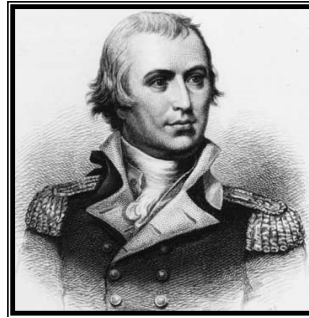


Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Year 2016, February

Vol. 22 Issue 1



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

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

At the end of last year longtime board member Bill Steo hung up his historical society spurs, to use a strange metaphor; he moved on to another passion, the Amateur Radio Society (www.gcvarc.org), which now benefits from his tremendous energy, common sense, practical knowledge and all round good guy-ness as we had done for so many years. Among the numerous tasks Bill undertook for us was the compilation and production of this newsletter. I am filling in as editor for this issue, but this is a temporary assignment and we need another volunteer to take Bill's place. If you are interested in taking on the job, we'd love to hear from you.

Jackie Pamerter – Temporary Editor

JOB DESCRIPTION: The newsletter is published three times a year. It should include articles of local historical interest, notifications of upcoming Society events and updates on Society activities. The editor's duties include writing and soliciting articles, editing them for grammar, clarity and length; page layout; arranging for printing (usually done by submitting a file to the printer); and coordinating distribution of the newsletter. Most of the work can be done at home; newsletters are initially circulated by postal mail and e-mail distribution, then are made available on our website. Your design flair as well as your interest in making the history of this fascinating county more available can be given full rein. The next newsletter should be going out in mid-June.

The newsletter is the primary communication vehicle of the Society. If you are interested please contact us at 434 985-1834 or by email at info@greenehistory.org.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings to all of you for a prosperous 2016. A new year, and a new President. As your new President, I'm looking forward to a great year, with everyone working together. You, the members and volunteers, are very important to the Historical Society. You help us to stay an active society for the community. Although I didn't expect to become the President, I'll do my best in this new position. Jackie Pamerter, who retired as President for health reasons, is going to be a hard act to follow. Thank you, Jackie, for your great leadership this past 11 years.

We have been in our new museum at 360 Main Street for almost 5 months. Visitors are impressed with our new exhibits, where we can now display much more of our collection, and in an appropriate context. From the main room, with its displays of items that might have been seen in a 1920s home in Greene, to the special exhibits in the next room, focusing on Greene County's Timeline, War in Greene, Education and an exhibit about the families who lived in the mountains before the coming of the Park, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The Wildlife Art Gallery contains a wonderful display of prints and other art from noted wildlife artists, as well as hunting and fishing trophies collected by the late Linwood Rhodes. If you have not yet visited, please come soon – and bring family and friends. We now have a Gift Shop with many interesting items for sale.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of upcoming events. Please review them and plan to participate if you can. One much anticipated event is our Annual Dinner; this year it will be on March 20th, once again at Rosebrook Inn. The last day to sign up and pay (\$27.00 per person) is March 13th. Many participants have been coming to this dinner for a long time, but newcomers are always welcome and they quickly become friends. A shared love for the history of this county is sufficient.

We have started a new program with the Beta Society at William Monroe High School. The students commit to doing 20 hours of community service each semester, and are volunteering at the museum on Saturdays. Our member volunteers on duty help the students to become familiar with the Society and what it has to offer the community, including introducing the exhibits as well as our genealogy research items. Since these students have signed up to spend time with us they already have a spark of interest in the history of the County – we hope to fan the flame, and that they will bring their friends and family back for another visit. Visitors, please engage them and congratulate them on their service.

Some goals we as a Society need to work toward during 2016 are to increase our membership, attract more volunteers and receive more visitors to the museum. Our new museum and gallery are wonderful assets to the county. A lot of time and work went into them. Now we encourage the whole community to visit, and learn more about the County, its people and its history.

Happy 2016!!

Joann Powell

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UP COMING EVENTS

- Thursday
March 3rd
6:30-8:30
- William Monroe Middle School History Night** - Students vying to compete in the National History Day competition in MD in June present their projects and seek comments and suggestions from the public. This year's topic: EXPLORATION, ENCOUNTER, EXCHANGE. Student projects include websites, performances, exhibits, documentaries, and papers. We will give prizes for the best efforts.
- Saturday
March 19th
10:00-4:00
- William Monroe High School Art Festival** - This year's theme: SHINE WITH THE ARTS. Come and find us at the GCHS booth –we hope to find some shining examples of Greene history to interest you.
- Sunday
March 20th
- Annual Dinner**, once again at the Rosebrook Inn. Beginning at 4pm, the dinner costs \$27.00 per person. Come and bring a friend. Sign up by March 13th by mailing your check to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973. See www.rosebrookinn.com for directions to the Inn, which is off Rte 810.
- Saturday
April 16th
- Genealogical Research Seminar** - 10 till 12 at the Gallery, 360 Main Street. Representatives of the Central Virginia Genealogical Association (CVGA) will show how to get started and materials needed, including how to use the internet and other resources. CVGA and Society genealogy experts will be available to answer questions. The program is free to members, \$15.00 for non-members. More information will be coming.
- Saturday
May 21st
- Stanardsville United Methodist Church Strawberry Festival** - in Court Square. The Old Jail will be open, with new exhibits and Gift Shop items.
- Sunday
May 22nd
- Annual Membership Meeting** – the meeting will be held at the Greene County Courthouse in Court Square, beginning at 4:00 pm. Program to be announced.
- Monday
July 4th
- Main Street Patriotic Parade** - The Old Jail will be open before and after the Parade, with new exhibits and Gift Shop items.
- Tuesday-Saturday
August 9th-13th
- Greene County Fair** - As usual, the Society will have a booth open at the Fair all evenings.

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Make a little money for the Society by Spending Money: Use 'Amazon Smile' if you order merchandise from Amazon to donate a small amount to the Greene County Historical Society each time you buy. This does not add any additional expense to your purchase, but helps to support our programs and activities for the community. Sign up at <http://smile.Amazon.com> and choose Greene County Historical Society from the list you will see.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR

Genealogical research can be intimidating if you don't know where to begin! In cooperation with the Central Virginia Genealogical Association (CVGA), the Society will present an informative seminar to cover the basics on how to get started and materials needed, including the use of pedigree charts and family worksheets, as well as how to utilize the internet and other resources - some of which are right in your backyard, or in our genealogy research materials. Representatives from CVGA, as well as some of the Society's genealogy experts, will be available to answer all your questions. This seminar will be free to all GCHS Members, non-members may join GCHS or pay a fee of \$15.00 for the seminar.

DOCUMENT TRANSCRIPTION

As education authorities decide that cursive handwriting should no longer be taught in our schools, many resources will become mysterious relics for future generations. Happily, one of the Society's most faithful volunteers, Wendy Mathias, continues to unlock some of these secrets for us. Over the winter she has indexed the two dozen or so *Voter Registration books* in our collections, creating a database sorted by surname that includes the book from which each entry is taken as well as all of the information provided in the entry. While nothing can replace looking at the original document, one of our members who lives in Maryland – hardly a 10 minute drive from 360 Main Street – has already found one member of her family in the voter rolls by looking through this database.

For both the Voter Registration books and the Joseph Ham Daybook referred to on Page 6, we also heartily thank Edd Fuller, who has painstakingly photographed the volumes, trimming each page and turning each into a PDF file to be sent to Wendy. What a team!!

BE A VOLUNTEER!

As you can see from the above, there are many opportunities for volunteers to help, from museum-minding to gardening to website activities – to, of course, newsletter editor. Please email us at info@greenehistory.org or call and leave a message (434)-985-1834 if you'd like to help.

BRICK WALKWAY PURCHASES

We have had a wonderful response to our Buy-A-Brick campaign and the new walkway looks terrific. It is not complete!! You can still buy a brick to memorialize your family – or another. You can pick up a form at 360 Main Street or go online to www.greenehistory.org and download one.

Brick purchasers not previously acknowledged include: Mabel Baker, Philip & Claudia Clark, Kathryn Doerr, Bob & Marge Grassi, Mary Lou Mundy, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Piland, Ruritan Club of Greene County, and Bill & Sharon Steo.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We have received other financial donations too. Most notably, we are extraordinarily grateful to incoming President Joann Powell for her donation of \$1,000.00. We are also most grateful to Cheryl Haney Deane of Madison; Melvin Morris of Sodus NY; Doug Graves of Graves Mill, and Tom & Louise Hayes of Stanardsville. We thank you all.

BIOGRAPHY – EVANGELINE CLEAGE, FASHION DESIGNER AND TEACHER

I recently had the great pleasure of sitting down with member Evangeline (Van) Cleage to talk about her long life and notable achievements. For decades Van was a fashion designer, first in New York and then in Los Angeles, where she was lauded as one of the most highly respected designers of casual fashions as well as the best known of very few African American designers. This was followed by a second career in California, in education. Van’s scrapbooks provide a treasure trove of women’s fashion in the 1950s and ‘60s. I only wish there was space for more of these reminders of the past.

Van began her higher education at Howard University during World War II, earning her Bachelor’s degree in 1950. She focused on clothing and textiles, and while still a student began designing clothes for women and modeling her creations (a photograph of her modeling a sleeveless black dress in Washington DC appears on page 122 of our book: *‘Images of America: Greene County’*).



A spring 1958 design for Frolic Time

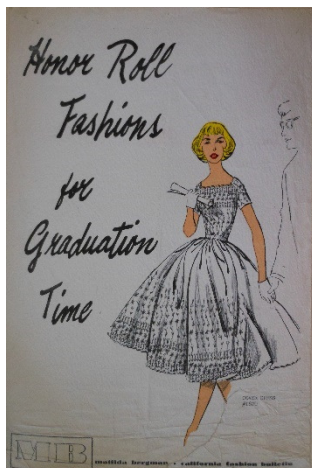
In 1951, she moved to New York City, the fashion capital of the nation. By 1956 she was living in Los Angeles, and designing for Frolic Time Sportswear, one of the largest West Coast garment

houses. Ebony Magazine reported that her progressive designs were the talk of fashion circles and noted that they had appeared in the top national magazines. She made her mark in the New York and Los

Angeles garment industries for more than 20 years, thereby pioneering an African American presence at the cutting edge of the world of affordable fashion.



Frolic Time Sportswear dresses - "Put a Zing Into Spring" – wholesale prices from \$10.70 to \$16.75



Graduation dress for wholesaler Matilda Bergman

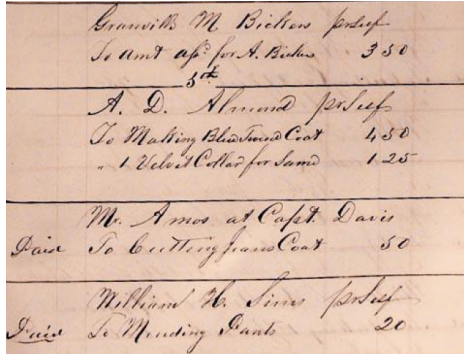
Van went on to a second long career after earning a Master’s degree in vocational education at California State University. She taught, advised and mentored many students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, including teaching in the Watts District as well as at Los Angeles High School. Her diverse student population inspired Van to travel widely, one summer visiting eight countries in Europe, also visiting Mexico, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan and Hawaii. She retired from teaching in 1994 and in 1997 founded and funded the Howard University Student Parent Support Group, which continues to serve young mothers who are students. She was one of only five graduates of Howard to be featured in a publication of that university last year.

In her retirement years here in Central Virginia, Van has worked tirelessly on the sometimes frustrating task of tracing her genealogical roots. Her mother’s family is from the Ruckersville area, and although the roots of their Native American heritage as well as their African American heritage are clearly known in family history and lore, finding documentation has been a difficult task.

Jackie Pamentor

JOSEPH HAM, TAILOR

One hundred years before Van Cleage was beginning her career as a clothing designer, Joseph Ham was a tailor working out of his shop on Main Street in Stanardsville – the shop where the Greene Eatery now serves delicious food. He opened his tailor’s shop in 1848 when he was about 30 years old, and he was at the cutting edge, so to speak, of tailoring, subscribing to the *Philadelphia Fashions and Tailors’ Archetypes* seemingly from its very beginning. Mr. Ham bought the most up-to-date patterns and tools, and was both cutting and making clothing – pants, coats, ‘a fine frock,’ and more, and doing the cutting of fabric from his patterns for a seamstress to sew.



Customers in March 1859 included Gramville M. Bickers (uncle of Ivy Bickers)

Wendy Mathias is now working on the Joseph Ham (Hamm) Daybook, which runs from 1856 to 1870. She has already made some interesting discoveries: at the beginning Mr. Ham gave each customer a number – Number 6 was Benjamin Sims; Number 12 was Nathaniel E. Early. He stopped using the numbering system in February 1859. After that date, to the left of the entry, where the customer number had appeared, now – sometimes – appeared the word ‘Paid’. Many of the family names are very familiar ones – such as Powell, Page, Sims, Almond.

MORE FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

While we are on the subject of textiles, here is an item from our collections. Among the items given to us by Peggy McLean in 2012 was this beautiful silk tulle dress. We know nothing about it, other than that had been among the items Peggy and her late husband found at Buffalo Farm in the south of Greene County, when they first purchased that property. Residents of the farmhouse had been Mrs. Fannie Davis Early, who was born in 1889 and died in 1953, and her sister-in-law, Miss Sallie Bettie Early. Later, their friend, Miss Kay Town, who taught at the Celt School, lived in the house. The Celt School bell, part of the same bequest, is on display in the Rhodes Gallery.



2012.33.52, gift of Peggy McLean

We know little about this beautiful white tulle dress, which has a tiered skirt with applied paper flowers. At the shoulders are silk ribbons and gold metal buckles. There is a matching tulle wrap, 57 inches square.



2012.33.52, detail

RURAL OUTBUILDINGS

I've loved being in the country and mountains all of my life but, I'm a city girl after all. I've always been curious about all those smaller buildings around the house and barn. We have two examples at 360 Main Street: a spring house and a meat house. In the field to the south is a large barn that was once part of the property. Outbuildings come in all shapes and sizes, vary from farm to farm and can be plain or fancy. You can often guess their use if you have a chance to look around. Domestic outbuildings, for practicality, are in the house yard and close to the kitchen, like the meat house and spring house at 360 Main Street. Agricultural outbuildings are located near pasture and fields, like a tobacco barns or corn cribs.



Spring house at 360 Main Street, Pat Temples 2015

The **spring house** would be built over a spring to keep the supply of water clean; the constant temperature of water from underground kept the inside of the spring house cool. Potatoes and other food could also be stored there. It sounds like a great place to slip off to in the summer! Our spring house has a concrete trough through which water flowed, where dairy products could be stored. I'm reminded of keeping milk and groceries in a creek when I was a Girl Scout, but it didn't protect food from animals like a spring house. We thought we were so clever!

Listening to a recorded interview of James Early Parrott, I learned that there was also an **ice house** at his home, Westover, which was used to store ice for refrigeration until kerosene or electrical refrigerators came to the kitchen. Ice cut from ponds or rivers or gathered snow could be stored in a pit or chamber below ground with a layer of straw or other means of insulation over it to make

it last longer. It wasn't always as cold as he might have liked.

A **smokehouse** (or in the case of the Society's buildings, **meat house**) would be where the family stored their smoked or salt cured meats hanging from the rafters or stored on shelves. The difference is whether the building was used for smoking or just storage. Mr. Parrott's family butchered enough meat to provide for the family. Because cured meat was valuable, the structure would be built securely to discourage pilferage.

Lower walls of both smoke and meat houses would be furred by salt while the upper walls of a smoke house would be blackened. A meat house would have had a



Meat house at 360 Main Street. Pat Temples, 2015

wooden floor while a smoke house might have a dirt floor with a brick fire pit. The smokehouse at Monticello has a brick fireplace with a flue that pumps the smoke back into the smokehouse.



Chicken house at 360 Main Street. Bill Steo, 2003

Chicken houses would be located near where the women worked for convenience. There might be a hen house where the eggs were laid and a brooder house where baby chick were raised. In some places, chicken houses were, and sometimes still are, built on light frames to be portable, so that the chickens could be moved to fresh soil and grass.

A hen house might have several windows covered with screen for ventilation and a large door for whoever collected the eggs and a small door for the chickens. They generally had nesting boxes and troughs for feed and water. They may or may not have

had a fence around them to keep them from straying and protect them from predators. There was a chicken house in the yard at 360 Main Street, but it had been taken down before we purchased the property. Above is a photo from 2003. A home might also have had a detached kitchen because of the threat of fire burning down the house. In addition to barns and corn cribs, a farm might have other agricultural outbuildings, such as a wood shed, workshops and at one time, slave quarters.

Sources: Wikipedia, University of Kentucky Archaeological Survey and Recorded History—GCHS. My thanks go to Bobby Rhodes for his help in confirming local practices.

Jeanne Rexroad

POST OFFICE DISPLAY

In Phil Clark we have another very active member to thank. In addition to his invaluable help in cleaning and displaying the Linwood Rhodes trophies and art, Phil has taken the lead in making a display for the Society at the Stanardsville Post Office on Celt Road. In 1995, then Post Master Dickie Tate was able to persuade the U.S. Postal Service to donate to us a set of outdated Post Boxes, ones that used letter combination locks rather than keys. Current Post Master Garry Rund has been able to obtain permission from the Postal Service for us to erect an exhibit based on these post boxes, with a board on which we will be able to display some of the postal artifacts in our collection. We thank all for their work and cooperation in making this exhibit possible.

GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD'S JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY – 300TH ANNIVERSARY

Imagine Governor Alexander Spotswood and his band of intrepid followers as they rode through what was to become Stanardsville on their way to finding a route over the Blue Ridge Mountains. According to the 1937 WPA of Virginia Historical Inventory, *'Legend has it that Gov. Spotswood and his Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe camped...'* at what was known later as Mundy's Spring', one fourth of a mile north of the Courthouse, where at one time *'Mr. Mundy erected a dancing pavilion.... And the young folks of the neighborhood met here and tripped the light fantastic.'* Watch this space for events to be planned celebrating this historic journey.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

We are delighted to welcome several new individual members and member families: Bill and Phyllis Cornelius of Stanardsville, Helen Holley of Charlottesville, George and Connie Lamb of Ruckersville, Laurence and Susan Mach of Kearny, NJ, Dawn Muir of Stanardsville, and Alan and Nancy Yost of Stanardsville. Rejoining after a long absence are Richard Lamb of Stanardsville and Norris Powell and Wilma Bishop Powell of Zuni, Virginia. We are also most grateful to Blair Knight of Quinque, for his choice to become a Lifetime member. Thank you all.

We recently sent out a membership reminder mailing, with a return envelope – many of you had said you would appreciate us telling you when your membership renewal was due. We listened! The response has been terrific, there have been many returned envelopes in our mailbox. If you haven't sent in dues yet, now's the time. And if you've already renewed for the year, we thank you.

You will notice two changes in the membership dues structure. At its last board meeting, the Society's directors voted to increase the cost of an Individual Lifetime Membership to \$500.00. Becoming a Lifetime member is one way to show your confidence in the Society and its goals as we work hard to add new programs and activities in our Main Street location.

The board has also created a Corporate Membership category, at \$100.00 annually. Corporate supporters will: be acknowledged in all newsletters; receive a 10 % discount on rental of the Rhodes Gallery for corporate events; be able to purchase a brick for our walkway at a discount; and will receive a certificate acknowledging their support to display in their place of business. Membership is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We look forward to welcoming many Corporate members from within the County and beyond.

Membership Form

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to us at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973 – or bring it by the museum at 360 Main Street any Friday or Saturday, between 10 am and 3 pm. Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please check one of the following: This is a new membership This is a renewal

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER? YES NO TELEPHONE _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 FAMILY \$20.00 LIFETIME \$500.00 CORPORATE: \$100.00

The Greene County Historical Society
360 Main Street
PO Box 185
Stanardsville, VA 22973