

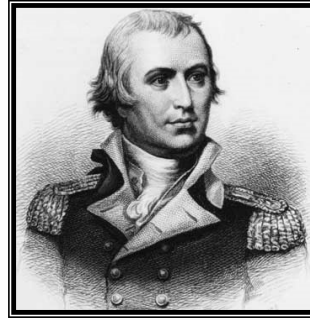
# Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2018, July

Volume 24 Issue 2



*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?

From August  
into January

**Online Auction** - Contact us and arrange to bring items for Online Auction to Rhodes Gallery. See article on Fundraising.

September 9<sup>th</sup>

**House Tour at Powell Country House Museum** – Home of GCHS President Joann Powell will be open for tours. See article on Fundraising.

September  
22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

**Virginia Clay Festival** – at William Monroe High School, 10-5 each day.

Monday  
November  
12<sup>th</sup>

**Veterans Day Observed, and Storytelling.** Court Square observances in the morning and Ruth Walkup will once again host a Storytelling session at the Rhodes Gallery, starting at 2 pm. The focus will be Veterans and their stories; bring yours!

December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Stanardsville's Parade of Lights.** Tree lighting and visit with Santa to follow. The Old Jail will be open.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome several new members to the Society in this newsletter: Robert & Terri Chellis, Joe & Vera Reece, Pat and Rosemary Sherwood, Scott and Karen Turbiner, all of Ruckersville; the Rick Townsley family of Stanardsville; and Wilda Davis of Earlysville. Welcome, and thank you for joining!

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Hello to all,

I hope our Greene County members have overcome any water problems from the incredible rains in the spring. According to some accounts, the damage done in the County exceeded that of the floods of 1995, and aside from the repairs needed to private property, work on our bridges, roads and power infrastructure has kept VDOT, REC and telephone company workers very busy. We are all grateful for their hard work. Now, I hope you are keeping cool in this sweltering summer weather.

Thus far, 2018 has been a busy year for the Society. Our March annual dinner was well attended, as usual, and much socializing was enjoyed by all. Warren Rucker spoke about his family and was most informative and entertaining. In March we also held our annual wildlife program at the Gallery, and in April the annual genealogy workshop. This time it was at Shiloh Baptist Church, our near neighbors, and we thank Ron Mosher and the board members who helped with this event. In May our annual meeting program was given by Jackie Pamentor; it was a slideshow presentation about Greene County during the Great War 1917-1918, illustrated with items from our collections. The County Fair this year was in June, but we were ready for it with our annual Mystery Object, something that always intrigues the Fair crowd. And in mid-July we held an Open House to showcase some beautiful paintings by local artist Chee Kludt Ricketts. The paintings are for sale and make a wonderful addition to our Gift Shop – while they last! Upcoming events are highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you are local, don't forget to bring your out-of-town visitors to the Museum. Enjoy the rest of the summer and coming fall. Stay safe and healthy.

Best Regards,  
Your Society President,  
Joann Powell

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## **ANNUAL MEETING DECISIONS**

At our Annual meeting on May 20th, Joann Powell was re-elected as President, Roger Powell as Treasurer, and Gary Forrest, Jeanne Rexroad, and Dick Early as continuing Board members. In addition, Edd Fuller was elected as Vice President and Bobby Rhodes as a returning Board member. Add to these dedicated people three other hardworking members - Secretary Cheryl Ragland, Jackie Pamentor and Ellen Thurnau – and you have the complete Board.

The membership also approved two new categories of membership, which gain discounts on gift shop sales and brick purchases as well as gaining our deep gratitude. These categories are: Spotswood Society at \$50 annually, and Nathanael Greene Society at \$200 annually. We hope both new and renewing members will consider membership at one of the higher levels.

Bequests are one of the easiest ways to make a gift to the Society. A bequest directs money or other property to go to specified individuals or organizations upon your death. Unlike some other planned giving options, bequests allow you to change your mind at any time. Property left to charities (such as the GCHS) is deductible from your taxable estate and may result in substantial tax savings. Those who decide to make the Society a beneficiary of a bequest may remain anonymous or become a member of the Golden Horseshoe Society. For more information call us at 434-985-1834.

## GOINGS ON

With any old house go all the usual maintenance chores. One recently at 360 Main Street was the replacement of the storm door that protects our front door, and lets us show a welcoming open door to visitors. One pane of glass got broken and as it was not the safety kind, nor presumably was the other pane, we replaced the door. It took a while – of course it was not a standard size, so it had to be specially ordered. When the special order came and was delivered, it turned out to have a bent frame. That had to go back and yet another one was made. Finally, the new door came and was installed by Griffin Powell and Jerry Williams. It is very nice, and has the added attraction of an almost invisible screen. Did I mention the temperature the day they were working? One of the hottest of the year, high 90s and high humidity. Thank you very much Griffin and Jerry for your hard work.

Also, much thanks to Kevin Frazier for yard work during his museum-minding duty, as well as to Kip Cain and other members of the Spotswood Trail Garden Club. The Butterfly Garden that they maintain is starting to flower and we know it will be of much interest to local and transient butterflies, including the Monarchs whose habitat across the country is greatly diminished.

In contrast to the heat, Bill Steo sent us this interesting article in January. It's nice to read about the cold – now, while we are sweltering...

### AN ORANGE TREE GROWS IN GREENE, BY WILLIAM L. STEO

As I write this narrative we are having one of the coldest winters in recent memory here in Greene County, Virginia so the topic of orange trees growing in frozen Virginia seems to be out of place. On the other hand, it is a totally appropriate topic since most people do not know of the Trifoliate Orange, (*Poncirus trifoliata*) or Flying Dragon tree species introduced to this area.

The tree is native to Northern China and the Korean peninsula as well as Japan and can be grown in the continental U.S. as far north as northern Pennsylvania. It is hardy to -10 degrees and will thrive in almost any reasonably good soil doing well in full sun or partial shade. The tree's Latin name indicates the leaves are in groups of three as seen here.



*Thorny indeed!*

The growth habit can be as an upright tree or pruned and trimmed into hedges, which are impenetrable due to the intertwining branches and the formidable thorns that adorn them.

In the spring as the white blossoms open there is the distinctive aroma of the typical orange blossom sweetness, a refreshing scent to

any garden.

The flowers are self-fertilizing and set fruit on their own with the help of the usual pollinators, bees, other insects, birds, wind and gravity. The sometimes slightly pink anthers and yellow-green stamens lend a contrast to the blooming white flower petals.



*Thorns and blossoms*

Once the fruit is set it begins to grow. It matures in late September, turning from green to a yellow-orange, which makes for a wonderful color display among the green foliage and branches.



The ripe fruit has a few uses, including using the peel for making marmalade. The extremely sour juice and pulp can be made into orangeade with the addition of lots of sugar. Although the many seeds within each fruit make it difficult to obtain juice, if one were to think “Lemon” instead of orange, the juice could possibly be utilized in other cooking recipes.

The picture to the left is of the Trifoliate tree growing in the museum grounds, behind the

house and west of the Rhodes Gallery. It grows very well there, producing many oranges each year. Its age is unknown. I too, have a tree growing on my farm just outside Stanardsville, the seeds of which I obtained about 16 years ago from an orange that fell to the ground at Thomas Jefferson’s grave site at Monticello. There are several trees planted along the fence that encircles the graveyard that drop many fruits in the fall.

The next time you visit the GCHS museum at 360 Main Street, check out the Trifoliate orange tree and maybe pick up one of the oranges from the ground to propagate your own tree. It’s easy to do if you know a few tricks:

1. Like most citrus varieties, the seeds should not dry out before planting so don’t remove them from the fruit until you are ready to plant them. Drying usually kills them.
2. If your fruit has been on the ground all winter the seeds are ready to plant. Otherwise, place the entire orange in your refrigerator for 40-45 days to simulate winter temperatures. This process is called stratification and must be done so that the seeds will germinate.
3. Once the fruit and seeds are exposed to “winter” they may be removed from the fruit and immediately planted in light soil, about ¼ inch below the surface, kept damp, in a sunny location and at about 65-70 degrees. A covering of plastic wrap can be used to keep the soil from drying out. Once germination occurs in about 8-12 days remove the plastic wrap. This is a great late winter project for kids and adults with cabin fever as they anticipate the approach of spring.
4. Once the seeds germinate let the plants reach 6-10 inches tall before planting them outside in your favorite location. It will take 2-4 years of maturity under good growing conditions to produce fruit. Trifoliate trees may obtain heights of 10-15 feet and spread horizontally the same distance, so give them plenty of room to grow or keep them pruned to your liking. Enjoy your Flying Dragon!



## **WORKING WITH GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS**

In our March newsletter you heard that more than 40 entries from William Monroe Middle and High Schools competed in the Regional National History Day competition in Charlottesville. From there, 8 teams garnered 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> places and went on to the State Finals, and five projects (ten students) headed to the National Finals in College Park Maryland in June, to compete against schools from some of the wealthiest school districts in the country and some from across the globe!! Each year your Society provides financial support to help defray the costs of attending the finals. Despite putting forward their very best efforts, our contestants did not come home with any first or second place ribbons. We hope though, that all of the students feel a great deal of pride in what they had accomplished. Thank you to all of the students who participated!

If you are reading this online, copy : [https://www.dailyprogress.com/greenenews/lifestyles/students-qualify-attend-national-nhd-competition/article\\_50c1f66c-8b51-11e8-bf83-3b096942789c.html](https://www.dailyprogress.com/greenenews/lifestyles/students-qualify-attend-national-nhd-competition/article_50c1f66c-8b51-11e8-bf83-3b096942789c.html) into your browser to read a whole page article from the Greene County Record about this year's students and their projects. The 2018-2019 theme is "*Triumph and Tragedy in History.*" Go Dragons!!

## **GCHS FUND RAISERS**

### **HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR**

The Society is presenting its first Historic House Tour on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It will run from 2pm to 7 pm at 36 Pea Ridge Road, Stanardsville (the corner of Celt and Pea Ridge Roads). Joann Powell, President of the Historical Society, is making her Country Home Museum available for this House Tour. Her home was a two-over-two, built in 1920. Her father, Steve Powell, bought it in 1943 and made it into a four-over-four for his growing family.

Joann was raised at this homeplace with her nine siblings. She purchased it in 2006 and set it up as her own 'private museum,' with items on display that have seen much use there over many years. This house tour will be different from any you have attended in the past – do you know of anyone else who has their own private museum? There is lots to see – for example, one of the many items on display, along with family photos, is the black pot in which so many Christmas hams were cooked. The old Meat House has been turned into a museum in memory of Joann's parents. Joann and her sisters will be on hand, telling family stories that will connect visitors with the museum in a very special way and treat them to a view of the life of a family raised in the country in Greene County.

The tour is a fundraiser for the Society. Ticket prices are as follows:

- \$15 for adults before September 9<sup>th</sup>
- \$20 at the event on the 9<sup>th</sup>
- \$5 for children aged 14 and under.

Tickets will be available at the Museum at 360 Main Street, The Noon Whistle Pottery, Greene County Pharmacy, the Greene County Visitor Center in Ruckersville and from Board members.

### **ONLINE AUCTION**

In early 2019 we will also hold our first ever online auction. The featured item is the beautiful Victorian dresser that we were given by the Whitlock family, coming from the estate of Jon Beverly Whitlock. But we hope there will be many more items that will appeal to a wide variety of bidders. This is where our members come in – both as donors of appropriate items and as bidders for that special something that only we will have to offer, without which your life is not complete. Perhaps you are downsizing and have items that will be just the thing for someone else's home? Perhaps you have the ear of a local restaurant, B&B or other business and could provide us with a certificate for 'Dinner for Two' or a weekend away or another kind of experience? Gift certificates always come in handy for birthdays and anniversaries. Call Jeanne Rexroad at 434-990-9554 or email [info@greenehistory.org](mailto:info@greenehistory.org) for more information or to discuss an item you would like to donate.

We will collect and display tangible objects in the Linwood Rhodes Gallery, and photographs and descriptions will be available to view online. The commencement of online bidding will be announced via our website and Facebook page as well as other publicity vehicles such as the Greene Chamber of Commerce and the local papers. We will set a final date for all bids to be in; winning bidders will be notified; their credit card will be charged, and they will receive a confirmation number. On the date set for item pickup, we will have people on hand to help load at 360 Main Street. All important dates

will be announced in the November newsletter, so that non-Internet-savvy members can enlist the help of their children (grandchildren?) in negotiating their way around.

When we have sufficient items, we will be working with Rasmus Auctions, a family-run firm from Northern Virginia that has been doing online-only auctions for 15 or more years, including auctions for foundations, non-profits and educational organizations. Visit their secure website - <https://rasmus.com/> to see what they do.

### OPEN HOUSE TO CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTIST'S OFFERINGS IN OUR GIFT SHOP



On July 15<sup>th</sup> we hosted a wonderful reception for local artist Chee Kludt Ricketts. In her Skylight Farm Studio on South River Road, Chee painted delightful scenes, mostly small, of Stanardsville and the surrounding area's buildings and landscapes. ~~Twelve~~ Now eleven of these are now for sale by us in the Gift Shop, where they make a beautiful display. Our buildings, Dookie's cabin, Main Street, the gazebo at the Lafayette – these are just some of the subjects. Call us at 434-985-1834 or email [info@greenhistory.org](mailto:info@greenhistory.org) for more information, or visit Chee's website ([www.cheekludtricketts.com](http://www.cheekludtricketts.com)) to see more of her work. Chee (who is the artist who painted our 'Barn Quilts') has also very generously offered to donate a painting to our online auction.

### FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Over the last few months we have received financial support in addition to membership dues from Rick Townsley, Ronda Puryear, Nina

Catalano, Larkin Dudley, Peggy McLean, Melody Turlington, Gail Trimmer Unterman, Frank & Bernice Walker, Sue McKinley, Ann & Don Brady, Marie Durrer, Samantha Spence, Bert & Barbara Nye, and Kim & John Spitzmiller. We cannot thank you enough for your support of this organization. We are most grateful to all of these generous members – thank you!!

### ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Some recent artifact donations include: WWII-era military uniforms that had belonged to Haywood Powell, from David Roach; a cherry pitter, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century, from Phyllis and Tammy Deane; family history and copies of early land plats, from Emily McMullen Williams; recollections of Dr. Rucker by his nephew Warren Page Rucker. One other one that we are especially grateful for is a handsome portrait of a younger Ivy Bickers, now installed over the fireplace. No grey hair yet, and a fine mustache. We're sure he is pleased to be shown off as his younger, very debonair self. Many thanks to Larkin Dudley for this donation. There is another that we failed to acknowledge last year – a stereopticon and several pictures that belonged to Annie and Charlie Harlow, from their great-niece Loretta Call Spittle. Charlie Harlow was the carpenter who made the two tables Loretta donated. He was the mayor of Stanardsville in the late 1920s early 1930s. We are grateful for all these donations.

## GREENE COUNTY FAIR



This year the fair took place much earlier than in other years – ending on the last day of June rather than in August. And a soggy one it was too, for much of the week. But it was enjoyable as always; we saw lots of old friends and made some new ones at our table in the tent.

It's fun to share a gadget with fair goers every year. Some ask why we display something when WE don't even know what it is. It's a little research project where everyone pitches in by trying to guess and hopefully someone will actually know what it is. Last year we were stumped until we found a picture online from the exercise gear company that made the item. we were a little uncertain why it might have been in a barn in Greene County. It just was!

Many people thought this year's mystery object was a sprinkler head or something to which a hose or pipe attaches but almost everybody agreed that "*something is missing.*" There were three theories: first, that it was used to transfer gas between containers; secondly, that it was used to pass liquid through a "scrubber" to remove harmful chemicals; finally, and correctly according to the label on another online image, that it is a "well pump hose adaptor." Whatever it is, as always with our Mystery Objects, we had some fun sharing and story-telling. We have Bobby Rhodes to thank, once again, for supplying our object.

## THE BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE PROJECT IN GREENE COUNTY AND BEYOND

### GREENE COUNTY MEMORIAL UPDATE

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project is building memorials to the families displaced from the Blue Ridge Mountains in order to create the Shenandoah National Park. Each memorial consists of a stone chimney, representative of those lonely chimneys left behind in the mountains, with appropriate pictorial and written explanations on displays nearby. The Greene chimney is in the center of Stanardsville, at the corner of Celt and Main Street, near to the future Farmers' Market pavilion and performance bandstand. The chimney itself is beautiful. The design process is complete on the explanatory panels. However, donations are still needed toward the displays and the benches. We eagerly await the beginning of construction of the area around the county building before installing the remainder of the Greene memorial around the chimney.

Anyone who would like to donate toward the cost of this 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 most recent donation came all the way from Colorado! The Memorial Committee is most grateful to Jeanette Pryor of Littleton CO for her great generosity. Jeannette is a descendant of the Herring family.

One further note: The rains we experienced in late May and June were not just devastating here in Greene. They upended and damaged the benches and washed out the gravel surrounding the Madison County Heritage Project Memorial in Criglersville. Not once, but twice! Madison is now looking at embedding the benches into concrete in the hopes that this time they will stay put.

## GREENE COUNTY IN THE GREAT WAR AND BEYOND – 1917-1919

The annual meeting provided a great opportunity to use some of our artifacts to showcase the fascinating history of this County during and after World War I – the Great War, the War to End All Wars. Our Red Cross Fundraiser Quilt was not on display, as it has been loaned to the Nation’s Mariners’ Museum in Newport News for their 6-month-long exhibition “*Answering America’s Call – Newport News in World War I.*” The exhibit runs until the end of the year, do plan a visit.

Most people know of the monument in Court Square that memorializes the three Greene County soldiers who died in France. The talk included information about each – Willie Lee Morris, Willie Dennison Call, and William Marshall Sims. More information about the latter has since come to light. Our little County sent many more ‘over there.’ A list in our archives includes 127 men with addresses in Greene who were inducted into the military between September 1917 and December 1918. Another



The troopship USS Matoika

on the list was Clyde Monroe Sims, who went to war and lived to tell the tale. His documents include postcards, train passes, a photograph of the troopship USS Matoika, and much more. He came home in July 1919 after his service in the Veterinary Hospital in St. Nazaire, where thousands of horses, donkeys and other animals that were used by the military were cared for when injured.

While the men were away, the women at home were busy, not just with home and farm chores, but also fundraising for the American Red Cross, making bandages, shirts and blankets, mending socks, sending care packages. We know about some activities because we have the Minutes of the Dyke Auxiliary of the Stanardsville American Red Cross Chapter, which were kept by Willie Lee Morris’s sister Evelyn. They were a very busy group! Curiously however, there is no mention of the Red Cross Fundraiser Quilt, which is covered in the names of donors from across the County.

Some local women also went to war. Mabel Morris, another of Willie Lee’s sisters, went to serve as a ‘Yeomanette’ in Washington DC, where women were filling the roles that men would otherwise have taken. This was the first time that women were allowed to enlist, and it caused some head scratching for the military bosses as they figured out dress codes, accommodations and other regulations.



Greene County Red Cross Quilt detail

After the war the Dyke Red Cross Auxiliary was the foremost group trying to organize a memorial to the three dead servicemen. The Minutes conclude before letting us see how it came about that their ardent wish that the monument should be erected in the Dyke area did not come to fruition. As we all know, the World War I memorial stands in the grass outside the Courthouse. If walls could speak! Jackie Pamerter did the presentation - we will make this talk and the illustrations available as a YouTube video in the fall.



**BUSINESS CORNER**

Once again, thanks to our business members for their support: The Cottages at Chesley Creek Farm in Dyke ([www.chesleycreekfarm.com](http://www.chesleycreekfarm.com)), owner Chuck Swinney; Armstrong and Associates International ([www.armstrongassoc.com](http://www.armstrongassoc.com)) of Stanardsville, President Shari Bedker; the Farm at South River, owners Judy and Cliff Braun; Mountain Valley B & B, owned by Dr. & Mrs. John Hayes ([www.mvfarm.net](http://www.mvfarm.net)); the Roy Wheeler Realty Company, Ruckersville branch ([www.RoyWheeler.com](http://www.RoyWheeler.com)); Performance Signs of Ruckersville, owners Robbie & Katherine Morris, United Bank, Stanardsville Main Street Branch, Manager Donna Harlow ([www.bankwithunited.com](http://www.bankwithunited.com)); and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative ([www.myrec.coop](http://www.myrec.coop)). Our latest Business member is the Charlottesville Sam's Club ([www.samsclub.com](http://www.samsclub.com)), and we thank local resident Chad Kelley, Manager of Sam's, for taking this step. We are grateful to all of these businesses for their support 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.

We've had a great response from existing members to our request for renewal for calendar year 2018. Please note that at our annual meeting the membership authorized two new categories of membership at a higher level. We urge members who have not already renewed to think of renewing at one of the higher levels.

**Greene County Historical Society Membership Form**

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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       SPOTSWOOD SOCIETY \$50.00

BUSINESS: \$100.00       NATHANAEL GREENE SOCIETY \$200.00       LIFETIME \$500.00

ADDITIONAL GIFT - \$\_\_\_\_

Open Fridays and Saturdays 10-3, and by appointment. Call 434-985-1834

[www.greenehistory.org](http://www.greenehistory.org)

[www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva](http://www.facebook.com/greenehistoryva)

***The Greene County Historical Society***

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