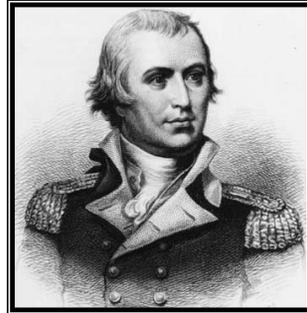


Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



Year 2016, November

Vol. 22 Issue 3



Nathanael Greene

Major General of the Continental Army

Born 1742--Died 1786

UP COMING EVENTS

What better place for Upcoming Events than Page 1, so that you can make a note of dates right away in your calendar.

Saturday
December 3rd

Some special events before the annual **Parade of Lights** in Stanardsville: a book signing for the new release 'A Lumbee Gershom;' with author JoJo Brooks Shifflett, a Native American author and Indian Law Attorney from Virginia; and the unveiling of our Kitchen exhibit. Our Gift Shop will be stocked with great gift items for everyone in your family.

February 23rd
2017

National History Day local History Night preview. 2017 theme: "Taking a Stand in History"

Sunday March
19th

Annual Dinner at Rosebrook Inn – seems a long way off at this point, but mark your calendars when you get them

Sunday May
21st

Annual Meeting – likewise, we have already scheduled our Annual Meeting so that it can go into your calendar too

TBD

Genealogy Workshop – our first Genealogy Workshop, held this past April, was a great success; we will hold another early in 2017

TBD

Wildlife Program – in our plans for the Spring is a Program for the Rhodes Gallery centered on Wildlife. More information will be forthcoming on that too.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

We are approaching the holiday season, which is a joyful, exciting and stressful time for many of us. Here at the museum the Society is planning a Holiday Open House on December 3rd. The Gift Shop will be a focus during the Open House to help you with your Christmas shopping.

One idea for presents this holiday is a commemorative brick for the Society's sidewalk. These make an ideal gift for the hard to buy for. A brick can celebrate a family member, friends, community organizations, or a county business; it could highlight a person's great volunteer work for the good of the County, or a sports team. Pick up a Buy-A-Brick form at the museum, or download one from the newsletters section of our website www.greenehistory.org (e.g., page 5 of Volume 21, Issue 2).

As President of the Society, I send out my heartfelt thanks to you, the members, for your support and participation. We are a membership-driven organization, existing through the generosity of our members and especially of our volunteers, all of whom are members and who serve as the backbone of the Society. Dues are our most important source of revenue.

More members and volunteers are always needed. Once again I am asking all members to venture out and gain at least one new member this coming year. If all of you did, think how that would increase our membership base and give us possible new volunteers.

As I write, the Greene County Quilt Trail exhibit comes to a close. This display was mounted in conjunction with the Shenandoah National Park celebration of the Centennial Year of the National Park Service. Visitors to six locations in Stanardsville, including our Rhodes Gallery, and two in Ruckersville, have enjoyed quilts new and old – some made decades before



Nathanael Greene Quilt, 2008, drawn by Donna Shifflett's 5th Grade RES class; embroidered and lent by Peggy Moyers

the Park Service was even thought of. At press time more than 160 visitors had enjoyed viewing our display, which included rarely seen items from our collection as well as quilts from members' families, in a variety of styles, patterns and fabrics. Although photos don't do them justice, here are a few samples. I would like to thank all who helped to get the show organized and set up at the Rhodes Gallery and elsewhere. Thanks to Michelle Wallace, Vyvyan Rundgren, Griffin Powell, Joe Freni, Patty Baugher, Audrey Morris, Ann McDaniel, Peggy Moyers, Jackie Pamerter, Roger Powell, Bobby Rhodes, and Richard Early.

Thanks to all, and Happy Holidays. I hope to see you at the Open House,

Joann Powell
President, Greene County Historical Society



Detail of 1940 Fanny Brill Cole Crazy Quilt lent by Ann McDaniel



Martba Cornelia Haney Signature Engagement Quilt, 1877, GCHS donated by Gene Oakey

GOINGS ON

GREENE COUNTY FAIR - MYSTERY OBJECTS EXPLAINED

Visitors to our table at the Greene County Fair expect to be asked ‘what was this used for?’ about some household or farm-related object – historical, of course. This August, there were two mystery objects, both provided by Bobby Rhodes, a lifelong Greene County resident who can attest to having used one of these items himself. One was wooden and the other metal. There were various interesting answers — mostly guesses — but a couple of folks seemed to know what one or the other was. The wooden object was thought to be: part of a spinning wheel, loom or shoe horn and several were on



Bobby Rhodes backed by our 1950s kitchen cabinet, with Mystery Objects

the right track with carpentry or wood working tool or gauge. It is, in fact, called a “preacher” and is used to measure weather board on a house or cabin so that the lines are plumb. GCHS President Joann Powell's father, Steve Powell, had a tool like it. She was puzzled as to why it was called a “preacher.” He explained that it was a gauge that always gave a correct measurement, it never lied. Carpenters started calling the tool a preacher because they said “*a preacher never lies.*”

Imaginations ran wild when it came to the metal object. Guesses included that it was an instrument for: cracking nuts, pulling teeth, hanging a pot over the fire, divining water, or pitting cherries. It is heavy metal, with two pieces hinged together with a knot and curls on the other ends. Bobby had the answer; it was used to clamp the twisted end of a sack of grain closed with a rope running through the curled ends. The sack would be hoisted up with the rope, by a windlass over a pulley to an upper story of a granary.

There is no prize — just the satisfaction of knowing how close you got to the right answer. Look for us at the fair next year. You never know what we’ll dig up.

UPDATE - COMBINING NATURE AND HISTORY: MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAY STATION

Monarch butterflies depend on finding milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to feed on as they travel to and from Mexico, and milkweed is becoming increasingly harder for them to find. This summer, as the butterfly garden installed by members of the Spotswood Trail Garden Club at 360 Main Street has been getting established, it has been impressive to watch the numbers of beautiful butterflies (yes, including Monarchs even just before Halloween) that have fluttered and flocked around the blue and white butterfly bushes (*Buddleia*) planted many years ago by former owner Blanche Whitlock. See our Facebook page for the July video of a swallowtail butterfly. The butterflies and other insects have been amazing in their number and variety. Thank you Blanche!!

Bill Steo recently sent a list of Sources of Sayings – we will scatter them among the pages in this and future issues. Thank you Bill!

SHIPS' STATE ROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

By shopping with us, you not only support GCHS but also can purchase some unique gifts. We carry a host of books covering Greene County history – including our Greene County Images book, which is consistently a popular seller. You will also find Christmas ornaments and mugs, as well as some new items for children. For those of you who have not visited recently, we have some new books, including Sue Eisenfeld’s acclaimed *“Shenandoah – A Story of Conservation and Betrayal.”*

For a limited time, several of our popular items will be on sale for November and December and who doesn’t love a Sale!

Letter Opener – Regularly \$2.00 – now \$1.00

Note Cards – Regularly \$5.00 – now \$4.00

GCHS Totebag – Regularly \$29.95 – now \$24.95

T-shirts – Regularly \$19.95 - now \$16.95

And while we are talking shopping:

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.

***“VOLUNTEERS DON’T GET PAID, BUT THEIR WORK IS PRICELESS!”* unknown**

We have 19 active volunteers plus 10 Board members in the Greene County Historical Society today. These wonderful people keep the Museum doors open, tend to the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, archive artifacts, set up special exhibits, represent the Society at numerous County events, make policy and carry out many more necessary functions that have established GCHS as a community leader. Imagine if we had twice as many willing citizens volunteering in some way to fulfill the Society’s mission. What are the possibilities? We could be assured of more communication directed to our members and the Greene County community. We could acquire grant funding to take on more educational projects, provide more resources to preserve our history and buildings in Greene County and provide support to young people interested in the study of history. More volunteers would lighten the load of the few volunteers who do way more than is expected. But more importantly, more volunteers with their energy and new ideas would propel the Society to new levels of service for the people of Greene County.

Here is what we most need now:

- A newsletter editor
- A Buy-a-Brick coordinator
- A Grant Research coordinator and proposal writer
- And more Museum Minders to keep the doors open.

We welcome folks with ideas and suggestions to make our Society of more service to the community. We have reliable Wi-Fi at 360 Main Street. Many volunteer activities can also be done at home on your schedule.

If you can help us with any of the above activities (and that’s not to say there aren’t many more things we’d like to be doing if we had the personpower), please either call 434-985-1834 and leave a message for Joe Freni, or write to him at info@greenehistory.org.

BRICK WALKWAY PURCHASES

The response to our Buy-A-Brick campaign continues, but it will be a while before the walkway is finished!! You can still buy a brick to memorialize your family – or another. Pick up a form at 360 Main Street or go online to www.greenehistory.org and download one. Brick purchasers not previously acknowledged include those by Gwen Conklin, Doc and Barbara Hayes of Mountain Valley B&B, and Leonard Dunahoo, as well as more bricks for Joann Powell and her extended family..

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We have received other financial donations too. We are most grateful to: Robert Morris of Womelsdorf PA; Bill Henry & Jo McKeown, and Tom & Louise Hayes, of Greene; and the Greene County Republicans (return of winnings for first place in July 4th Parade).

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Donations include those from: Emily McMullen Williams, 19th century Justice of the Peace papers, a pair of gold earrings and a pair of Civil War bracelets; Evelyn Powell Dean, a plain feed sack quilt with colored ties, and another quilt with much fabric loss and unusual pieced back; Peggy McLean, a number of objects once used in the Buffalo Hill farm of the Misses Early, including a tall butter churn, a milking stool, a set of 3 tube cake pans, a triangular kettle, a flour sifter, and a small drop-front desk with glassed bookcase, as well as copies of Dean and Snow family histories; Travis Oliver, 1920s items from the Dyke Store; Columbia Snow Taylor, a photograph from October 1926 of Mary Katherine Taylor; Lori Tawney, Wm. Monroe Yearbooks from 1953-1989 that had belonged to her mother, the late Dorothy Lawson, faculty sponsor of the Trail for 36 years; Marilyn Peacock, Breeden family documents from the 1800s and early 1900s, also from the home of the late Thomas and Dorothy Lawson; Ethyle Giuseppe, a mid-20th century photograph album; Thomas Eddins, photographs of the 1979 Courthouse fire, and Fair memorabilia; Rosetta Noakes, a decorative cut-glass slipper; and Peggy Lawson Moyers, a nightgown worn by Mary E. Lawson, late 1880s-early 1900s. Our thanks go to all for their donations.

OTHER DONATIONS – a belated thank you goes to Whitt & Martha Ledford for a lovely curio cabinet, which we will likely use in our Textiles Room; and **ONE REQUEST MET...** thank you to Ann Harper and Lawrence Perry for your bookshelf donations, in response to our request in the last newsletter.

... AND TWO CORRECTIONS Re items in the last newsletter: the love letters donated by Emily McMullen Williams were of course from F. M. McMullen to his wife **Virginia Ann**, not Henrietta; and the microphone amplifier was a gift from Bill and Sharon Steo. Apologies to all.

BURNING DOWN THE JAIL – A STORY FROM 1947

It was Halloween night, 1947, when the young men and big boys of the area took over the town. Remember I was 13, so if my recollection of all the participants is wrong, please forgive me. My intent is not to harm anyone, but to tell a story as accurately as I can.

I do recall that the most devilish stunt that we little fellows did was to dump Mr. Bain Blakey's wire trash basket in the middle of Main Street (Route 33) in front of his store. Someone had a match, so we set it on fire. Being too loud with our kudos to each other, "Hooks" Deane, the deputy, soon collared all of us and sent us home for the rest of the night.

Later that night, the big boys got rolling! The first big headline the next morning was how Elmer Davis Deane, with a lighted Roman Candle, chased his father and deputy sheriff Hooks Deane. The story as it was told, stated that Elmer Davis, a recently returned veteran, approached his father at the

present bank building and said, "OK Pops, it's time for you to go home - the rest of this night is ours!" Hooks started to warn Elmer Davis when Elmer Davis lit the Roman Candle. The first fire ball went into the air as Elmer Davis sternly said to his father, "the next one is for you!" Hooks broke ground and ran across Main Street and as he tried to jump the hedge in front of the Episcopal Church, he hung his pants, ripping out the seat.

With the law out of the way, the boys were free to play! And play they did. The Jarrell brothers had big log trucks which they put to use. Johnny houses (outside toilets) were pulled up, loaded onto the trucks and delivered from the Ruckersville and Dyke schools to the front porch of William Monroe High School and another conspicuous place. A car was released on town hill and lodged against a huge utility pole halfway down the hill. An old man's iron wheel wagon was reportedly towed from near the Albemarle County line on Route 29 to its final destination on top of the gas station roof. Rail fences were taken down as the rails were used to block country roads, and bundles of corn fodder were used to camouflage the rails or block entrances to buildings. The boys had gotten crates of spoiled eggs from behind the Wampler hatchery, and these were hurled at a few selected homes, etc. around the area.

The law had been reinforced, with the High Sheriff, Mr. Russ Malone, five or six deputies and Hooks. They rounded up all the boys and put them in jail.

Jailed maybe, but not without recourse! Ironically, a stack newspapers had been accumulating in a corner of the jail which provided all of the "ammo" these returning veterans needed to create a living hell for law enforcement. They rolled up the papers into torches and set a few on fire to create more panic than anything else. As the smoke billowed into the night air, parents and local citizens were awakened and rushed to the jail demanding that the law release their boys. The law tried to negotiate a truce with the boys who re-countered with "Let us out or we'll burn the damn place down". More papers were lighted, more smoke and more screaming demands by mothers - "Let my boy out, NOW"!

Sheriff Malone begrudgingly instructed a deputy to unlock the jail. The boys celebrated with victory whoops and laughter. The parents went home, and the jail was spared!

From *"The Early Days In Greene County"* by Bob Parrott, brought to our attention by Bill Steo

BUSINESS CORNER

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: The Cottages at Chesley Creek Farm in Dyke (www.chesleycreekfarm.com), owner Chuck Swinney; Armstrong and Associates International (www.armstrongassoc.com) of Stanardsville, President Shari Bedker; the Farm at South River, owners Judy and Cliff Braun. We can add the following to that list: Mountain Valley B & B, owned by Dr. & Mrs. John Hayes (www.mvfarm.net); and the Roy Wheeler Realty Company, Ruckersville branch (www.RoyWheeler.com). We thank them all for their faith in us and in our mission, and encourage members to use their services.

Business supporters are acknowledged in all newsletters; receive a 10% discount on rental of the Rhodes Gallery for business events; are able to purchase a brick for our walkway at a discount; and receive a certificate acknowledging their support to display in their place of business. We look forward to welcoming many business members from within the County and beyond.

GENEALOGY AND THE GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You need not travel the country or the world to learn more about your family's history or to track down family members who have passed away. These days, most of that can be done right from your living room. The computer and the internet have made it possible to find information previously available only locally. Recently, Virginia State records of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces have come on-line, making that search a great deal easier. If your family members left Greene County and settled elsewhere in the country, the internet can come in really handy. Yet many residents of Greene come from families with long histories here, sometimes from before Greene County was formed from neighboring Orange in 1838. If you are from one of these 'legacy' families, one with deep roots here, the best place to start is with us, your local Historical Society.

Since 1978, Society volunteers have worked to save small pieces of Greene County's history to share with anyone who is interested, documenting and preserving items that show how life was in days gone by. Because the county is so small, the Historical Society also doubles as the 'unofficial' Genealogy Society – in fact, initially it was more about Genealogy than it was about being a museum. The Society's first President, Eugene Powell, created and maintains a massive database of Greene County residents and descendants of residents; it now consists of more than 125,000 individuals. The Society has published local genealogies and other books on genealogy, crawled around local cemeteries and recorded tombstone information, clipped newspaper articles, saved year books and amassed many 'family files,' reaching out to researchers of local families histories. Some of those family histories go back to the original immigrant ancestor. The Society has made several efforts to collect oral histories, and these can truly tie history and genealogy together.

Think about what it was like to live in Greene County 200 years ago. Greene was a small rural county, with mostly subsistence living, such as lowland farmers or hill folk, with orchards and small plots of land. There were subsistence farmers as well as slave holders and a substantial population of enslaved African Americans. As an example, the first Census taken after Greene's formation in 1838 recorded 2,447 white residents, 45 free colored, and 4,232 slaves. That means 63% of the county's population were held as slaves. For African Americans, finding their genealogy is a lot harder than for those who held them as slaves, as surnames were often those of owners, and records were not as meticulously kept. Of course their ancestors are just as important to them even if harder to trace.

Many Greene residents thrived, while others just eked out a life as best they could. There were the county founders, sheriffs, judges and the like who are written about in our history books, but also chemists, blacksmiths, preachers, brick masons, mothers and midwives, shopkeepers, tavern keepers, and yes, moonshiners and scoundrels. It's important to get teens interested in their family's history but perhaps it is only after seeing and experiencing more in life, one starts to think of how others have lived. Too often, by the time we get to an age where we start to ask questions, those who could answer have passed away, or can no longer answer those questions that leave gaps in these family histories. (What happened to Uncle Jim and Aunt Nora?) Then it's a race to get the rest of those family stories before we lose someone else.

With increased interest in genealogy, we field more and more requests for information and assistance. If you want to help with genealogy here at the GCHS, but don't know how, we can get you started. Call and leave a message at 434-985-1834 or send an email to me at info@greenehistory.org if you'd like to help. Just doing your own family's genealogy can be very rewarding. In the process, you can help by collecting even more information on family members so that in the future, others can come and learn about their families of the Blue Ridge.

Ron Mosher

THE BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE PROJECT IN GREENE COUNTY AND BEYOND

GREENE COUNTY MEMORIAL UPDATE

On October 26th, after six months of planning and preparation, the Blue Ridge Heritage Project Greene County Memorial Steering Committee held a dedication for a temporary display, placed where the permanent memorial will stand, at the corner of Celt and Main Streets in Stanardsville.



Descendants pose with the panel of family names & pictures

Families were evicted from the mountains of Greene County when the Shenandoah National Park was created. Their descendants unveiled the display, which is next to the Greene County Administration building. The permanent memorial, which will be built next year, will be part of a park, farmer's market and entertainment venue for which a \$1 million grant was recently awarded by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The temporary memorial includes a list of names of families evicted from the mountains and some Greene County family pictures. It's not too late to submit name if one has been overlooked – send information to:

BRHPGreeneCounty@aol.com.

The Greene Memorial's Perry Foundation matching grant has come through! Every dollar of every donation since mid-October up to a maximum of \$5,000, will become two as a result of this grant! There are also plans underway for a fundraising concert by the Deane Family in February. Anyone who would like to make a donation toward the cost of construction of the memorial and accompanying educational exhibit should send a check made payable to the Greene County Memorial and mail it to GCHS Memorial at P.O. Box 185, Stanardsville, VA 22973, or donate electronically at <http://www.blueridgeheritageproject.com/>. The Historical Society is not accepting donations via PayPal at this time. The Memorial Committee is most grateful to all who have donated so far. Donors include: Norm Addington, Jim Lawson, Larry Lamb, James River Air Conditioning, Julie Martel, Roof Works of Charlottesville, Maude Pluta, Wanda Hensley, Greene House LLC, and Karan Callaway. We (your Society) have also made a \$500 donation to the Memorial Fund.

Adam	Crawford	Hensley	Malone	Shifflett
Alexander	Davis	Herring	Miller	Shifflet
Armentrout	Dean	Hinkle	Morris	Shifflet
Armstrong	Deane	James	Mundy	Shoals
Baughner	Dulaney	Jarrell	Reynolds	Sims
Beasley	Eller	Kite	Itaach	Snow
Begon	Frazier	Knight	Roller	Sullivan
Breedon	Funkhouser	Lam	Rosson	Taylor
Burke	Gilford	Lamb	Samuels	Walker
Catterton	Haney	Lough	Sellers	Weaver
Collier	Harner	Marshall	Shaver	Webster
Coner	Heard	McDaniel	Shelton	White
Conley	Helbert	Meadows	Shifflet	Zetty

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project was established to build a memorial in each of the affected counties, to the families displaced from the Blue Ridge Mountains in order to create the Shenandoah National Park. Each memorial will consist of a stone chimney representative of those lonely chimneys left behind in the mountains. Madison County was the first to erect a memorial, in Criglersville; Albemarle County has now followed suit, with a memorial at Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve in Crozet. Other County Committees are working on their projects, and the hope is to eventually develop a driving Trail to see all eight.

Jeanne Rexroad

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

We are most grateful to the following for joining our Society since our last newsletter was published in the summer: Barbara Carver, Fort Ashby WV; Teresa Dorrier, Scottsville VA; Mark & Anna Fanning of Great Falls VA; Martha & Whitt Ledford, Stanardsville; Robert Morris, Womelsdorf PA; William & Janet Naylor of North Little Rock AR; John Silke, Ruckersville; and Matthew & Robin Woodson, Stanardsville. Thank you all for joining, we hope to see you at 360 Main Street.

RENEWAL TIME – AGAIN!!

Yes, it’s that time of year. While you think of it, please renew your membership for calendar year 2017 if you have not already done so. Some of you have, and to these good souls we are most grateful.

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, and additional gifts, 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 BUSINESS: \$100.00

ADDITIONAL GIFT - \$__

The Greene County Historical Society

360 Main Street
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