. We thank you all.

A Note About Oral Histories ó Progress Report

The oral history project that Greg Gilbert and Joann Powell have been doing has recorded many fascinating memoirs, which are available for listening to on the public computer in the museum. As we said before, please think about who we should be recording, as week by week many of the most senior members of the community are passing on. Send an email to us as 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.

Recordings already on the public computer are those of: Shelviajean Allen, Jean Blakey, Norma Collins, Elwood Dean, Carol Deane, Mary Dudding, Ethyle Giuseppe, Annie Lawson, Audrey Powell Morris, Nancy Morris, Ronald Morris, Wilbur Morris, Bobby Rhodes, Carl Schmitt, Henry Shelton, Bobby Southard, Jerri Tata, and Joan Dean Watson. We are most grateful to all who have already participated, and to Joann and Greg; his audio-visual background is making this invaluable collection possible. You are welcome to listen to them whenever the museum is open (Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 till 3).

Farm History in Greene

The picture below was taken in March 1993 at a farm on Celt Road that was originally part of the Stanley Parrott Farm. The house was known as the John Slaughter house and was taken down shortly after the picture was taken. John Slaughter was a farm worker who lived there and worked for the Parrott family during the early and mid-20th century.



Pictured in the photograph is William L. Steo.

Old Photographs

We are thrilled to have received scans of several photographs from the portfolio of Linwood G. Mitchell (1866-1945). He was both a teacher and a photographer; during the Depression he documented numerous structures for the WPA. He left a considerable archive of photographs that are the property of LaNona Robinson and her uncle Kenneth Mitchell, now 90 years old. LaNona, who lives in Florida, is the granddaughter of Linwood Mitchell's brother, Kenneth Miller Mitchell Sr., and Daisy Mitchell Maupin. She had not known of her great-uncle's work with the WPA and says, "It is interesting that explains all the pictures we have. Some are of buildings, which seemed so odd."

LaNona (and the GCHS) would be interested in knowing the identities of the people her great-uncle photographed, and more about the locations. Included here are some of her photographs. Please write to us at info@greenehistory.org if you can help.



360 Main Street

The GCHS is making progress readying our house on Main St. for an eventual grand opening. Since the GCHS purchased the house there have been many tasks completed. Below is a partial list of those completed enhancements.

1. Removal and pruning of yard shrubs, thank you GCHS Board members for your help.
2. Rodent proofing the base of the "Smokehouse" and more shrubs removed, service contracted with **Hank Williams** and crew.
3. Power washing the front sidewalk, side yard stepping stones, and the rear concrete patio to rid them of the mold build up.
4. Repairing damage done by a groundhog to the duct work in the main crawl space area service contracted with **Jones Heating & Air**.
5. Sealing holes under the foundation wall to prevent #4 from occurring again.
6. Installing 14 venetian blinds on those windows that lacked them.
7. New electronic push button locks installed on the front and rear doors service contracted with **Brown Lock and Safe Co.**
8. Alarm system installed including smoke, heat, burglar and carbon monoxide detection with central station hookup service contracted with Skip Hanlon of **Mechum's River Security**. A special thanks to Skip for the donation of monthly central station monitoring for our alarm system at no charge to the GCHS.
9. Repairing of toilet fixtures.
10. Electrical system checked out with switch, interior/exterior lighting and attic exhaust fan replaced or repaired as needed serviced contracted with **Ken and Brian Chapman**, electricians.
11. HVAC system checked and serviced. Service contracted with **Mack Morris Heating & Air Conditioning**, B. J. Smith service technician.



If you would care to donate specifically to our "House Maintenance Fund" please make your check out to the GCHS and in the memo field of your check write "House Fund". These donations will be used exclusively for the upkeep of the house.

It's Membership Time Again!

Now that we have a new home to care for, your membership dollars are even more important. If you are reading a paper copy mailed to you, please take a moment to look at the mailing label on the back of this page. If it says, "Good through 2013 or before, it's time to renew, and we look forward to receiving your check. Many of you have responded favorably to the idea of receiving the newsletter electronically, and we thank you for saving us the paper, printing and postage but so far we are relying on you to renew when it is time. If we don't hear from you by the end of January we'll send a reminder - electronically of course. You can renew using our secure website at www.GreeneHistory.org. Your membership and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and you get a big "Thank You!!!" from all of us on the Board for your support.

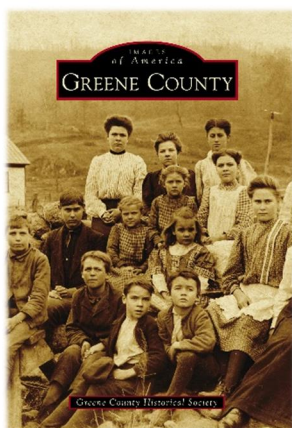
From our newly updated and photographed Collections Database, here are some items from holiday seasons past.



It being that time of year, we thought you might like to see this set of Christmas lights. Probably from the mid-20th century, they came in a beautifully decorated box labeled "Radium" and had clearly seen many years of use.

[2009.02.05, gift of Cynthia Robertson]

In your Christmas stocking in the early 1900s might have been The Game of Inventions ó Fact and Fun for Everyone. This set of Lion Coffee Game cards (copyright 1903) was one of dozens of similar games to be found in the Lion Coffee package. It is part of a collection of paper ephemera from the Parrott Farm on Parker Mountain Road.. [2012.39.05, gift of Ed and Sharon Lumadue]



Today though, everyone on your list will want a copy of our book "Images of America ó Greene County. Now in its second printing, and with all royalties going to the Society, it makes a wonderful gift, and your purchase will help us too. You can buy it here in Stanardsville, from us at the museum or at Noon Whistle Pottery or the Greene Pharmacy. You can also buy it from our website ó www.greenehistory.org, from others online or from bookstores like Barnes & Noble. And we hope you will.

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 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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