

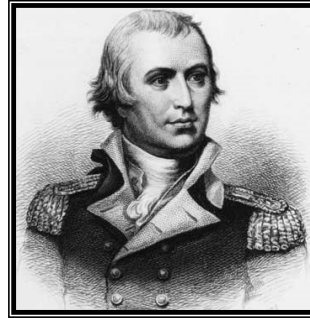
Greene County Historical Society Newsletter



360 Main Street, PO Box 185, Stanardsville Virginia 22973

Year 2018, November

Volume 24 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?

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|--------------------------|--|
| December 1 st | GCHS Holiday Open House 10:00-4:30. Talk and book signing by Greene County native Glynn Baugher, 2 pm; shop discounts; refreshments. |
| December 1 st | Stanardsville's Parade of Lights. After the book signing, the Museum will be open until 4:30 pm. The Parade and Tree lighting, and Santa's visit to the Town Hall, to follow. |
| Early 2019 | Online Auction - Contact us and arrange to bring items for Online Auction to Rhodes Gallery. See article on page 5. |
| Now till September 2019 | The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News has extended the run of their exhibit " <i>Answering America's Call: Newport News in World War I</i> " till September 2019. Our WWI Red Cross fundraising quilt makes a fantastic backdrop to their artifacts. The Museum entry fee is now only one dollar. |

BOOK SIGNING ON DECEMBER 1ST

During our open house on December 1st, there will be a book talk and book signing in the Rhodes Gallery, starting at 2 pm. Glynn Baugher, a 1960 graduate of William Monroe High School, will present his book, "*Once Below a Time.*" His memoir describes growing up in the Celt area of Greene and attending the county schools and is full of family stories. He will have a Q&A session, and will be signing books. We sell the \$13.99 paperback edition, and also have a limited number of hardback copies for \$26.99. Glynn received a B.A. degree from Emory and Henry College, with majors in mathematics and English. He taught for 30 years at Frostburg State University in Maryland, before retiring back to Emory, where he enjoys his acres of vegetable, fruit and flower gardens.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings,

Another year is about to wrap up with the holidays right around the corner. I hope everyone is well and ready to enjoy many seasonal festivities.

The Society will hold a Holiday Open House on Saturday December 1st, from 10 am to 4:30 pm, (this precedes Stanardsville's Annual Parade of Lights). The museum will be open, with a 'Green Dot' sale in our gift shop, and refreshments. This is a chance for you to do some Christmas shopping while helping to support the Society. Also, don't forget our 2019 Calendar, which uses photographs from our collections – or you could 'Buy-a-Brick' for our front walkway to give a very special gift 'for the person who has everything.' This is our first attempt with a Calendar, so please buy one.

Our first Historic House Tour held in September as a fundraiser for the Society was well attended by the community. I would like to thank all who came out to tour my "*Country Home Museum*," and hear some of the history of ten siblings growing up on a farm in Greene County. I had 25 family members who served as docents to help showcase my home/museum. My goal of \$1500 was achieved!! We plan to have future house tours so be on the alert to hear about the next one.

The Jail Committee is still seeking information about the "*old jail*" located next to the County Courthouse in Stanardsville. If anyone has information about county sheriffs, judges, laws, justice, prisoners, etc., please contact us.

Don't forget the online auction that we are working on for early 2019. We need items to be donated for that.

Best regards,

Joann Powell

HAUNTINGS: OUR HISTORY COMES ALIVE, by Jeanne Rexroad

Someone had the idea of offering ghost stories on October 6th, after the Octoberfest fundraiser for Red, White n Blue in Greene (<https://www.facebook.com/RWBnG/>). They contacted the Historical Society to see if we'd like to help, and we decided to give it a shot. The ground rules were to avoid gory theatrics that might compete with the Venture Crew's "Haunted House" later in the month and to try for stories based as much as possible on historic events. It would be an experiment to see if we might want to do it again next year. It would be free, with any donations to go to the GCHS.

There are some sources for stories about local hauntings, tales of woe and the occasional murder. Who knew? I wrote some stories. Mike Payne from RWBnG developed a couple more with the help of our local Civil War reenactors; they presented an encampment during the Oktoberfest that turned into a civil war hospital when the story telling began. Guides (Joann Powell, Ellen Thurnau, Dawn Muir and I), with the help of RWBnG, led four groups through town pointing out murder scenes, a former funeral home and other potential spooky sights of interest. Here are some of the stories.

TWO JAIL BREAKS

The Jail in Court Square was built in 1838, when part of Orange County became Greene County. In 1863, a Confederate soldier in a unit moving from Winchester to Orange Courthouse received permission to visit his family nearby. After he had spent the night, he left to rejoin his unit, passing

over Swift Run Gap. At Stanardsville, he encountered a man on horseback with two soldiers walking. The man said he was a “conscript officer” rounding up anyone without a pass to be taken to General Lee’s headquarters. He couldn’t be persuaded that they were on their way to rejoin their units and he drew his weapon and threatened to shoot them. The three soldiers were placed in the jail for the night while the conscript officer went to a local tavern for a drink.

It was difficult to know when anyone would be coming to bring the men food or water and the “restroom,” such as it was, consisted of a wooden box in a corner with a bucket under it. Hardly the Hilton. Since there were no local prisoners, who was to say that anyone would be coming for them at all? They looked around to see what was in the room. They found an old musket and thought they might hit him over the head and escape. They built a fire in a corner fireplace and sat down to wait.

When the officer didn’t return, they tried yelling for help, but no one came. In time, one of them tried to dig around the window frame to see what the wall was made of and if they might be able to dig themselves out. The fire went out and they were chilled to the bone. They wanted desperately to be gone before the officer came back. The smallest man squeezed out through the opening and began digging from the other side. Soon the hole was big enough for the others to pass their gear through, and to climb out themselves. Then they were free and started off in the direction of Orange.

We don’t know what cells in the jail were like at first, but in 1878 the Board of Supervisors ordered construction of a 7½ foot x 4 ½ foot “Cage” with a locking door. This was probably on the ground floor, but at least one current resident of Stanardsville can remember seeing prisoners who were held captive on the upper floor. In 1925, T.J. McMullen was doing some plumbing in the jail. We’ve already established that care of the prisoners was not always a priority. One Sheridan Deane, a prisoner at the time, complained of the heat, and asked T.J. to get him a drink of water. Always ready to perform an act of kindness, T.J. brought Sheridan a pitcher of water and unlocked the cell to place it inside. As soon as the door was unlocked, Sheridan dashed past T.J. and jumped out the second story window, just missing several people standing below!

MURDER IN THE COURTHOUSE

Tragically, the mother of Edgar Morris died when he was born. His father, George Morris, was a Deputy Sheriff and often away from home, so Edgar was raised by his grandfather who let him do what he pleased. He never went to school and could read a little, and had only learned to sign his name. He had a temper and was often in trouble with the law. He was due to appear in court in April for shooting his cousin, and had been released on a \$5000 bond paid by his father, when he was arrested again for carrying a concealed weapon in church.



Greene County Courthouse pre-1925

Edgar was often served with warrants for fighting and disturbing the peace. Convinced that he was being treated unfairly, he especially held a grudge against ‘Son’ Sullivan, one of three judges hearing the concealed weapon case. On March 29, 1919, a bitter cold, gray, blustery day, Edgar was instructed by his father to wait in the clerk’s office while his father and lawyer met with judges in the courthouse.

Twenty-two years old, Edgar felt as if he was being treated like a child. He was certain that ‘Son’ Sullivan was giving him a bad name and turning people against him. He finally could not wait any longer and left the clerk’s office and went to the courthouse. He slid into the seat behind his father as Justice Sullivan was addressing the other Judges. Edgar rose and fired six rounds, from two pistols, into his enemy, killing him. He ran from the courthouse and disappeared into the mountains. Missing his court appearance on April 21, his bond was forfeited and his father ruined. There was a \$1000 reward for information on his whereabouts. He was apprehended and tried.

The community was so intimidated by Edgar’s reputation that the trial had to be moved to Albemarle County; witnesses did not appear until the second attempt. He was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to eighteen years in prison. It isn’t known whether he returned to Greene County or learned his lesson, but one must wonder whether the judge’s spirit is still waiting in the Stanardsville courthouse to hear the case.

SPECTERS OF THE LAFAYETTE HOTEL

The Lafayette has been in operation as a hotel, under various names, since the 1840s. It has also housed a saloon, boarding house, the first local telephone exchange and the local newspaper. During the Civil War, it served as a hospital.

There are guest books from each room, full of tales of sounds and sightings. In the upper rooms, a tall, slender woman and a boy appear most often; we don’t know why. Another recurring story is of a Confederate soldier who had been here when the inn was used as a hospital. He had discovered that his wife had run off with a Union soldier; hearing the news, he became despondent and committed suicide. His ghost is said to wander the halls at night, pistol in hand, searching for the man who dishonored him. As I told this story, a Civil War reenactor would appear in the shadows of the doorway behind me at the end of my tale, much to the shock of the listeners. What fun!

I have my own spooky Lafayette story. I stayed there myself when I came here to settle on my new home. At breakfast, I was told by the staff that they would be going home about 7:00 pm and if I had any problems, to just call the answering service. I kept thinking to myself, *“I’m going to be in this big old place by myself all night?”* I had all day to prepare myself—if that was even possible. The big bed was cozy enough and I was so tired, I went right to sleep. Not afraid at all!

Suddenly, about 2:00 am, there was a banging at my door and I jumped to my feet, heart racing. I looked out the window. No one was there. I crept to the door and opened it, peering right and left on the balcony. There was no one there, then BANG, BANG, BANG! A banner touting burgers for lunch caught the wind and slammed against the rail across from my door. I WAS alone. Small comfort when you’ve been scared half out of your wits!

We also told stories at the newly erected Mountain Heritage Memorial chimney at the corner of Celt and Main.

Perhaps we’ll do it all again next year – we received \$52.00 in donations for our efforts. So if you have any ghost stories about Stanardsville to share, send them on in!

WORKING WITH GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS

Once again, we will be doing what we can to help the William Monroe students, mostly Middle schoolers, with their National History Day projects. The theme for 2018/2019 is *“Triumph and Tragedy in History”* – a topic that leaves much room for creativity with a wide range of topics. Go Dragons!!

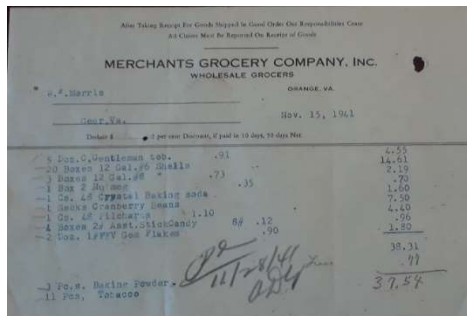
Meanwhile, for much of the summer and fall, High School student Alysia Townsley has been very busy developing Indexes to the contents of our Magazine and Newsletter back issues. Especially for the latter, it has always been infuriating to know that there had been an article about a particular topic ‘in one of the newsletters,’ but not to know which one. Alysia is solving that puzzle for us, for which we are most grateful. Thank you Alysia!!

ONLINE AUCTION

As we’ve said, we will hold our first ever online auction early next year. Unfortunately donations have been slow in coming, although we are most grateful to donors who have already spoken up, including Rosemary and Pat Sherwood, artists Chee Ricketts and Janice Rosenberg, Chesley Creek Cottages owner Chuck Swinney, Ron Mosher, and John Pluta of the Noon Whistle Pottery. Please see your last newsletter for more specifics about the auction, and feel free to call Jeanne Rexroad at 434-990-9554 or email info@greenehistory.org for more information or to discuss an item you would like to donate. As we said before, all important dates will be announced in the next newsletter, so that non-Internet-savvy members can enlist the help of their children (grandchildren?) in negotiating their way around.

FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

We have a number of items in the collections that are harbingers of holiday cheer – here are a few. Many thanks to Rosemary Sherwood, a new member this year, museum-minder and volunteer collections person, for help in looking through our ‘stuff’ and picking out fun holiday related items.



Among items that came to us from Galen Morris’s Store at Geer is a November 15, 1941 receipt for goods received; it includes items such as ‘1 Sack of Cranberry Beans,’ ‘4 boxes of Assorted Stick Candy’. The cranberry was never called a ‘Cranberry Bean’ as far as we know, but perhaps cranberry beans went into some Thanksgiving recipes. As for the boxes of candy, perhaps they were destined for Christmas stockings?

One piece that we showed in a newsletter several years ago is worth repeating. It surely brings Christmas to mind - a small red and blue fabric boot. Decorated with seed pearls, and a bit the worse for wear, it is easy to think of it hanging from a Christmas tree – fittingly, it came to us from a drawer in the kitchen of the farmhouse at the Greene Meadows Christmas Tree farm on Crow Mountain Road.



This postcard is on display in our Hearth and Home room; it was addressed to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hamilton, of Ruckersville Virginia, from “Jim and Nellie.” It has a one cent George Washington stamp, but unfortunately the postmarked date and place are not decipherable.

We found the following poem pasted onto a page full of newspaper clippings that was given to us by Julie Dickey. The poem is by Guy Wetmore Carryl (March 1873 – 1 April 1904), who was an American humorist and poet. We don't know in what newspaper this was published.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, BY GUY WETMORE CARRYL

Matilda's making Christmas presents. Mercy!
Such a stitching!
It's a cover for a cushion, or a funny little mat.
Or a marker, or a sachet, but it's always most
bewitching –
Considering who's making it, there's nothing
odd in that!
She told me just this morning that she cannot
use a thimble;
She'd rather prick her fingers half a dozen
times a day.
And it's hurry, flurry, scurry. O Matilda, do be
nimble!
You've such a lot to do, and Christmas just a
week away!

Matilda's making Christmas presents.
Goodness! Such a painting!
It's a blotter or a picture-frame, or else it's just
a card.
She paints so fast and steadily, you'd think
she'd feel like fainting.
I'm sure I never saw a little girl who worked
one-half as hard.
She has used as much vermilion as 'twould
take to coat a building.
I have seen her madly blowing, when the old
thing wouldn't dry.
But I fear she'll never finish all her painting
and her gilding.
And Christmas just a week away. Matilda, do
be spry!

Matilda's making Christmas presents.
Gracious! Such a hiding!
She pops things under cushions, all at once,
and with a scream.
We must knock before we enter, or we get a
dreadful chiding,
And have to say we haven't seen, and couldn't
even dream!
She is full of dark suspicion, she is weighted
with foreboding.
She is sure we've guessed our presents, and
she rattles on so fast
That we fear with all her secrets she is very
near exploding,
And a whole week more to keep them! O
Matilda, can you last?

Matilda's making Christmas presents. My! but
she is busy!
She hasn't eyes or ears for other things, and
that is well.
She would be so much excited that I'm sure
'twould make her dizzy,
If she knew all the things I know, but
wouldn't dare to tell!
There are parcels in the closets and behind
each bed and curtain,
Such a lot that just to open them I think
would take a day,
So you see Matilda cannot be the only one
who's certain
That the time for Christmas presents is one
little week away!

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We thank Anne Vonnegut & Chris Von Frieling of Dyke, Diane Enroughty of Glen Allen, and Sharon Arbour of Elkton MD for financial donations since our last newsletter. We cannot thank you enough for your support of this organization.

CORRECTION

In our last newsletter we incorrectly attributed the donation of a WWII uniform to David Roach. David had indeed had the uniform cleaned and pressed, but Evelyn Powell Dean was the donor. We apologize for the mistake but are grateful to both Evelyn and David for their actions on our behalf. As you will see below, Evelyn has made another donation too.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Recent artifact donations include the following from: Evelyn Powell Dean, a CCC uniform cap and World War II records and correspondence; Ellen Morris Deane, buggy blanket; Margaret Buchholz of Harvey Cedars, NJ, a copy of the December 12, 1931 issue of *"The Churchman,"* with an article about Dr. Mayo and the Blue Ridge Industrial School; Richard Early, a folder of documents including pages from a February 13, 1900 Richmond Dispatch, a c.1908-1918 issue of the Dawsonville Courier Volume 23, and the student workbook of James T. Early from c. 1805; and Elaine Barnett, a 1994 Greene County Fair t-shirt. We are grateful for all these donations.

GREENE COUNTY FAIR

We mention the Fair, but sad to say, it looks as if there will be no more mystery objects for Greene County fair-goers to puzzle over. Not because we don't have a variety of strange-looking objects from the past to bring out, we certainly do. But, as a recent issue of the Greene County Record reports, the lease between the Fair Association and the landlords, which was thought to include mid-summer "Fair Time" 2019, in fact expires in January 2019. The fair has been held at the Fairgrounds on Madison Road (Route 230) for 24 years, and for the last several years, we've had fun attracting the attention of fair-goers passing through the tent to put their best efforts forward to identify our Mystery Object. One of the most mysterious is the sausage-grinder now on display in our kitchen at 360 Main Street. The Treasurer of the Fair Association is quoted as saying *'We haven't given up,'* so, as we have said before, watch this space. We wish them much success.

WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATION

In conjunction with their exhibit featuring our WWI Red Cross signature quilt, the Mariners' Museum has just posted in the "Online Learning" section of their website a fact-filled article about fund-raising quilts. Truly worth a virtual visit, even if you can't go in person – and it gives us some very nice publicity too: <https://wwi.marinersmuseum.org/red-cross-fundraising-quilts/>.

THE BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE PROJECT IN GREENE COUNTY AND BEYOND

The following is taken from an email update sent out by Bill Henry, President and Founder of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project (BRHP). *"Over the last four years the non-profit Blue Ridge Heritage Project has been working hard to provide recognition to the families who lost their homes when Shenandoah National Park was formed. Our success has been amazing - on October 13, the seventh of eight planned monuments was dedicated, this one the Warren County chimney in Front Royal. This could not have happened without the work of our volunteers who made the dreams of these monuments become reality. And it could not have happened without financial support from the many individuals, businesses, and community organizations that have given generously to our county committees.*

But building the monuments is only the first step of our mission. Each memorial site will be erecting or finalizing the installation of displays to offer visitors a glimpse of the history and the lives of the people of the Blue Ridge

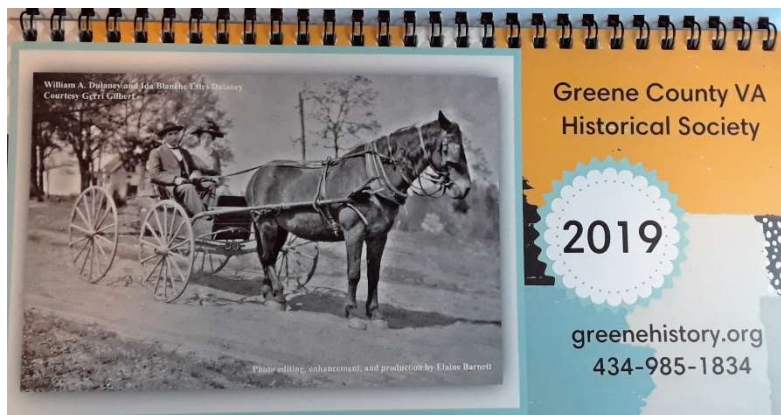
Mountains. Each county committee would like to have a fund set aside for on-going maintenance and repair of their site as well as for annual landscaping and plantings to keep the sites attractive. Money is needed to make this happen.

Please help us continue the work we have begun. You may make a tax deductible contribution to the Blue Ridge Heritage Project by check or by credit card through PayPal. Visit our website (<http://www.blueridgeheritageproject.com/>), click on Donate, and click on the PayPal Donate Now button. If you prefer, you can send a check, payable to BRHP, to P.O. Box 1172, Stanardsville, VA 22973. You may designate your donation to support the overall Blue Ridge Heritage Project or designate a specific county committee to receive your contribution.”

KUDOS WHERE KUDOS ARE DUE

We received a very nice note from one of our loyal members, Sharon Arbour. She lives in Elkton MD, but travels to Stanardsville to use our library as she researches her family here. She says *“I would like to thank the ladies [and we think Sharon would include the men] at the historical society for all their help on my last visit. I was able to add to my family by using their reference books especially the Douglas Register. Also I love the 2019 calendar. Thank you again Sharon Watson Arbour.”* Thank you Sharon, for taking the time to write. And a most sincere thank you to every one of our volunteers for your dedication to keeping the doors open for the public. It would be impossible to show off our wonderful museum without your help. Every weekend that we are open because of you helps to let the world know what a great place we have here. So the Board’s Thanksgiving includes thanks to all of you.

GCHS CALENDAR FOR SALE



When you are shopping for Christmas gifts, don’t forget that everybody needs a calendar, and that our GCHS calendar is full of photographs from Greene County’s past. The price is \$11.00 including tax, and we have lots of copies in stock. Production of the Calendar was most generously paid for by Joann Powell, so every copy you purchase helps to defray museum costs. We express our thanks in advance for every copy that you purchase. We thank Lifetime member Elaine Barnett for her work on this project.

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; Mountain Valley B & B, owned by Dr. & Mrs. John Hayes (www.mvfarm.net); the Roy Wheeler Realty Company, Ruckersville branch (www.RoyWheeler.com); Performance Signs of Ruckersville, owners Robbie & Katherine Morris; United Bank, Stanardsville Main Street Branch, Manager Donna Harlow (www.bankwithunited.com); Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (www.myrec.coop); and Charlottesville Sam’s Club (www.samsclub.com). 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.

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership for calendar year 2019. For the rest of us - it's that time of year again – please renew now. Think of it this way. If you do, that’s one more thing out of the way! Please note that at our annual meeting the membership authorized two new categories of membership at a higher level. We urge members to think of renewing at one of the higher levels. We thank you in advance for all those membership checks that will shortly be flooding our Post Box and Paypal accounts!

Greene County Historical Society 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. You may also renew online from the Membership page of our website. 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 _____ DATE _____

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.greenhistory.org

www.facebook.com/greenhistoryva

The Greene County Historical Society

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