A History of

Greene County

By T. E. Johnson
A History of

Greene County
Virginia

Thomas Edward Johnson
(1883 – 1970)

GREEN COUNTY PUBLISHERS, INC.
Published with the cooperation of the Greene County Record
Dedicated to
Mildred
I have always been interested in local history and have found in my years of newspaper editing some really rich historical nuggets which more than repaid me for my efforts. When we came to this area in November, 1966, I began as soon as we were settled to make inquiries relative to Greene County’s history. I found that none had been written and information was hard to secure. Finally the suggestion was made that I undertake the task. After considerable thought I decided to undertake the work. I have tried to produce a commendable and accurate story of Greene County with particular emphasis upon what might interest young readers--those still in high school.

Many difficulties have been met--some of them may have been conquered. Spelling of surnames and place names varies a good deal. For example, the original family coming from Germanna spelled the name Mayers. For business reasons, to avoid confusion, one member decided to spell his name Moyers. Then another dropped the ‘s’. There were three Captain McMullan (or en) in the Confederate Army. Two brothers and a first cousin all distinguished themselves by able as well as courageous conduct. But there again is confusion. Madison folks call the river “Robinson”, while the government spells it Robertson. Mr. Yowell informs me that the government has finally agreed to the spelling ROBINSON and will use it hereafter.

We tried to find out how Quinque got its name. Some listed five mail stops after mail was dropped at Gordonsville which was stop number one. Others felt sure that the fact there were five buildings at the post office site was the reason. Who knows. There is often much uncertainty about dates. Scott places that of the Octonie grant at 1770 but the Deed Books in Orange say 1722.

I have been unconventional in the matter of notes. A new science work which I found interesting presented all the notes in parentheses. I found that so easy to use that I have used the same format. If reference is made to a volume or other source previously used I have given the surname of the author and page number. I hope my readers will find this as desirable as I did.

Many county historians give the genealogies of many prominent families. I decided not to do so when I found that only a few of the earliest families could help much and the type of research required to make a really complete list of families with their “trees” would cost many times more than it could be worth.

William Monroe’s will appears in the Appendix which also has many lists, each of them I think of value to some readers.

I have avoided crime stories although they are history. However, I do not believe that their rehearsal is of any value to anyone. I have tried to emphasize the good and let the rest alone.

I believe that all my readers know the principal facts about the causes of the Revolutionary War so I have completely omitted any mention of them. I have tried to emphasize the fact that the Civil War was one involving State Rights, not slavery. Greene County was
not one with a proportionately large number of slaves but most of its citizens were loyal to Virginia, “The Old Dominion”, and when the state seceded they loyally followed her.

In attempting to express his thanks to all who assisted him in the preparation of this little volume, the author is faced with an almost insuperable task. So many people have given him information which has helped him compile reference matter that it would take the entire book, or so it seems, to list them all. He has tried throughout the volume to credit the sources for the information concerning the article being prepared. All so listed are asked to consider that a thank you from him.

In some cases, a kind of general acknowledgment is given. This has reduced the number of single names acknowledged. If the reader feels he or she should have been thanked properly, please do not feel that it was a personal slight. I am grateful for every bit of information received. The community has been wonderfully cooperative.

The entire list of county officers and board members with their employees have helped many times.

Two state agencies, the Highway Commissioner and the Division for State Planning and Community Affairs, have given advice and permission to use their material.

Marye McMullan--the angel of mercy to all of Greene and surrounding counties. Wherever there was need, Marye was right there. As a hobby, she studied the history of her home county and was always ready to give of knowledge. She has left us but her memory remains green.

Mrs. Virginia Taylor, Mrs. Jane Fitzhugh and Mrs. Lelia Bickers have all helped in many ways, both in their own fields and by their general knowledge.

Commonwealth Attorney T.B.P. Davis first suggested that the author perform a task which was needed, had never been attempted and would be rather onerous. Then he loaned us much material which appears in both the history itself and the Appendix. All these have been most helpful. Richard Lamb loaned some records.

Mrs. Marcus Watson loaned the author much valuable source material.

Mrs. J. R. Whitlock had prepared a most excellent and sound history of the Stanardsville Methodist Church. Rev. H. G. Schroeder secured permission for its use. Rev. Schroeder also took us to see the Bingham Church as well as some people of interest.

Mrs. T.B.P. Davis had chaired a committee of the Greene County Educational Association which prepared a history of educational work in Greene County. She secured permission for us to use it with a few additions to bring it up to date.

We hope that we have covered most of the ones whom we wish to thank among the following:

Mr. Ellis Powell for every sort of help including transportation, and his own rich knowledge of the county. Mrs.
Powell did some typing for us.

Mrs. Lizzie Collins for intimate association with the entire region, and often chauffered the author.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Shelton who helped us find and photograph the "Octonian Rock".

Mrs. Ackline Dean told us of various incidents.

Mrs. S. C. Trimmer aided with documents and her recollections.

Mr. J. W. Dickey was a good photographer.

Mr. David Dickey did research work for us.

Mrs. J. W. Dickey provided transportation.

Rev. Max Green gave much information relative to the churches.

Judge R. N. Early was a veritable mine of information.

Linzy Beasley furnished much information from his own knowledge and family stories of the past.

Miss Violette Moyer repeatedly answered our questions about the past.

Mr. Claude L. Yowell, first principal of Greene County High School, now lives near Madison. He is probably largely responsible with T.B.P. Davis for the author undertaking this book. He is a real authority on the Aborigines.

Mr. George William Chapman, the son of John Chapman, the famous attorney, drew upon his memories to extend help.

Mrs. Mozelle Brown gave of her knowledge acquired by years of service as Superintendent of the Health Department.

Mrs. Annie Ewell as the widow of the first County Extension Agent provided valuable information.

Miss Senannie Beaty gave the writer interesting facts about the early economy of the county.

Mrs. Adelaide Garth has been an earnest researcher into the region's past and shared many interesting facts with the author.

Mr. F. J. Jarrell was born in Greene County and when he retired from active business, gave a great deal of time in studying not only the story of his own family but also many events of the county's history.

Mr. R. W. (Jock) Bickers as county clerk gave a great deal of help on many subjects.

Mrs. Bernice Shelton loaned the author Hardesty's work.

Mrs. A. L. Hord and Mrs. Anna Watson had considered writing the history of the county and Mrs. Hord, daughter of Dr. Jesse Ewell, both before and after her marriage, had prepared articles on the history of the county and made notes particularly on the history of the churches. Before her death, she gave all of them to Mrs. Watson who loaned it to the writer.

Mr. E. D. Jarman, county treasurer, had much valuable information about the corporations doing business in the county.

Mr. Burruss Hoffman is the director of the Wool Pool and enabled the author to secure information on the subject. Mrs. Hoffman is active in all social and church life and gave the writer the story of her family who have been in the county for
many years.

Mrs. Susan Hamilton, sister of Mrs. A. L. Hord, had newspaper clippings and a history of the Baptist Church in Ruckersville.

Mr. I. D. Davis was for years manager of the local bank and financial adviser to most of the community.

Mr. Ben Kent with the Daily Progress who gave us much material from various issues of the Progress.

Mrs. Ottie Harlowe and her daughter, Miss Maxine, gave freely the time and effort to help.

Dr. Halsey Dean, 7816 Birnam Wood Drive, McLean Hamlet, McLean, Virginia, for his splendid genealogy of the Dean family.

Mrs. Jean Allen who furnished the author with many valuable clippings and with Mrs. Evelyn Harlowe, gave us information relative to the Church of the Brethren.

The Rev. I. L. Bennett gave the material on Cedar Grove Church and congregation.

Mrs. Esther LaRose, Mrs. Mamie Runkle and Mr. William Decker told the story of the various clubs operating under the Extension Service.

Mrs. Carol Thompson gave freely of her knowledge on the Adventist Church and the Welfare Department.

Mr. and Mrs. David D. Morris who provided the car for Regina’s use.

Mr. Carl Eppard went out of his way to secure for the author information on his family’s history.

Prominent among the others who have given so freely are the following: Mrs. Daisy Maupin, Mr. Lindsay Bickers, Mr. Bobby Southard, Glenn Brill, Mrs. E. C. Gilbert, Mr. Henry McDaniel, Mrs. Kyle Woods, Mr. Cicero Samuels, Mr. C. B. Hamm, Dr. Warren Rucker, Misses Peggy and Pam Trimmer, Mr. Bill Elmore, Miss Regina Kay Morris, Mr. Rosser Lamb, Mrs. Wilbur Duff, Mrs. Warner Wood, Mrs. James Moyer, Mr. Herbert Silvette, Captain Nathaniel Ewell, Mrs. M. E. Beckman, editor of The Record, and Mr. Angus Green and the Green Publishing Company.

Publisher's note: Mr. Johnson died in Stanardsville, Virginia in 1970 prior to publication of his history in book form. It was published originally in serial form in The Greene County Record. The work was unfinished at time of his death but per his instructions the publisher, with others assisting, has assimilated and edited an additional quantity of notes and pictures to complete the wish he had to reproduce his project in booklet form.

History, it seems, is something that happens both constantly and rapidly. This book was written in 1968, and was accurate at that time; but every reader will be able to note many instances where eight years have rendered the author’s statements obsolete. However, there is no point in updating this material since another eight years would doubtless cause the updated section to look as old and strange as this section does in 1976!

—A.M.G.
Table of Contents

Chapter I
Chapter II
Chapter III
Chapter IV
Chapter V
Chapter VI
Chapter VII
Chapter VIII
Chapter IX
Chapter X
Chapter XI
Chapter XII
Chapter XIII
Chapter XIV
Chapter XV
Chapter XVI
Chapter XVII
Chapter XVIII
Chapter XIX
Chapter XX
Chapter XXI
Chapter XXII
Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C
Appendix D
Appendix E

Preface
What the Map Tells Us
Surface Features
Aborigines
The White Man Comes
Counties Appear
Social Life in the Last Century
The Blue Ridge School
William Monroe
Industry
Education
Greene County in the Revolution
Greene Becomes a County
Government
Special Agencies
In the Civil War
Shenandoah National Park
Churches
Aids in Modern Living
Beverley Grant
Here and There
Some Greene County Families
What is Ahead?
Errors and Additions
Economy Data
Will of William Monroe
Facsimile of the Original
Beverley Grant
Facsimile of Petition for New County and Signers' Names
Greene County
Chapter I
What the Map Tells Us

Probably the first feature to impress the viewer of the map of Greene County is the odd shape reminding him of the “horn” of Virginia which extends westward to encroach on the natural territory of both Kentucky and Tennessee. However, the horn of Greene County extends to the north rather than to the west. If the map is one of the surface features only the single most noticeable feature is the drainage system. This comprises waterways from tiny “runs” to sizeable rivers. It is easy to follow the watershed which divides the area into parts of two water systems. Those lying northerly from the watershed drain into the Rappahannock River and thence into Chesapeake Bay. Those to the south find their way ultimately into the James River and then into Chesapeake Bay.

The county is small in area as well as population. Seven counties have less acreage and three have less residents. Greene County has about 97,000 acres with about 14,000 of them in Shenandoah National Park. This takes in the real mountain country although the western Piedmont which slopes down gently toward the ocean has a good many hills and low mountains.

If we are looking at a relief map we see at once that while the Blue Ridge Mountains are, many of them, less in height than those farther west, they are rugged enough to produce scenery which is often grand as well as beautiful. Lakes are scarce although some of the “hollows”, as the little valleys between mountains are called, have pools. Not shown on the map is the large number of artificial lakes and ponds.

The plain surface maps show and the relief maps emphasize the lack of population centers. Stanardsville, the county seat, had 283 persons living within the corporation limits in 1960. It is the only incorporated community in the county. The relief map probably shows by its colors the large percentage of land still in forest. Some do not indicate trees by color but the forest land amounts to almost half the total acreage.

One of the first things which startles the eye of a stranger to the region is the fact that no railroad touches either Greene or Madison Counties. Both the Southern and C&O come near but are nowhere within our boundaries. This unfortunate fact has had in a number of ways adversely affected industrial development of the region. This will become evident as we study industry in Greene County.

The contours indicate a difference in elevation from 600 or less to over 3500 feet. The steep slopes and forest covered approaches indicate a good game country, especially birds and small animals such as rabbits and squirrels. Obviously it offers rich opportunities for summer sports. Fishing is often good in many small ponds and other artificial bodies of water. The many streams often yield good catches of trout and bass.

The map does not tell us anything about the availability of good agricultural soil. That is discussed in our next chapter. The many
Streams are, near their source, too small for logging but they have in the past provided power for small mills, both lumber and "grist," as flour mills are usually termed. They did enable the pioneer to obtain ground grains for food and lumber for his buildings. The clays found in the banks of many of these small streams provided brick for many of the early buildings. The deposits were not large enough to make their manufacture a financial success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stanardsville District</th>
<th>State Tax (18 cents on the $100)</th>
<th>County and District Levies</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property, &amp;c., Value</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds, &amp;c., 6c on $100 State, 20c on $100 District Roads</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$51</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs, 50¢ and $1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.41 Acres, Value</td>
<td>$209</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres, Value</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Acres, Value</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five per cent penalty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Received payment $1,000.75

Treasurer.
Chapter II
Surface Features

Our geographies told us that nature had taken many ages to form our oceans and continents, islands and lakes, mountains and plains. The story is a wonderful one but too long for much discussion here. We do know that at one time the entire earth was a molten mass which gradually cooled and in doing so shrank a little. This produced wrinkles like a baked apple. These wrinkles became mountains and the lowlands between them were to be valleys and plains. Cooling continued until we had winter as well as summer. Winds, rains, frosts and then ice tended to break up the igneous (fire produced) rocks into smaller pieces, then at last into sand and gravel. Earthquakes tore the earth into huge pieces, volcanos poured out molten rock or blew out volcanic ash. Oceans took over dry land and buried under terrific water pressure much of the previously disintegrated rock materials. This pressure aided often by the earth’s internal heat pressed the buried materials into new rocks. We call them metamorphic or sedimentary, according to their origin. So many other things have happened to the old earth of ours that often the best of geologists fail to explain them.

Occasionally we find parts of the original earth’s crust. More frequently we find very ancient rock but mixed with it are other formations which tell us that it hardened much later than those which appear to have been pressed into the cooling mass. Among the most ancient of these formations is the Cambrian in which are often found many valuable mineral deposits. One example is native or pure copper which is usually found in an ore mixed with oxygen, carbon, chlorine, sulphur or other common elements. These ores can be treated and the desired metal or mineral recovered.

Observant people who have traveled the “Skyline Drive” must have noticed the rocks which have been used to build the safety walls along the drive and on observation points. Most of these are of igneous origin and thus are part of a very early piece of the earth’s earliest crust. Things are often topsy-turvy. We find older formations under some considerably younger, in other places the order is reversed. But the most interesting feature of the Blue Ridge Mountains is the fact that the easterly side of them consists of very early rock formations, perhaps some of the very oldest parts of the early crust. On the other side we find much younger formations, largely sedimentary, while the eastern slope is almost entirely igneous in its nature. Farther west the igneous rocks again become dominant.

West of the Blue Ridge lies the Shenandoah Valley famed for the remarkable campaigns of General “Stonewall” Jackson. Movement between the easterly and westerly sides of the Blue Ridge is by means of the several passes or “gaps”. Of these, perhaps the most famous is “Swift Run Gap” in common use since the earliest settlers came this way. As we will see in the story of Colonel
Spotswood and the “Knights of the Golden Horseshoe”, the Indian guides used this gap for access to the Shenandoah Valley.

The soil beginning at the foot of the mountains is a clay. Much of the constituent material is red hematite, heavily loaded with iron. In its disintegration the soil took on a red or brownish red color. So the “red clays” of Virginia became famous. This is not a very productive soil of itself but it takes kindly to fertilizers. It is as a rule thin near the foot of the mountains where the rush of freshets, particularly those of the spring, carry the soil down to lower lands where the wash is much less. The word Piedmont Region, meaning foot of the mountain, is applied to most of the territory between the Blue Ridge and the coastal plains.

Greene County’s westerly boundary lies along or near the crest of the mountains. The Skyline Drive presents some of the most rugged scenery to be found in the eastern half of the United States. The country becomes more gently rolling as we proceed toward the east and southwest. The surface rarely becomes flat but is sufficiently level to permit working the land suitable for agriculture.

Of the large number of water courses found in Greene County, nearly all have their origin in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The boundary between Madison and Greene Counties consists chiefly of two rivers, the Conway, often called Middle River, and the Rapidan. The latter is well known to students of the War Between the States. The tiny streams called “Runs” are found everywhere and some of them have rather rich floodlands along their banks.

The traveler by air will see that Greene County still has plenty of timber and frequent farm buildings dot the scenery. As noted above the soil takes kindly to fertilizer and the fields which have been enriched show good results.

The student who wishes to follow the study of the geography and geology of Greene County is referred to a thesis entitled “GEOGRAPHY OF GREENE COUNTY, VIRGINIA” submitted by Robert Gordon Krebs, a candidate for the Master’s degree in the liberal arts college of the University of Virginia. A copy may be found in the Alderman Library. Hereinafter reference to that work will be indicated by the name, Krebs.

Populations of Greene and its neighboring counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>5,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle</td>
<td>25,800</td>
<td>37,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>9,331</td>
<td>8,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>10,067</td>
<td>13,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockingham</td>
<td>20,294</td>
<td>47,890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter III
Aborigines

When Columbus found America he believed that he had reached the Indies and continued in that belief as long as he lived. So he called the Red Men who inhabited the islands he visited "Indians" and that name persisted although it could more properly have been applied to the inhabitants of the huge sub-continent of Asia, called India. The first contacts with the seaboord Indians were peaceful and pleasant. The Indians taught the newcomers to raise corn and tobacco, to hunt in order to secure skins for garments and meat for the pots. But friction developed and Powhatan, chief of the tribe of that name, captured Captain John Smith and was about to have him killed when, according to his story, the lovely Pocahontas saved his life. Smith, soldier, explorer, adventurer and writer of no mean skill kept the story alive although it was probably exaggerated. Pocahontas later married John Rolfe, one of the colonists, and from that time there seems to have been no more serious trouble in lower Virginia between white men and red.

According to Reverend Philip Spaulding in his "History of St. George's Parish", Captain John Smith led an exploring party up the Rappahannock River as far as the falls. There they met a very grim and hostile party of natives who threatened their lives if they tried to go any farther. This group was entirely different from the Powhatans in appearance and language. It soon developed that they were Mannahoacks, members of the leading tribe of a loose confederacy of eight tribes. Later the colonists learned that there were these two rival groups each a very unstable union. The members united when danger threatened but the rest of the time each tribe went its own way. The Powhatans, taking the name of their leading tribe, occupied the coastal areas and used seafood. They were also gardeners cultivating corn, beans, pumpkins and other vegetables. They also had some fruit trees. The Mannahoacks too, taking the name of their strongest tribe, were forest people. They hunted and trapped, especially beaver. They were called "Beaver" folks and secured most of their food and clothing from the result of their forest activities. Each of these groups felt that they owned the areas in which they operated and when one or the other trespassed at all a bloody war was likely to ensue. Probably the encounter with the Mannahoacks mentioned above was brought about by the spirit of antagonism on their part toward anyone who appeared to be infringing on their private domain.

It is hard for the student to realize that nearly all the Indians in Virginia and adjoining colonies were members of the great Algonquin, often spelled Algonkin, nation. This was finally determined by a close study of the languages of the many tribes from the seaboord to the Mississippi and from the Great Lakes to the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers.

Mr. Thomas Jefferson in his "Notes on the Stage of Virginia"
names eight tribes, mostly small, as belonging to the forest Indians. Mr. Jefferson listed the Ontponies as living near the Rapidan River close to where Route 29 crosses it. This tribe later becomes of interest to us.

The Algonquins were a versatile people readily adapting themselves to a new life and its requirements. (Those interested can carry the study much farther by reading “Indians in the United States” by Clark Wissler, pages 1 to 36.)

Not quite so important to us perhaps but really influencing our history to a considerable extent were the Five Nations or Iroquois. They were on the whole forest people but two of their five tribes were good farmers. Both the Cayugas and Senecas, who lived around the lakes bearing their names, raised corn, beans, tobacco, squash, pumpkins with other gourds, as well as peaches, apples and berries. The Mohawks were the most warlike and lived along the Mohawk River on the eastern edge of the Iroquois settlements. The Onandagas and Oneidas lived north of the Mohawk River. The Senecas were the largest with the greatest number of warriors. According to Iroquois tradition, about the year 1500 a young chieftain named Hiawatha conceived the idea of a strong confederacy of the Five Nations. It was a splendid dream. All questions of any importance were to be decided at a meeting of representatives, chieftains, women and known warriors. They would fight under a united command. It was elaborate for the Indians who were intensely individualistic. Largely because of this arrangement the Iroquois became the terror of all the area east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River. Longfellow borrowed the name and some of the deeds of Hiawatha for one of his heroes but placed the scene in northern Michigan.

The Iroquois were destined to play an important part in our country’s history. An early encounter with the French around Lake Champlain followed later by the influence of William (later Sir William) Johnson kept them pro-English. He arrived in 1738 from Ireland to take charge of the many land interests of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren. He settled on the Mohawk River and soon had a great deal of influence with the Mohawks who liked his dealings with them. War shortly broke out between the English and the French who defeated Braddock near what is now Pittsburgh. But in the end the English were victorious. When the Revolution neared and war again seemed certain Sir William managed to keep the Five Nations aligned with the English.

The Iroquois had originally occupied territory along the Mississippi in what now constitutes Missouri and Arkansas. For some unknown reason they drifted east to settle near the southern Atlantic chiefly in what is now northern Georgia and the Carolinas. Again they decided to move, this time to the Finger Lakes Country. However, some of them stayed chiefly in North Carolina. The Cherokees remained in the “Great Smoky Mountain” area. The Tuscaroras stayed on in North Carolina. (Wissler, pages 109 to 128.) The local Indians did not like the Tuscaroras and finally the northern cousins brought them to settle south of the Mohawks. They now became the Six Nations. About 1730 (Scott, page 56) a
tribe of Saponi Indians made trouble for the settlers in Orange County and were put under peace bonds. They objected and begged their cousins, the Iroquois, to take them north. A delegation did so and also took with them the Tupelos, another small relative of the Iroquois. Without any doubt these Saponis were the same people whom Mr. Jefferson called the Ontponies, because they lived in the same place at the same time. (Orange County Court Records.)

The Saponies were settled in what came to be termed “Pony Hollow”. They were under the guardianship of the Cayugas as were the Tupelos who were placed on the Ithaca Delta on the southern tip of Cayuga Lake. It may be of interest to the reader to know that when Sullivan crushed the Indians who were helping the British in 1778 one command went down Pony Hollow finding the hot campfire ashes but no Indians. The troops crossed the area where the writer lived for over 12 years--1 1/2 miles from the former Saponi camp.

About 1770 King George III directed Sir William Johnson to prepare an “inventory” of the Iroquois peoples living in the Finger Lake Region. Apparently the results were never published but some 13 years ago the writer found and read the handwritten report in the rare book section of the Cornell Public Library in Ithaca, New York. It was very factual without comment. The Saponis and Tupelos were each estimated as having about 100 members including women and children. Thus a part of Greene County was linked with the Finger Lakes. The Revolutionary War saw their crops destroyed and their buildings burned. From a proud eminence the Iroquois were scattered and largely disappeared. Some of them led by the Mohawk chieftain, Joseph Brant, went to Ontario and many of their descendants still live in the town of Brantford and its immediate vicinity. Others live in upper New York State where they are in great demand as “high steel” men. (Edmund Wilson’s “Apologies to the Iroquois” tells the story.)

In studying the many prehistoric and older historic races we often come across the word “culture”. This is a bit hard to define. It includes the customs, food, life activities, clothing and relations toward other people of the same locale. For our purposes we consider the oldest culture to be the paleolithic or Rough Stone Age. The people of this period in their development used rough stones, which fitted their hands fairly well, as weapons of offense and defense. They lived in crude caves and ate their food raw, at least in the earlier stages. Their language is believed to have been rudimentary with comparatively few words. Men of this culture usually knew about fire and were able to use it and later began to cook their food, a first. They heated water by dropping hot stones into a crude container of some sort.

Gradually, perhaps at the behest of some intellectual superior, they improved their weapons. In time the bow and arrow were developed which caused a refinement in making arrows so that they would carry farther and straighter. They worked in flint and a light colored quartz ranging in size from tiny heads used to kill birds to large and heavy spearheads. Gradually these better workers brought their people into the neolithic or New Stone Age.
But there were other standards, chiefly in cookery and containers. Pottery was the first development in the way of containers. The women learned to bake the river bank clay into a firm, strong utensil. The first were very crude but as the women took more and more pride in their work they produced finer utensils. Some of them were highly glazed, others were burned with patterns of one kind or another. Then came basketware. Perhaps the two developed together. The birch and other bark baskets were so constructed that they could be used to hold water to be heated. The hot ashes were used to bake bread using crushed and sifted meal from corn or other seeds. Cookery was on the way.

Probably as the women worked to produce artistic (to them at least) decorations for pottery and baskets they also began to decorate the inner sides of skins of deer and buffalo, where they were found, to make robes for themselves and the warriors.

Mr. Claude L. Yowell of Madison, Virginia, has a most remarkable collection of arrow and spearheads as well as larger artifacts. They were largely collected from his own farm which is across the highway from the Old Hebron Lutheran Church of which we will find more in a later chapter. While the author is no judge, he believes that there is a close resemblance to the artifacts in Mr. Yowell's collection and many of those found in recent years at Lakes Lamoka and Waneta which are small bodies of water between Seneca and Keuka of the Finger Lakes group. The study of these sites is recent and the carbon 14 tests have been given placing their age at from 7000 to 8000 years. (This test depends on the fact that the radiation decreases regularly so given carbon from the old fires, it is possible to approximate the age of any of that type of remains.)

A very interesting and intriguing sidelight is furnished by two reports of Mr. Yowell of the finding of Folsom culture artifacts. One was a fragment of an axe head turned out by an excavating contractor some 40 years ago. The other was the finding of a spearhead near the Yowell home. As this culture was practiced by the Indians near Folsom, New Mexico, about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago it would seem certain that some ancient travelers—perhaps of some now deceased tribe—passed this way during the intervening years. (The full account of the Lamoka-Waneta finds with related material is found in The Archeology of New York State - William A. Ritchie. If this little work is published the author will place his copy in the Aldermann or Stanardsville Library.)

Thus they advanced to the so-called Monacan culture which prevailed among those living along the Atlantic seaboard. We call them pagans but they had a strong belief in their own deities to whom they ascribed the power to give them crops and victories over their enemies.

The Indians are often depicted as “The Noble Red Men” but more frequently as despicable, untrustworthy and perfidious, never keeping their promises. However, if we try to find a single treaty which the white men made with the Indians and kept with them, we will spend years looking. Of late, they have become much more Americanized, giving gallant service as volunteers in our wars, and many of them have shown marked ability in securing higher
education. Some western Indians are still on the verge of starvation much of the time but our congressmen are awaking to the fact that they are entitled to a bigger and better opportunity to keep their native qualities and at the same time to add to our national strength. Their great heroes are gone but the same solidity of character often remains.

KNOw All men by these presents, That we

B. P. Hamblet and

Neal McMillan

are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the sum of Twelve Thousand Dolors to the payment whereof, well and truly to be made to the said Commonwealth of Virginia, we bind ourselves and each of us, and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That if the said B. P. Hamblet and Neal McMillan do make this day qualified as the Executor of John B. Hamblet, Deceased, before the County Court of Greene County.

shall faithfully discharge the duties of his said office then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

B. P. Hamblet
Neal McMillan

17
Chapter IV
The White Man Comes

After Columbus there were frequent visits to what is now called Latin America. The Spanish began to colonize at an early date although most of these men were adventurers of some sort or else criminals looking for a safe haven from the law. Florida was visited by Ponce de Leon and St. Augustine was founded in the latter part of the 16th century. But the main portion of North America was not an object for either exploration or settlement until some years later. Sir Walter Raleigh was the patron of an attempt to found a real colony at Roanoke but that disappeared entirely while the ships of the expedition were gone to bring more settlers and supplies.

Near the close of 1606 an expedition under the auspices of the London Company left for the new world. It landed in the spring at an island near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The people at once using sailcloth, bark and saplings made a temporary church so that they could in traditional manner give thanks to God for their preservation from the storms of the Atlantic. The natural leader of such an expedition was Captain John Smith who had been active in many parts of the world as soldier and sometimes statesman. He made a small but effective army out of the men in the new colony which, in honor of King James I of England, was called James Towne, later to be abridged to Jamestown.

At first the Indians were friendly and showed the newcomers how to plant and raise corn and some vegetables. As most of the colonists were from the cities this information was invaluable. Powhatan, who was chief of the tribe of that name, became angered at some of the things done by careless members of the settlement and when Smith was doing some exploring he was captured and sentenced to death. The story of that and his release on the supplication of Pocahontas, the chief’s daughter, has often been told. Many historians doubt the accuracy of the tale but in any event she was a visitor at the little community and apparently well received until some untoward incident angered the Indians and more friction developed. Smith led a little force up the Rappahannock River to the “falls” where he met a war party of Mannahoacks and retired gracefully. But John Rolfe became acquainted with Pocahontas, wooed and won her. That marriage seems to have renewed the tolerance, at least, of Powhatan and his people.

Following the settlement of Jamestown other pioneers followed and the sea coast was gradually dotted with small communities of white men. In 1692 London book sellers were offering for sale an English translation of what purported to be the journal of John Lederer, a German physician formerly in the service of King James II of England. At his suggestion but after his abdication Lederer led a small party of several Indian guides and a white assistant to explore the western part of Virginia. This journey took place in the spring of 1669. In the “journal” Lederer described the approach to the Blue
Ridge Mountains, from several interpretations the place has been located variously by different students. Lederer makes many geographical errors no matter which route is accepted as the one used. For example he tells of viewing the Atlantic Ocean from one of the slopes of the mountain range—obviously an impossibility. Some scholars have dubbed the work a rank forgery while others accept much of the story as authentic. At least traders with the Indians had penetrated the wilds of what is now the western part of Virginia and stories appear to have been circulated concerning the mountains to the west and even of the “great Valley of Virginia”.

The accounts of the discovery that iron could be recovered from the hematites of what is now Orange County have been lost but we know that early in the 18th century, Colonel Spotswood, then lieutenant and later acting governor of the colony, had started both mining and smelting iron from the rocks and sands of the region. Help was hard to secure and without trained men he could not hope to make the venture a success. The iron was present in deposits said to be similar to those successfully worked today in parts of Alabama. The story of the recruitment and arrival of German artisans is none too clear. But it would appear that in 1714, 12 families of Germans were persuaded by one, Baron de Graffenreid, an agent of Colonel Spotswood, to come to Virginia (Scott, chapter 10) and work in his mine and smelter. There were 42 persons in this colony, the first to settle in what is now Orange County. They left in 1721 probably because of trouble with Spotswood who seems to have had many misunderstandings with his various employees. The first group were all members of the German Reformed Church, related closely to the Presbyterian churches in other parts of Europe. Most of them secured land from the government of Virginia near what is now Warrenton. Land was given them under the “Head Right Act” which gave land to family heads who proved their immigration. (W. W. Scott, History of Orange County, pages 80 to 84 presents a good condensed account of these various colonies.)

In 1717 a second group of 20 families setting out for some point in Pennsylvania were driven by a storm far off course. They lacked money to pay for their passage and contacted Governor Spotswood who paid their bills and transported them to Germanna as the little settlement was then called. Another group, coming in 1719, with 40 families joined their fellow countrymen. The second and third colonists in Germanna were Lutherans and built the famous Hebron Lutheran Church in what is now Madison County. This church is still in use and is the oldest Lutheran Church in this country. (Yowell - History of Madison County, page 84.)

These several groups seem to have been in constant trouble with Governor Spotswood whom they accused of breaking his agreements with them. Most of them had left by 1725 or 26. But the community itself persisted until very recent times although nothing is left of it today. While not strictly a part of the history of Greene County the account of Colonel William Byrd’s trip to the mines in Germanna made in 1732 is of interest to the local readers because of the description of the country at that time. (It is quoted in full by Scott beginning on page 83 of his History of Orange County.) All
this is of interest to Greene County citizens only because Germanna was the starting place of the famous trip of the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" which paved the way for the real exploration of our part of the Blue Ridge Region.

A journal of this famous trip was kept by John Fontaine, a lieutenant of the governor and the chief organizer of the troop of some 50 Englishmen and their Indian guides. They became the first Englishmen to cross into the great Shenandoah Valley. The journal provides a vivid picture of the trip which was supposed to be one of real discovery and exploration but it was far from providing what could be termed hardship or adventure. The Journal recites that the party left Germanna about noon on August 29, 1716. They traveled by easy stages. Apparently they crossed the Rapidan near Germanna and proceeded to seek the Blue Ridge Mountains, then more a subject for rumor and vague reports than of actual knowledge. They crossed, according to Scott as well as other writers, at Swift Run Gap. The trip was completed by September 15 when John Fontaine reached Williamsburg on his return.

This trip really begins the history of Greene County inasmuch as it was the basis for future exploration and following that of settlements. The fact that the crossing was undoubtedly at Swift Run Gap proves that the latter part of the journey was made through what is now Greene County and there are a number of indications that most of U.S. Route 33 can properly be termed the Spotswood Trail.

Because of the use of the name, "Golden Horseshoe", it may be mentioned rather fully. The Journal relates that at a stopping place, the Governor presented each member of his party with a small horseshoe made of, or at least plated with, gold. Some were set with jewels. Two others were said to have been presented to dignitaries of Indian nations at a later time. Of course knighthood could be conferred only by royalty or field commanders for deeds of valor. But the term was popularly used in connection with this journey. Strangely enough none of these horseshoes have been found by researchers. Many doubt some of the story for this reason. However, John Fontaine seems to have been an honest and capable reporter so it may be, as suggested by J. F. Jarrell of Loveland, Colorado who has done much research on Greene County and its history, that only a few horseshoes were given to the leaders of the expedition. This might explain the fact that none have been found. It is, however, a delightful story of a man whose personality has provided a basis for much study and conjecture. Certainly he entertained lavishly and was a genuine leader in providing sinews for the growing colony. But he seems to have often quarreled with those who worked for him. Of passing interest is the tradition that the place where the horseshoes were given was some three miles west of Stanardsville.

The way was now known and open to men who would venture much for the love of gain or pure excitement and would soon make the Blue Ridge country a real part of the growing colony of Virginia. Fur traders never became as important as in the Great Lakes country but doubtless some hardy souls visited the Indians of the Cumberland and Tennessee Valleys and bargained with them,
obtaining furs for liquor, iron wares or gun powder. The Indians of this region were known, as already noted among other tribes, for the beaver skins they obtained by hunting or trapping. Traders were soon followed by settlers, but that is another chapter.

AMNESTY OATH.

Office of Proost Marshal,

Charlottesville, Va., May 12th, 1865.

I, Nathaniel B. Parson, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and as far as not repealed, modified or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all Proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and as far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court—So Help me God.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me

this 12th day of May 1865.

Provost Marshal.
Chapter V

Counties Appear

The little settlement at Jamestown grew apace. Men, single or with families, began to rush to the New World which they believed to "flow with milk and honey". Captain John Smith was not only a fine soldier and leader but also an excellent publicist and stories, for example that of Pocahontas, lost nothing in his telling. Some came as well-to-do "middle class" Englishmen with some capital. Others were indentured servants. There were escaped prisoners and deserting soldiers to swell the ranks of newcomers. But they were all English with English customs and fixed ideas. True, other nationalities began to appear but in smaller numbers and without the traditions of the Anglo-Saxons. It is important to keep this fact in mind if we are to understand many of the various events which influenced the thinking and actions of later years.

Men settled along the James and Charles Rivers. The latter soon was named the York River. There was a strong tendency to name the rivers and other geographical features and later the settlements themselves for the English ruling family. James Stuart King of Scotland became James I of England on the death of Elizabeth in 1603. He was followed by Charles I who was deposed and executed by the forces of Oliver Cromwell and the Presbyterian or "Long" Parliament. Then came Charles II, after a long Puritan regime. Charles Stuart was succeeded by James II in 1683. James was unpopular, largely on religious grounds (he was a Roman Catholic while by this time England was chiefly either Anglican, the official Church of England, or Puritan). He abdicated in 1688. William and Mary then ruled with the country enjoying peace and prosperity. They were popular and they, as well as Mary's sister Anne who followed them, had many places and features named in their honor. For example in this region, there are the North and South Anna Rivers, the Rapidan (Rapid-Anne), Rivanna and Fluvanna Rivers named for Queen Anne.

The rivers furnished the only highways in those days. There were no roads and every planter had his own docks, warehouses, shops, etc., all necessary to the management of a large plantation. Consequently, much of the incoming population settled along the rivers and their tributaries. Even the small "runs" were often capable of carrying flat boats with merchandise. The York and James Rivers were naturally the first to be selected for settlement. As a result, local government became of importance. It was no longer feasible to refer everything to the colonial capital.

In the "old country" the "shire" furnished local government. The chief executive officer was the sheriff (shire reeve). Courts of local jurisdiction sat at fairly regular intervals. Coroners (crowners) were important officials representing the Crown. So it was natural that shires should be adopted as the first local government under the Commonwealth itself. A somewhat similar organization had long
been operating in France under the name of "county", the bailiwick of a count. The use of this name both in England under some circumstances and in the New World had its origin in mystery to most students of political history. John Fisk, who was a prominent student of government and history, lecturer, and writer in the closing years of the 19th century, had, in a work on civil government widely used at that time as a high school textbook but now entirely out of print, so far as we can learn, had a very scholarly discussion of this problem in semantics. In any event the colonists kept their sheriff but forsook the shire for the newer name, county. Louisiana had the parish - still does as a matter of fact. Maryland had the "hundred" as a unit smaller than the county. Usually some form of town, township or borough was used. Virginia, however, instituted a system of magisterial districts which brought government closer to the people. They then established voting precincts. This is important to remember when local governments are studied.

Two counties were established in 1634, James City and Charles River (shortly to be called York County). Each county comprised territory along one of the two rivers, James and York. In 1645 Northumberland County was created to include all the territory along the lower Rappahannock River. Growth continued at a rapid pace and New Kent was created from parts of the former James City and York counties. The balance of York and Northumberland were placed in Lancaster County.

Little was known of the geography of the various areas in the west. In those days all land was assumed to be the property of the king who could issue grants at will. This he did but frequently the boundaries were conflicting and this led to much trouble in later years.

King and Queen County was established in 1691 largely from New Kent. These counties were as a rule established by the governor and his council and later confirmed by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth. The population continued to grow and the distance from many of the homes to the courthouse where all official business was transacted and records kept proved irksome and time-consuming to many of the residents. This resulted in the continuous creation of new counties. Spotsylvania in 1721 comprised all of what are now Orange, Culpeper, Madison and Greene Counties, still a large territory. Again the student finds the descriptions and boundaries difficult to keep clear in his mind. Rivers were often the chief boundary lines being visible and fixed landmarks. But there was still room for misunderstanding. The Conway (Middle River) is a tributary of the Rapidan, itself a tributary of the Rappahannock. The junction of the two latter rivers was often termed the "Forks (Folks) of the Rappahannock".

Orange County was created in 1734, further reducing the area to be served by local government agencies. So far as Greene is concerned, this was the last change until it was separated from Orange in 1838.
Chapter VI
Social Life in the Last Century

Man is essentially gregarious and must have some social life if he is to be happy. Our pioneer ancestors were no exception to this rule. In Greene County first settlers were widely scattered and so each man’s relations with his neighbors were not very extensive. But many of the pioneer settlers preferred that way of life. They wanted to forget the past and to live their own lives. This was possible in a mountain country especially when there were so many “hollows” offering opportunities for some farming and at the same time a great degree of privacy. The “bees” which usually enabled the early settler to “raise” a barn or house were not practicable in early Greene County because settlers were widely scattered. But more moved in and by the beginning of the 19th century all we can depend on are the memories of our older citizens and the stories they got from their grandparents. They appear to have been able to enjoy much the same type of social life as that of other pioneers.

The women held their “quilting bees” when a dozen or more of them assembled at the home of one of them and spent an entire day in “piecing” and “quilting” the quilts or rugs which were so essential to the comfort of those early settlers in homes which at night often became very cold as the fires in the fireplaces burned low.

The men had their husking and threshing bees as the corn and wheat were ready to harvest. At first they used cradles to cut the small grains and big hooked knives to cut the corn. The threshing machines were crude and often powered by horses. Later steam engines became common and then in modern times came the gasoline engines which propelled them on the road and powered them in their work.

Both in threshing and in corn husking time the men “changed work” moving from farm to farm with the threshing equipment. With corn it was different. The ears of corn must be separated from the stalks and then husked. When the latter time came once more the farmer called on his neighbors to help and returned the favor with his own aid when needed.

The women played a most important part in these affairs because the wives and sometimes the daughters came and helped in preparing huge meals for the hungry men. Each woman prepared the dish which she felt she made best and turned in to help the hostess, as it were, to feed and care for the ravenous men who had been at work since 7 or often 6 that morning. Oldtimers remember with a touch of nostalgia coming from the barn dirty with the dust in the grain, hungry and hot from the fall sun and elbowing his way to a wash basin and bar of soap and then the rough toweling which followed. His fingers usually served as a comb and he was ready to seek a place at one of the long tables usually set outdoors under the shade of a great oak or maple tree. No holds were barred and it was a case of every man for himself.

24
Then back to work for the men and women cleared away. Sometimes the work lasted until dark and a late supper was served by those wonderful cooks. Usually this job was finished in the afternoon or there was enough left to occupy part of the next morning. If the work was completed, the machine and men moved on to the next place where they were to help.

Corn husking was different. The weather was usually cold by that time and hands suffered as they stripped the husks from each ear. Many used a wooden "finger" to help save the hands but in any case it was hard work. Again the women helped the hostess feed the workers. These were times for visiting and discussing all the subjects dear to a woman's heart.

The young folks, while rather closely chaperoned, were not forgotten. "Parties" were common when large groups assembled at one of the homes and enjoyed a real banquet and then had games. Sometimes they danced but more frequently the games were old fashioned but popular ones such as "We have a pig in our parlor", "London Bridge", "East Side, West Side," and "Farmer in the Dell". There were usually singing games but while all this would seem tame to the blase generation of today, it was considered fun by the participants and many a romance began with a squeeze of the hand in a musical game. Dances were also popular where the Fundamentalist Churches did not dominate the religious life of the people.

Music schools and spelling bees were other events which pleased almost everyone. But probably the biggest event of the social year was the last day of school. Again there was a spread as the mothers brought dishes of every conceivable type of food. The teacher usually had some local dignitary to present the awards for the year and to make a little speech-- the older pupils felt that the shorter it was the better it was.

Church, too, was a source of social life. Sometimes the congregation would be largely composed of men and women, children too in many cases, who had walked miles to be at the service. These were rather infrequent and often irregular but word would be passed about and soon would reach the outer limits of the pastoral influence. Both before and after the service people would gather on the church grounds to eat their noon meal and visit. While kept in close watch, the young folks inevitably paired off and often began a life of romance under these rather limited circumstances. As the author told an old friend who was commiserating him on the narrow life in those days, "we cultivated our field intensively while you covered yours extensively."

Folks are human and want company and will usually be able to find it under any circumstances. The beauty of it all was that none of us in those days felt underprivileged or poor. We were much on a level. None had much but all had some.

Most of my readers have looked and smiled at the terrible collars worn by the young men in those days. They were often black so as not to show stain from the heat or perhaps rain, but some were white. They reached close to the ears and almost choked the wearer. The sharply pointed shoes were another feature of the best dressed
beaus of that time. Funny? Yes, perhaps no more so than the hair styles of today.

"Revival meetings" sometimes called "protracted meetings" offered special opportunities for youth to meet. As a rule the several back pews were occupied by young folks who often had met by an earlier appointment. Church suppers were a popular event with young and old. Once more the women displayed their skill in cookery and served wonderful meals or "spreads" as they were often called. While sermons were often full of "hell fire and damnation" the youngsters felt that final punishment was a long way off and they did not worry about it.

"Visiting" was another means of enjoyment in those days. People would get up at dawn and hastily dress and walk nine miles to visit the home of a friend or relative. They would stay all day, returning home when darkness began to fall. Another form of visiting was chiefly on the part of the women folk, old and young. It would consist of a week, perhaps two, when the guest or guests would be royally entertained. Parties would be given, perhaps a dance with imported music although this was generally furnished by two or three slaves who often had extraordinary ability in this field. One lady told the writer about a party which resulted in one of her relatives often driving over 10 miles to woo a young lady whom he had met on such an occasion. The author smiled to himself as he remembered that he often drove over 20 miles in the middle of the week as well as every Sunday to court the girl he later married. Times really have not changed human nature although our mores have changed, whether or not for the better none will ever know.

In any event our progenitors in those days did not live cramped or narrow lives. They used what they had to the best of their ability.

On March 2, 1974 Greene County adopted its first zoning ordinance, which was massively revised on March 1, 1975, following the adoption of a comprehensive plan.

In 1976 Sheriff Harold T. Chapman is assisted by Chief Deputy J. Roger Jenkins, full-time Deputies Leroy Breeden and J. T. Knight, and part-time Deputies W. D. Deane and Earl Clarence Shifflett. There are dispatchers on duty 24 hours a day to handle all police, rescue squad, and fire emergencies. In 1975 the Board of Supervisors authorized the installation of a three digit (911) emergency telephone system to be manned by the dispatchers.

The members of The Board of Supervisors in 1976 are James A. Henshaw, Chairman, Ronald W. Lamm, and C. C. Kurtz.
Chapter VII

The Blue Ridge School

As probably the best known and largest industry in Greene County the Blue Ridge School is entitled to a chapter by itself in any history of either county or region.

It is hard to realize the mountaineers’ problems at the beginning of the 20th century. Roads were trails over and around big boulders which were frequently moved by freshets, either in the spring or following heavy rains in the summer months. Autos were still a matter of jest among the average folks and they could not have used them had they been available to residents of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The mountain homes were frequently of logs, sometimes with additions of sawed lumber. They were generally overcrowded and the families found it difficult to live on the very small cash income they received each year. Usually there was a cow or so and perhaps a pig. The bread earner got out some logs each winter and hemlock or white oak furnished tan bark for those who made leather. Before the blight, chestnut gathering and processing was a major source of income. Of course some desultory labor found jobs occasionally. While mission churches had sprung up here and there and often schools accompanied them, they did not - in fact could not - reach more than a few of the mountain children.

Many of the Episcopal clergy had spoken about the problem for a good many years but little had been done for the average youngster of the hills.

Finally the Reverend George P. Mayo, D.D. of the Virginia Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, did something about it - with the help and encouragement of scores of other men and women who shared his vision of a school which would enable the young folks of the mountains to study and use what they had learned. He envisioned a vocational school which would also teach the traditional subjects.

A site was found which was not too far removed from the center of population in that area and from the outside world. It was a place of rare beauty as would have been the case of almost any location in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Some fairly level ground, a little stream rushing by the campus and the eternal mountains teaching day and night of the wonders of God and His hope for man.

The story of the building of the first structure has been told beautifully by Bessie Thornton Turner in her “Chronicle of Blue Ridge School”. Miss Turner was present at the opening of Neve Hall, in fact she helped clean it up for occupancy. For a time it served all the needs of the small enrollment.

There were both day and boarding students enrolled. It was co-educational from the beginning. Slowly yet surely the school grew. In 1918, just nine years after Neve Hall was completed, came their first commencement with two girl graduates. By this time the Blue Ridge School had become known throughout the United States
and many Episcopal Women's Auxiliaries sent annually a collection of wearable clothing and sometimes money contributions. The courts often sent children from broken homes, of doubtful parentage or with worse than no parents to the school. Some counties helped by paying some money toward the support of their committed children but if they did not, Dr. Mayo raised the money for them. By 1952 there had been 212 graduates of whom 147 were girls.

When the school was first organized, it was called The Blue Ridge Industrial School because of its vocational nature but that was altered four years later by eliminating the word “Industrial”. This seemed to add to its stature as an academic institution.

When the Blue Ridge School was established the “hollows” in the region were often the homes of “wanted persons”, unlettered mountain folk, near feebleminded individuals and other types who added nothing to the economy of the region. In fact, they often detracted from it. By 1950 there had been a complete change. Of course, many of the more aggressive members of those families had moved away and others had gone a long way toward being self-supporting and valuable members of society. When the writer asked a long-time resident how he accounted for that, he replied, “In my opinion the credit should go entirely to the Blue Ridge and Mission schools established chiefly at first by the Episcopal Church but some by other denominations.”

After a few moments he continued, “I believe that this applies to all the Piedmont region although we should note that the schools in less rugged areas were usually founded by other Protestant denominations.” Anyway there is enough credit for everyone. The men and women who served these schools were themselves utterly dedicated to the task of aiding the mountaineers. One such missionary said to me one day, “Man, do you realize that these folks are often descended from the best families in the British Isles? They show what environment can and does do to all of us.”

By mid-century conditions had changed. Roads were passable and often good; automobiles had become common; school buses brought the children to school in all kinds of weather; education was free; textbooks were usually available at a low price if used ones were acceptable. The old Blue Ridge School was no longer needed. When the state provided by law for those children who had been in the past committed to the school and others of its kind, the board of trustees decided to close the famous old institutions despite all the traditions behind it. There were many moist eyes as the keys were turned in the locks and “Finis” was apparently written on its gates.

In 1962 the property was secured by a church-sponsored group although with no financial backing by the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. It is incorporated with a board of trustees which is self-perpetuating. The year of 1962-63 was a question mark all the time. Survival—yes or no? But the school weathered the storms and closed the year $20,000 in debt. However, brighter days were immediately ahead. Mr. Hatcher Williams became headmaster in mid-year and by the end of the second semester a brighter view prevailed. The new Blue Ridge School had an aim to achieve in the
educational field. Mr. Williams had a vision. It was of a school which would concern itself with the problems of the boy who was about average in ability. He would be a typical solid, sane boy with real American visions of work to be done; of problems to be solved; of a place in the world for each of them.

In discussing the new type of school, Mr. Williams remarked, "The brilliant boy will, with just a little help, take care of himself. The government is spending millions on the boy who is sub-normal. No one seemed to care about the boy with an I.Q. of about 100 or a little more. The Blue Ridge School is dedicated to his assistance. We have a number of boys who have qualified for admission to the best of colleges and universities. Without some aid and encouragement, they would not have accomplished that."

The campus has seen over $1,500,000 spent in new buildings and improvements on old ones. Just now (1968) a campaign for some $350,000 for new buildings is under way with over $200,000 already pledged or paid in all without the help of the professional fund raisers.

The old Blue Ridge School made a great place for itself in the lives of many boys and girls. The new school has already proved its right to a claim of being a worthy successor to the former one with its own place in our educational system.

TOLL TICKET

SWIFT RUN TELEPHONE COMPANY.

No. 

Date Oct. 6-1978

Ordered by: 

Stanton

Of: 

R. A. Mahnke

With: 

Reawards

Began: M Operator No. 

Ended: M Tolls, $ 

Messenger, $ 

Minute Total, $ 

65
Chapter VIII
William Monroe

As already, in Chapter V, we have noted the desire of English rulers and mercantile interests to secure a strong and industrious type of citizen for Virginia. The result was the use of "indentured servants". The Commonwealth of Virginia adopted the plan of the "head right" of 50 free acres of his own choosing so long as it was not covered by a previous grant. To secure this the indentured person must prove in court that his indebtedness had been settled in full and that he was born in the British Isles. This brought to Virginia many of her best citizens.

In 1747 one William Monroe of Orange County appeared, proved his case and received the "head right". We next hear of him in 1752 when he leased for life 100 acres from George Taylor, possibly a son of Col. James Taylor of the famed Spotswood expedition in 1716. The 100 acres is described as being against the great mountains and on the Buffalo or "Camp Run" of the waters finally emptying into James River. The latter is probably now known as Parker's Branch. This is the nearest stream to the Mountains and also a tributary of the James River.

We know that William Monroe was entirely illiterate as he signed his will with his Mark. (The will appears in the appendix to this volume.)

We can picture the man working hard each day in summer's sun or winter's storms. He is frugal and industrious but doubtless envied the lot of better educated men whom he felt owed their easier conditions of life to their better education. His heart ached for the youngsters of poor settlers who could not afford schooling for their children. As he toiled he vowed to do something for them. When his will was signed on March 30, 1767, and "proved" in 1769, his vision appeared to the rest of the world.

The document acknowledged his faith in Almighty God and His mercy to repentant sinners. He gave to his "daughter-in-law" a Negro slave and her increase forever. He doubtless did not use the word "daughter-in-law" as we do. He apparently did not have a son so it must have been step-daughter or perhaps adopted daughter.

He left all the balance of his estate, real and personal, to his wife, Frances, after his lawful debts were paid. He provided that it remain intact so long as she lived. When she died it was to be sold at public auction by his executors (wish we could learn more about William Bell and William Cox who served by his direction as his executors). If his daughter-in-law predeceased his wife, the Negro slave left to her was to be a part of his estate and sold with the rest. The money was to be carefully invested and to remain intact. The interest was to be used to pay for the education of poor children, his executors selecting those whom they felt most in need. Any unused interest not disposed of by his executors, who after court action was completed and the will was in operation, saw fit to add it to the principal each year.
The will was vague in many ways and might not have been sustained had any action been taken against it. But none was. However, the executors did not spend any money from it until legislative action in 1811 set up a commission for placing it in operation. In 1802 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth had expropriated the “glebe” lands of the Episcopal Churches and the moneys declared for educational purposes. The legislation in 1811 provided that the moneys from the glebe lands should be placed with those from the Monroe estate and handled as one fund.

(It perhaps should be explained that these glebe lands were given the various Episcopal parishes in lieu of taxes to which the Mother Church in England was entitled. Their expropriation was deemed necessary to completely separate Church and State.)

A very high grade commission including future governor Barbour was appointed and at last the dream of the illiterate William Monroe was made a reality. Unfortunately all the records have been lost. Therefore we do not know what part of the approximately $30,000 in the new fund came from Monroe’s estate. We cannot even estimate the number of poor children whose tuition and other expenses were met by its means. Attempts to determine this figure have at least established the fact that a large number of children were given several years of education by its use. Not all of the money available was used and as a result the fund grew steadily. Our knowledge of all this depends entirely on verbal reports made from time to time. The generosity demonstrated by William Monroe led to establishment of the Orange County Humane Society, and subsequently the Greene County Humane Society, which exists today.

In 1838 Greene County was formed by taking a part of Orange County by an act of the General Assembly. The new county asked for a share of the fund. Legal action followed and again the man who had, buoyed by his dream, toiled so laboriously was denied his purpose. At length a compromise was reached and Greene County was awarded some $10,300 or about one-third of the total amount in the hands of the commission. In the meantime the Civil War had begun. Greene had been paid about $5000. The Orange County Commission had some money in bank stocks. Other securities were sold and the money invested in Confederate bonds. At the end of the war the bank stock and the bonds were worthless. Greene was paid the balance due her, probably from the general taxes. The new county received about $5,000 additional money which included some $1000 in interest.

By this time roads were better, schools were free and there appeared to be no further use for the fund as originally intended so Greene County lengthened its school year by about a month using those moneys to meet the cost. Much later the interest was used toward the cost of a new school plant. The elementary and high schools of Greene County, located on the edge of the Town of Stanardsville, were enlarged and the Monroe money interest was applied toward the interest on the money borrowed to meet the cost. The new elementary and high school were named in honor of the philanthropist, the William Monroe Elementary and High Schools. The principal of Greene’s share is now larger than ever.
before. We are told that the balance of Orange County’s share of the money was used toward the cost of the old high school located near the Court House.

As Mr. Scott so clearly puts it in his history, it is indeed a disgrace that such a benefactor should lie in an unmarked grave. Some years ago a sum of money was raised by popular subscription to place a monument or at least a marker at his grave but it was unable to tell which of those in the Chapman Cemetery was his final resting place. Doubtless Attorney John Chapman did know but he died without imparting the information to anyone else. Still if William Monroe, who never could sign his name, were to return and hear the story of what his gift has already done, we think he would feel well repaid even if many did not seem to appreciate his faith and understanding together with his apparent love for the young folks of his time.

The lease referred to, together with the location of the cemetery where his remains are known to have been laid, definitely prove that the original 50 acres on which he is presumed to have lived lay in Greene County. So it is hoped that again Greene will make an attempt to at least erect a shaft stating that William Monroe lies in an unmarked grave near the memorial shaft.

Note—Several people have asked how Mr. Monroe could earn that much money in a short lifetime. They forget that his principal had been at interest from sometime early in the 1770’s until 1811, which at compound interest at 5% would almost have tripled in that time. So it is easy to understand the total to which his bequest had amounted by that time. Then of course the returns from the sale of the glebe lands had been added to the capital.

Greene County Public Schools, 1976

All of the schools have cafeteria service for the students. The county has a fleet of 23 buses which are used to transport the students.

Each school has a certified librarian, a music program is provided to students at all levels. There is a Title IV-C guitar and piano lab program which provides instruction in those areas for students in grades 4-7. There are two speech pathologists who work in all the schools on a regular basis. The school psychologists and psychologists from Blue Ridge Mental Health work with all the schools. A Special Education program for educable mentally retarded students is provided for primary through senior high level. Resource teachers work with learning disabled and emotionally disturbed students. A vocational education program is being initiated as a part of the high school curriculum.
Chapter IX
Industry

The Piedmont Region, which includes Greene County, did not present the usual opportunities for the pioneer which he found in the average new country. The timber was present and usually still is. But the terrain makes it uneconomic to get the logs to a mill. There are streams which in spring of the year would carry small rafts of logs but they are hard to reach. Once the ground was cleared it would produce only fair crops without fertilizing freely. Grass would grow well and so furnished pasture for both beef and dairy cattle. Poultry furnished an opportunity for a good business but gradually the very large producers were able to force out the smaller operators. Grains were produced in some areas, but tobacco in the early days was the best crop. Gradually, however, it disappeared, except for the use of the farmer for himself and his family. The same was true of cotton and flax, from which linen is made. Hemp was also an experiment and some could be used for domestic purposes. But none of these except tobacco was a real success. Even that presented problems. Slave labor was used to dispose of the tobacco worms, as well as to set out the plants by hand. It needed special attention while curing and usually in large production, special buildings or “sheds” were constructed for the process. In addition the cost of getting the cured tobacco to market was a serious factor in making the cost high in competition with the growers of the seaboard.

The author asked several people about the reasons for the tobacco industry ceasing to be profitable. Miss Senannie Beatty said she thought it was in large part due to the lack of commercial fertilizer. “Many growers,” she said, “had their slaves collect leaves from the forests and spread them in the barnyards where during the winter the horses and cattle mixed them with the natural fertilizer. But there was not enough of this mixture to take care of the need.” Mrs. Annie Ewell said that she thought that the problem of transportation was the biggest factor. No railroads were immediately available and the cured product had to be taken to Gordonsville by horse or ox teams. Some growers rolled it in large tuns or hogsheads down “rawling roads” to the railroad. Paulus Powell said that it was a change in habit on the part of users. “My granddaddy raised large crops of dark leaf but suddenly tastes changed and folks preferred light burley which we could not raise on our sod.” Perhaps an even bigger and more potent factor was the loss of the Virginia market to the English dealers when the Union ships closed the sea lanes to the ships of the Confederacy.

Greene County was a fairly good grain country but again the cost of marketing it was a serious problem. Some of the raisers decided to send it to market as a liquid. Alcoholic beverages of various kinds, chiefly whiskey, were readily distilled. It was perfectly legal until the Federal Government placed a high price on a license and a high tax on the products. Most farmers ceased their private
operations but a few are said to have continued it.

Sheep raising is popular in parts of the region. They furnish a good grade of wool and a wool pool formed by farmers of the region has helped stabilize prices.

Some brick has been manufactured from the clays of the river banks but the deposits are not sufficiently concentrated to warrant extensive use.

For a number of years many hoped to see copper mines producing native or pure copper in remunerative amounts. Two such projects were worked in Greene County. High Top and Sims mines gave some promise but while the copper is there, it is not in workable deposits. For well over 150 years little has been done with them. Several construction companies are operating in the county, giving employment to both skilled and semi-skilled labor. But the chief employment is offered by manufacturers and other employers in nearby Charlottesville.

It appears today (1968) that the big future for local employment lies in the field of recreation, particularly in summer sports and occupations. Efforts are being made to give impetus to the development of various plans.
Chapter X
Education

The following story of education in Greene County was prepared by a special committee of the Greene County Education Association chaired by Mrs. T.B.P. Davis, long a teacher in the system. It was based on original source material and the author asked and received permission to use it with a few amendments to bring it to date and to fit into the general plan of this history.

Interest in public education was manifested as early as 1767 as evidenced by the will of William Monroe, whose story appears in a separate chapter, who is buried in Greene County and for whom our county high school is named.

Prior to the adoption of a system of public education in the County, children were educated in “old field” schools or by tutors privately employed in the home. The “pater families” of a large brood of school-age youngsters would employ a tutor or governess to conduct classes in his home; the children of neighbors might be accepted in the family group as scholars. Perhaps several families would join forces to construct a simple log school in a field no longer profitable for cultivation; hence the name, “old field” school. The rude structure would contain only one room heated by a fireplace. Pupils sat on hewn benches and worked their sums on slates; the curriculum was moulded along classical lines. No standards for teacher certification were imposed on the aspiring pedagogue; he had only to please his employer to continue in his position. Since tuition fees were small and boarding inexpensive, an education could be obtained for a small outlay of money.

Mission schools in the mountain sections were conducted under the auspices of the different church denominations as told in the chapter on the Blue Ridge School.

Public schools were established in Virginia in 1870 and the first direct evidence of a public school in Greene County was from a deed dated 1871. In this deed a plot of 2.2 acres was deeded to George W. Graves and other school trustees of the Ruckersville School District. This plot was located on the north side of Fredericksburg or Orange Road adjoining the land of Dr. Purton. According to a School Census of 1880, which is in the School Board Office, one district (name not given) listed 163 white males and 186 white females.

A teacher’s register for 1890 lists the following among its rules.

“In every school shall be taught orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography. The Board of Education has added the teaching of the history of Virginia and the United States. The higher branches must not be taught except by the authority of the district board, and under no circumstances must they be allowed to interfere with regular and efficient instruction in the elementary grades...”

During this same year, the school in which Lutie B. White was
teacher had 29 pupils on the roll, with the average age of pupils being 11.9 years. School was taught for five months or 98 days. Miss White received $17 per month. If funds from the Greene County Humane Society, the Monroe fund interest, were available, the session would be extended with the teacher receiving five cents per pupil each day, not to exceed $1 per day.

In most cases the schools were of log construction, contained one room 18 by 20 feet, and had two windows. School property included one stove, one axe, one bucket and one dipper.

In 1900, School No. 9, in Stanardsville District, listed two maps in "not very good condition" and in 1905, the same school listed two maps as "tolerable".

Pupils who attended school during this early period all recall Mr. and Mrs. George W. Shelton who taught both private and public schools in Stanardsville for many years. In 1906 there were eleven white schools in the county. One of these schools is still standing on the Jesse Jarrell property (1963) which was then known as the Paige property. This school was closed about 1907 and a new school was opened on the property on which is now the Hunter Tanner residence. According to Mrs. Laura Castelman Moyers, who began her teaching career in this school in 1913 and faithfully served the schools in Greene County from then until her retirement in 1962, this school had seven grades, and some high school subjects were taught by Mrs. Moyers and Mr. Green, the principal. The school was not "accredited", it was called a "certified" school. The first commencement exercises from the school were held in the County Court House in 1915.

In September of 1922, the administration of the schools was reorganized. The District School Boards were replaced by a County School Board composed of a representative from the Monroe, Stanardsville, and Ruckersville districts. One of the first projects of this Board was the building of a combined high school and elementary school in Stanardsville. Thus in 1925, William Monroe High School was established. Mr. Claude Yowell of Madison served as the first principal. Mrs. Moyers, who was one of the first three high school teachers stated: "The school was not accredited the first year since it did not have an enrollment of 50 pupils. Mr. Yowell visited homes, wrote letters, and exerted a great deal of effort to increase the high school enrollment to 50 pupils. He was successful and the school was accredited in 1926 and has so remained." Apparently there was a great deal of community interest in this school, for parents raised the money for library books and for digging the well at the school. Students and parents provided the labor and money for wiring the school for electricity. Teachers also lent a helping hand, for in 1930 after a severe storm had demolished the roof, the teachers provided a new roof.

In 1932 there were 19 white schools in the county. Names of the schools were: Big Ben, Carpenter, Cedar Mere, Celt, Dawsonville, Dyke, Early's Grove, Geer, Haneytown, High Top, Kinkerhook, Lydia, McMullen, Wm. Monroe High, Ridge, Ruckersville, Swift Run, Victory Hill, and Mutton Hollow.

Very little professional training was required for teachers in the
early days of the public schools. Apparently some of the teachers only completed the grades, since it was found that in some of the early registers individuals listed as students, several years later would be teaching. Upon the successful completion of examinations and certain stipulations as to experience, First, Second, and Third Grade Certificates were issued. For the month of February 1906, the eleven teachers in the county were paid a salary of $18 to $45. In 1937-38, the pay scale was as follows:

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<tr>
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<td>Normal Professional Certificate, High School</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<td>Normal Professional Certificate, Grades</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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In 1937, the school board ordered that no married female teachers, who had not previously taught in the system, be employed.

In 1947-48, the average salary for elementary teachers was $1,343.15 while for the high school teacher, the average salary was $1,629.78.

There was no need for physical education in the curriculum of the early schools, for most of the students obtained plenty of exercise just coming to school. Many of them walked many miles to school each day, while some fortunate few rode horseback. In 1926-27, the first school bus, which was a pick-up truck, went from Ruckersville to Wm. Monroe High School. An interesting resolution of the school board in 1931 stated that only grade children were to be provided with transportation to the nearest school. High school students could receive free transportation as long as room was available. The first school buses were operated under private contracts. This is quite a contrast to the sixteen buses (1968) which serve the county today.

According to the annual reports, the total school enrollment in 1936-37 was 1,082, with an average daily attendance of 762. The high school enrollment was 137. There were 10 one-room schools, three two-teacher schools, and one three-teacher school. Gradually, the one-teacher schools were closed.

Since World War II many factors have contributed to the increased interest in education in the State of Virginia as well as to that in Greene County. By 1954, there were only two one-teacher schools: Wyatt’s Mountain and High Top. A new elementary school was built at Stanardsville and the other elementary schools were at Ruckersville and Dyke. By 1960, there were three consolidated elementary schools and one high school. In March of 1963, the new, modern Wm. Monroe High School was dedicated. The enrollment in high school was 284 (elementary, 670) for the school year of 1962-63. Our schools now have staffs of 39 qualified teachers, who are interested in their professional status. All of them are members of the Greene County Education Association, the Virginia Education Association, and approximately 76% are members of the National Education Association.

An interested community, a sagacious School Board, a dedicated superintendent, and a professional teaching staff all have one goal
for the future—to provide the best possible education for the citizens of tomorrow.

The enrollment of the county school system as of 1967-68 was, High School, 299 and in the elementary schools, 817. School spirit is high. Morale appears excellent.

The teachers' salary scale (1968-69) for non Master's degree teachers but professionally trained, starts at $5500 and reaches $7300 with 14 years' experience. Those with Master's degree start at $6000 and rise to $8000 in 14 years.

The school is administered by a superintendent of schools, W. H. Wetsel (1968), and a high school principal, J. R. Breeden (1968).

Greene County schools were entirely integrated in September of 1966. Compulsory attendance was restored the following August.

The district business is handled by a board of education consisting of three members appointed by another board as related in the chapter on government. The board elects its own officers. Currently Mrs. S. C. Trimmer is chairman, Whitelaw Snow, vice-chairman and Carl F. Eppard completes the membership. A clerk, Mrs. Virginia Taylor, has served for 11 years, a service second only to the 21 years tenure of C. T. Garth as clerk.

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From the Ledger of R. B. Penningtons, January 1st., 1886
Chapter XI
Greene County in the Revolution

In 1776, Greene County had no legal existence as a separate unit of government. It was still a part of Orange County. However, as we will see in the history of our churches, enough people lived near Ruckersville in 1725 to bring about the construction of a temporary church in the form of the “Mountain Chapel” of the Episcopal Church. We have only a few names, chief among them that of Rucker, so must speculate on the number who may have enlisted in that war.

We do, however, know the character of the pioneers who settled in the Piedmont area and along the rivers rising in the Blue Ridge Mountains. They were individualists of the first water. Frequently they preferred to settle arguments with rifle or heavy knife carried in a sheath ready for duty at any moment. They were hunters and trappers although many did some farming “on the side” as it were. They gathered at the little country store, the church when it had services held as a rule by itinerant preachers. Any sort of fight appealed to them and their weapons were always ready. They had heard a lot about that German King of England and had little use for the Hanoverian dynasty. They were delighted when they heard “about the Boston Tea Party and incensed at the account of the Boston Massacre”. Rebellion was in the air and the history of that period is one of revolt, whether in Europe, Africa or the colonies of England, even against organized churches.

It seems safe to assume that there were men in the region now in Greene County who responded to the call for volunteers. We do know that two Davises, father Thomas and son Isaac, were captains in the Continental Army. One of the Shelton’s names appears in Hardesty as being an officer in one of the armies under General Washington. The Davis family has furnished men for all of our wars. But war itself never reached this area.

Our neighbor, Albemarle, was not so fortunate and Charlottesville knew the presence of an army of British soldiers and German mercenaries. Many of those we call Hessians were actually Germans from several Rhineland Provinces (references later) taken prisoner and along with some British who had fallen into colonial hands, were sent to various hastily constructed camps. One of these was built northerly from Charlottesville on what is now known as “Hessian Hills”. As the Continental army was itself scantily supplied with food and clothing, the local people were often charged with the duty of feeding and clothing these prisoners. This placed a heavy burden on top of the demands of the colonial troops and there is plenty evidence in the files of the Albemarle Historical Society to show that the escape of many of these prisoners was linked, if not actually aided, by local interests. The low hills and valleys of the Piedmont furnished excellent hiding places but many, according to tradition, felt that a change in name would be an added insurance
against recognition and recapture.

Again tradition says that the name of Shifflett was adopted because it somewhat resembled the name common among the residents of the Rhineland. The name Shifflett has a strong English flavor and while it is not listed in the Oxford Dictionary of English Surnames, some of the people bearing that name today trace their ancestry and the name directly to England. In 1967, Mrs. M. Shiflett, a widow living in Charlottesville who I am informed is now deceased, told me that her husband’s grandfather, name of Shifflett, came to Virginia in the Civil War days, after several moves in the “Valley”. Her husband, also deceased, finally moved to Charlottesville where he died. Others of the same name claim English ancestry.

The following paragraph about Stephan Popp is included here because it is the best account, now available to us, of the problems of the “Hessian” prisoners of war captured by the colonial troops in the Revolutionary War.

The lives of the men brought from Europe to fight King George’s battles for him and subsequently taken prisoner were filled with hardships. The colonists had little for their own men to eat and wear so that often local communities were called upon to feed these prisoners. Stephan Popp was inducted on January 27, 1777 and shortly thereafter he began the trip to America. He kept a diary and while he does not give his birthplace, his name and the language in which his diary was kept show him to belong to one of the central German provinces. He mentions Bayreuth as his home. This city was held by the Burgrave of Nuremberg. He was promoted until at the time of the surrender at Yorktown, he was a lieutenant. He was captured and spent several years in prison camps. His diary gives the inquiring student a fairly accurate picture of the lot of these men speaking a foreign tongue, fighting a people whom he neither knew nor understood. It is now available among the rare books in the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia.

There are a number of other family names appearing from time to time in our rather slender annals but a chapter on our leading families either in time, numbers, or activities will appear later in the book.

A study of such documents as the deed to the ground on which the Bingham Methodist Church was built show that by the last quarter of the eighteenth century many people had come to settle here and some without doubt joined the Continental Army.

In 1976 the Constitutional Officers of Greene County are:
Chapter XII

Greene Becomes a County

The most important crop in early Virginia was tobacco which often took the place of currency. Cotton was second in importance. Both were hard on the soil and adequate fertilizer was not available. So fields soon became "old". So planters were often increasing their land holdings and newcomers were also demanding land. Population grew rapidly and shortly the old county territories were too large to adequately provide needed services. Therefore new counties were organized with much less territory in each case. Much of north-central Virginia was located in Spotsylvania. Orange County was created in 1734. Culpeper came next in 1748, then Madison in 1798. (Yowell's History of Madison County, page 25.) This left what is now Greene County lying in a somewhat fishhook shape along the Piedmont area and also with no roads available except those leading first to the Stanardsville area.

As a result settlers having legal business were compelled to make a trip which often, especially in bad weather or roads, consumed at least a day and often much more. Their business done they had to retrace their steps in reaching the county seat, Orange. It meant at least three days in time and a considerable expense. They often looked with longing at Stanardsville, wishing it were their county seat. Agitation began and petitions were circulated asking that a new county be created, to be named for General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary fame. The petitions cited the reasons—their wish to be nearer the county seat and setting forth the desired boundaries.

The politicos of Orange County did not like it and claimed that it was inspired by men who hoped to secure county jobs or otherwise profit by the change. The map was too much and Senator Thomas Davis was able to guide the measure through the General Assembly during its 1838 session.

Robert Stanard gave the new county a block of land for a courthouse site. It was completed that year. County officers were chosen and the new county was in business.

Since 1838 the county has had a number of discouraging situations to face. There has been a strange tendency for people not to record their land deeds or other similar papers. When the state took over the land desired for the Shenandoah National Park, it was found that many of the people to be dispossessed had no deeds at all or else they had neglected to record them. When the War Between the States began, the county officials in Greene County secured a vault which was deemed both fire and burglar proof. However, either Union soldiers or rowdies looking for "nice clean fun" broke into the vault and destroyed everything they could find. A few owners had their deeds and could present them again for recording but many had lost theirs. This situation has been a troublesome one for the county to face.

The Blue Ridge Mountains and the hollows have provided places...
for illicit transactions. This situation has been largely taken care of by state and federal officers.

In 1938 the county celebrated its centennial and among other things dedicated a new office building on their block with the courthouse. Today even that building is too small and offices are provided for some officials and the county court in outside buildings.

A number of years ago (date uncertain) the state condemned the jail and sheriff's residence. Greene County then arranged to have their prisoners boarded with Albemarle County until their cases were disposed of. This arrangement is said to save the county money both in current maintenance and building costs.

The history of Greene County is one of slow but steady progress.

From the Ledger of R. B. Penningtons, January 1st., 1886
Chapter XIII
Government

Greene County, like all Virginia counties, is governed by a board of supervisors. It consists of one member from each magisterial district of which there are three, Monroe, Stanardsville and Ruckersville. These were approximately of the same size and population when formed. Monroe District was named for William Monroe whose story has a chapter by itself. The other two are named for their largest community. They are elected for a term of four years. They elect their chairman from one of their own number. The board fixes the county budget and tax rate, allows claims against the county according to their judgment. Many matters of public interest are also settled by the board of supervisors. It is possible by petition to call an election to affirm or reject some decisions of the board.

The board of education consists of three members named by the school electoral board which in turn is appointed by the circuit judge. It passes on many of the school problems and fixes the budget, appoints teachers and otherwise decides school policies. The county superintendent is shared with Madison County. The latter gets three days of each week with Greene having the other two.

The county officers are elected for terms of four years, except for the clerk and county judge whose tenure are for eight years. They are elected from names presented either by each of the two parties or by means of petitions signed by qualified voters. The clerk is also the clerk of the circuit court, keeps vital statistics, records deeds, mortgages, other legal documents and keeps the county books, issuing approved warrants, and otherwise maintaining a complete system of county books. The treasurer collects the taxes and pays the bills already approved by the board of supervisors. The county attorney is the county’s legal officer, giving opinions on legal questions and representing the county in lawsuits. The sheriff maintains law and order and is assisted by two state policemen, one is located in Ruckersville and the other in Stanardsville. There are also county deputy sheriffs. All arrested persons who are waiting arraignment or trial are kept in the Albemarle County jail by arrangement with that county. The highway work is done by a subdistrict of the State Highway Department which includes both Albemarle and Greene Counties.

Several state agencies are represented in the county. The health department has a registered nurse and a clerk. It has three members appointed by the circuit judge. The director has four counties under his supervision.

The welfare department has a director appointed by the local welfare board and approved by the state department. It has clerks. Greene and Madison have jointly a sanitation officer. The same applies to the forestry service.
Prominent agencies of the county government are the County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent. They are appointed by the agency of VPI and approved by the supervisors and have tremendous influence in the development of the rural section of the county.

Another important agency so far as rural Greene County is concerned is the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. These latter three will receive special treatment later on.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is the successor of the triple A of depression days. It is administered by an office manager who is named by the county committee of three members which in turn is chosen by community committees elected by the participating farmers. It has many activities which will be discussed in a separate chapter.
Chapter XIV
Special Agencies

In addition to the regular or constitutional county officers there are five partially supported by federal funds. The first to be established is the Home Demonstration Agency. Then came the department of agriculture and the present Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service which was an outgrowth of the old Triple A’s of depression days. In fact it was probably to secure the Triple A’s that the County Agent’s office was first established in Greene County as the federal requirements made such a department necessary as its operating head. Welfare and health departments were most recent adoptions.

Because of their importance to the economy of Greene County they are treated more fully than might seem necessary to many readers.

Home Demonstration Agency
(Material furnished by Mrs. Esther LaRose)

The Home Demonstration Bureau was the first special agency to be utilized in Greene County although there had been a county health officer prior to that time. In 1923 the work of the Bureau had been well publicized through the young Farm Bureau which was already catching up with the Grange as spokesman for the field of agriculture. In that year and for several before that, farmers were becoming interested in the work of an expert in agriculture and their wives were asking for an aid in planning their homes, wardrobes and meals.

In 1923, Miss L. Bane Hayter introduced Home Economics activities in Greene County. At that time, there were no organizations in the county through which adequate publicity could be secured.

That year the 4-H Club was stressed. These included sewing, poultry breeding, canning and garden projects. The various mission churches were utilized in contacting the boys and girls and securing their interest. An adult advisory council was organized which would aid in planning the future work of the new agency among adults as well as youths. The first year greatest stress was laid on poultry culling probably because of the growing industry in Greene County. Demonstrations by experts were held and full explanations given to those interested.

An Anti-Rat campaign was staged and enducements offered to school pupils who brought in rats’ tails to prove their death at the hands of anyone who took the trouble to assist in ridding the county of these pests. One thousand tails were presented by the young people. A Food Unit Course was also instituted for the women folk.

During Miss Hayter’s three year stay in Greene County, the 4-H Clubs increased greatly both in members and in number of clubs in operation. The women folks were also introduced to a number of new activities.

Miss Hayter was followed in 1926 by Miss Agnes Maupin who served the field well through 1934. During her time, 4-H Club work was extended greatly and Home Demonstration work grew apace. It
was during this time that the Federal Government initiated the Triple “A” program which brought about the employment of an agent to deal with the problems of farmers. This was required by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency. Five agents served the County between Miss Maupin’s time and the advent of Mrs. Esther N. LaRose. Of these, two are still living in the County, Miss Virginia Swink who is now Mrs. Ellis Powell and Mrs. Jane Harris who teaches Home Economics in the William Monroe High School.

Mrs. LaRose came in 1965 and is still active in promoting all phases of Home Demonstration work. She works with Mr. W. N. Decker, who is Extension Agent for Agriculture. In this capacity she aids in all the extension work in Greene County which is not usually considered as prime agricultural territory.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
(Data furnished by Mrs. Jane Fitzhugh)

This Agency acting under the general supervision of the National Department of Agriculture renders a large number of services to and for the practical farmers of Greene. The Federal supervision is a function of Virginia Polytechnic Institute which is the “Land Grant College” of Virginia. The local Committee which is in charge of its activities is chosen by the chairman of the community committees consisting of three regular and two alternate members who are in turn elected by the farmers of each magisterial district of which Greene has three, Ruckersville, Monroe and Stanardsville. The elected committee members choose their own officers. This committee has duties in keeping the farmers of their districts acquainted with the various grants made for crop control, seed and fertilizer as well as other related farm activities. Probably their most important duty is the selection of an office manager, who in turn employs such other help as may be necessary and in general handles all the work of the office. Mrs. Jane H. Fitzhugh has occupied this post for the past 25 years (1967).

Agriculture Conservation Plan

This important operation is intended to secure an interest in soil and water conservation by offering to share the cost with the owner of the property. In 1967, Greene County farmers and landowners were paid through ASCS a total of $21,614 to aid in conservation practices.

Conservation Reserve

This program paid Greene County farmers in 1967 a total of $8,492 for withdrawing farm cropland from production and putting in it conservation crops, largely grass and legumes. This encourages small wildlife as well as increasing soil productivity.

Feed Grain Program

In 1967 seventy-seven Greene County farmers out of 291 listed took part in this program and received a total of $22,574. This was paid under several heads. Chief among them were for diversion payments, price support and price support loans.
Wheat Program

Greene County is not in a wheat growing region. However, farmers of the county received a total of $2,569 for participating in the program. Of 183 farmers having wheat allotments, only ten elected to take part in the program.

Wool Incentive Program

Greene farmers received a total of $646 in price support for shorn wool and unshorn lambs. Sheep men in four counties, including Greene, conduct a sale of wool annually. Any sales below the support price are evened by Federal grants. Mr. Burrus Hoffman is the Greene representative on the board. If the dog problem could be handled, there seems no reason why Greene should not be a good sheep area. The brief history of the Wool Pool which follows was prepared by Mr. Hess and is definitely correct.

Brief History of Orange Area Wool Pool
C. Ted Carroll, Orange County Agent

The Orange Wool Pool was originally organized in late 1960. The marketing agency before that time known as the United Wool Growers Association met with financial failures, leaving farmers without a marketing tool for selling their wool. It became necessary to assist wool producers in setting up a new system of wool marketing in a very short period of time. The Extension Service was called upon for assistance in setting up marketing outlets. The County Agents in the various counties were instrumental in organizing the wool pool. Orange, Madison, Greene and Louisa counties were in the original Orange Area Wool Pool and officers were elected in the Association. Each county was allowed to have representation on the Board of Directors. In 1967, the pool was enlarged to include the counties of Culpeper, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Albemarle. All of these counties now sell their wool to one buyer who bids on the pool as a unit. The association is financially stable and under excellent leadership. Mr. E. W. Hess of Barboursville Farm is currently serving as president. In 1968, the pool marketed a total of 64,083 pounds of wool.

County Extension Agent
(The material here presented was furnished by W. M. Decker, present county agent and Mrs. Annie Ewell whose deceased husband was the first Agent for Greene County)

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 provided money for the work of a County Agent for Agriculture on a matching basis that is by statute and slate. Many counties managed to carry on the work with private assistance for their share of the funds required. Individuals, corporations, farm organizations and such groups as Chambers of Commerce sponsored the work.

Then in 1934, which was in the heart of the “Great
Depression”, the Act providing for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, usually termed the “Triple A’s”, was passed providing that the local operation of new law was to be handled by the Extension Agent. Inasmuch as Greene decided at that time to join the ranks of counties utilizing the provision for much new aid for farmers with an entirely democratic organization, we may assume that the requirements of the new Act brought about the adoption of the Extension system in Greene.

The first agent was Jesse Ewell, Jr., a scion of a family residing in our county for a long period of time. He found a hard task before him having to “sell” the program to a group, probably the most individualistic of all vocational societies. But he worked at it with perseverance and when the Rural Electric amendment was adopted by Congress, he found himself burdened with the responsibility for serving as salesman for another new program. He was aided at times by an assistant. He was succeeded by Gogardus Werth in 1949 when he retired because of ill health. Mr. Ewell’s service to the county would be hard to exaggerate as he did a remarkable piece of work as a pioneer leader.

Mr. Werth resigned in 19 March, 1952 to be succeeded by William M. Decker who is still much on the job in Greene where his ability as an organizer has been of paramount value to the office and the county.

Mr. Decker remarks in his discussion of agriculture and Greene County. “One often hears such remarks as ‘There is no farming in Greene any more’ or ‘Farming is no longer important’”. Obviously as the farms of the country continue to support the industrial population and produce a surplus to aid in feeding the rest of the world, it must be of supreme importance to the entire country as well as the men who do the producing. It is true that the number engaged in the industry is steadily reduced. Machinery is taking their place. Fewer acres are doing vastly more work than ever before. Agriculture has changed but its importance has increased rather than diminished. In Greene it has moved from a crop to a livestock type of industry. In other words its orientation has changed. A good example of the work of the agency today is seen in the great diversification of interests developed by the Extension Service. From strict attention to such matters as crop rotation, plowing to meet terrain problems and fertilizers, it now also deals with community water supply, outdoor recreation, enterprises, rural housing, landscaping, county planning, the problems of persons displaced by the mechanization of arms, civil defense and many others.

Another indication of the change in orientation is found in the nature of 4-H Club programs which now include such projects as electricity, entomology, photography, career exploration, automotive care and maintenance, and many others.

In 1967 approximately 200 boys and the same number of girls took part in the 4-H program but only a comparatively few were interested in purely farm projects. Our economy is changing and the Extension work is changing with it to prepare the rural youths for tomorrow’s problem.
The Welfare Agency
(Data by Mrs. Carol Thompson and Mrs. Mozelle Brown)

Five federal programs are administered by the welfare department. They consist of Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to Permanently and Totally Disabled Persons, Old Age Assistance, and the Aid to the Blind. In addition the county department administers the state program for the protection of children. This is perhaps the most important of all its programs. The child, whether for lack of money, time by those in control, or lack of love, represent the future citizens who will control our society. The local welfare agency checks fully on homes, adoptions, investigates complaints of neglect or positive mishandling of children, when called on investigates youths charged with crimes or misdemeanors or perhaps subject to parole or suspended sentences.

To aid in this work another person was added last year (1968) to the payroll. This was to carry the added load of the Food Commodity Program. The administration of this program is of great importance in view of the general attitude recently adopted toward "relief" projects.

In the case of the federal programs there has been a small but definite decline in the number of cases involved in the several classifications.

In Greene County, the work is handled by a superintendent and three assistants, one of whom handles the Food Commodity program.

It is clear that the Agency is of great help to many people who are not recipients of public aid.

County Health Agency
(Data furnished by Mrs. Barbara Southard and Mrs. Helen Gibbs)

The county health program is administered by two local workers, the clerk and the health nurse. In addition there is a director who handles four counties and a sanitation officer who deals with both Greene and Madison counties.

This department was first established in 1950. But in 1954 it was abolished as an economy move by the board of supervisors. This action led to so much dissatisfaction that the following year it was revived. At times an assistant to the Public Health Nurse has been employed on a part-time basis. The nurse is on call day and night, in good weather and bad, in heat or cold when a physician indicates the need.

The current budget is $20,349.23. The county's share is $4,120.95. The almost violent reaction of Greene County citizens to the abolition of the agency in 1955 showed clearly the value placed on it and its work in the eyes of Greene County people.

Mrs. Barbara E. Southard is clerk and office manager of the local agency. Mrs. Helen C. Gibbs is the Public Health Nurse. Mr. William A. Rudasill is the sanitary engineer giving part time to Greene and the balance to Madison County. All work under the supervision of the director who is R. S. LeGarde, M.D.
Highway Control

The highway work in the county is handled from the district office in Charlottesville. No local department exists.

County Prisoners

For a number of years the county has used the facilities of Charlottesville, paying it for the board of prisoners from Greene County.

Courts

The Circuit Court in Greene County is presided over by the judge of the 8th Judicial District. The court meets eight times in regular session and in special sessions when called by the presiding judge.

The county court handles many minor cases such as highway offenses, disturbing the peace and similar cases. It meets each Wednesday morning.

Greene County Public Schools, 1976

The school system of Greene County consists of one high school, one elementary school and one primary school.

The William Monroe High School houses grades 8-12. The enrollment is approximately 635. The faculty consists of 40 teachers, a principal, and an assistant principal, two guidance counselors, a library aide and three secretaries.

The William Monroe Elementary School houses grades 4-7. The enrollment is approximately 595 students. The faculty includes 22 teachers, a principal, an assistant principal, a guidance counselor, resource teacher in reading, math and learning disabilities. A physical education teacher, a general music teacher, a library assistant, five teacher aides, and a secretary.

The Greene County Primary School houses grades K-3. The enrollment is approximately 500 students, the faculty consists of 20 teachers, a general music teacher, a resource teacher in learning disabilities, a principal, eleven teacher aides and two secretaries.
Chapter XV
In The Civil War

When Virginia decided to secede from the Union, many people believed that the issue was slavery. It is true that this had aggravated the friction between the North and South but the real issue was a matter of states rights. The southern states under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson (except when he consummated the Louisiana Purchase) had felt that the states had priority over the federal government in many fields which the "loose Constructionists" believed to be the function of the central government. There had been many occasions when the two theories clashed. Andrew Jackson before and during his presidency had occasion several times to make his position clear. Like many other southern communities, Greene County probably had little thought for ideologies but they were loyal to Virginia with her glorious history. "The Old Dominion" was calling and her men hastened to answer the call. It is hard to give an exact list of the men from Greene County who served because a goodly number were mustered in from Madison and Albemarle counties, but the list given by Hardesty's Encyclopaedia (property of Mrs. H. Shelton) with possibly a few additions, to be presented at the end of this chapter.

There was some Union sentiment in the northern part of Greene County as in neighboring Rockingham County. Some of the men decided on a rebellion of their own and moved into Hensley's Hollow, which is in Rockingham, but approached from Greene. They proceeded to fortify themselves and added to their number, escaped prisoners and renegades of various types. No one paid them any attention until they began raiding the farms in the region in order to secure food. Then General Thomas ("Stonewall") Jackson detached two companies and under the command of Captain Lynn (sometimes spelled LYN) McMullan, a Greene County son, they wiped out the troublemakers (Hardesty gives the story). There were three families who served the Confederacy as Captains. Two spelled the name McMullan and the third, although a cousin, spelled his with an "en".

Greene County also provided the Confederate States with a number of very efficient officers. In addition to the McMullans, we copy the list given by Mrs. A. L. Hord of other well-known officers: Col. James Offield, Capt. Finks Clatterton, Capt. R. D. Malone, the three McMullens and scores of privates and non-commissioned officers who make the core of every good army.

While no real engagements took place on Greene County soil, one of the dramatic episodes of the war took place near Stanardsville. In the early spring of 1862, Gen. R. S. Ewell was in command of an army variously estimated at from 7500 to 8500 men. They were in camp near Gordonsville when Gen. Ewell was ordered to take them to join Gen. Jackson's army in the Shenandoah Valley. He proceeded in two columns. One under his own command was to proceed along the old Fredericksburg Road where they later
camped on the old Buckner place. The others came to camp where
they were and awaited further orders. The advance division, or army,
consisted of two regiments, one of them the famous Louisiana Tigers
commanded by Gen. "Dick" Taylor, a son of Zachary Taylor, a
former president of the United States. The other was under the
command of Col. Early (William Magruder's "Valley Campaigns and
the Civil War" dictionary pages 495, the Louisiana Tigers and 739,
following the Shenandoah Campaigns). This detachment camped
from April 12-29 on the Michael Moyer farm and on the "picnic
grounds" across the road. Miss Violette Moyer has a coffee bucket
left by one of the soldiers when they broke camp.

During the stay of the larger detachment at the Buckner farm,
many of the soldiers were victims of a mysterious disease which they
termed a fever. No one knew what caused it and the hospital in the
basement of the Stanardsville Methodist Church which had been
made by the Confederate troops, was filled to overflowing. Many
homes were opened and the women of Stanardsville proved their
right to the title of Daughters of the Confederacy by nursing the sick
and providing them with rich soup and other delicacies when they
could eat them. Despite all their efforts, over 30 died of the disease,
and are buried in the ground at the rear of Shiloh Baptist Church. A
small plot farther to the rear is the burial place of a number of
Union troops but the markers have long since disappeared. Mr.
Charles Garth said that some 20 years ago there were still some
which were legible. So the Gray and the Blue lie near each other,
each having fought bravely for what he believed to be right.

Col. H. C. Cooper, USMCRetired, recently purchased one of the
two Duff farms on Route 33 east of Stanardsville. He is interested in
Civil War history and told us about a "skirmish" between a company
of cavalry commanded by young Capt. George Armstrong Custer. He
thought they had crossed the Rapidan by a ford lying on the county
line between Greene and Orange counties, He also told of their
occupation of the Davis farm on South River. Judge R. N. Early,
also a student of the war, said that he believed the raid was the result
of an error on Custer's part. He also said that he had always heard
that only a very few shots were fired. In any event, Custer did move
west a short distance and took possession of the old Davis home,
ousting the owner and his family. Lt. Col. T.B.P. Davis,
grandnephew of the then owner, told the writer that during the
short occupancy by Custer, a cannon ball was fired through the
house but no one knew whether by Confederate or Union
sympathizers. Custer's stay there was very short.

Two years later (Hardesty) Gen. Thomas Mathen, Union officer,
passed through the county but only foraged for his horses. His
movement did not cause any encounters with opposite troops. (Civil
War Dictionary, 519)

(Much of the information concerning the "fever" epidemic and
the use of the church as a hospital came from an article prepared by
Miss Helen Ewell, later Mrs. A. L. Hord, and read before a meeting
of the United Daughters of the Confederacy on April 14, 1932. It
was published in the Greene County Record of December 17, 1964.
Mrs. Hord was an excellent and careful researcher. While she gave no
authorities, we feel safe in using the material she collected.)

GREENE COUNTY SOLDIERS
MUSTERED INTO THE ARMY IN MADISON COUNTY

John W. Keesear, Company “A” 7th Infantry, wounded at Gettysburg.
Downey Smith, age 40, joined 1864, Company “C” 4th Va. wounded.
William Watson, Company “A” 7th Infantry, wounded at Gettysburg.

By 1976 the county court system had been replaced by the 16th Judicial District made up of the counties of Culpeper, Madison, Orange, Greene, Louisa, Goochland, Fluvanna, and Albemarle and the city of Charlottesville. This district is staffed in 1976 by three full time and two part time general district court judges. The names are D. B. Marshall chief judge; Basil Burke, F. W. Harkrader, Jr. and part-time judges Joel F. Jenkins and Herbert Pickford.
Chapter XVI
Shenandoah National Park

The period immediately prior to World War I was marked by developing interest in conservation, national forests, and parks at every level of public authority from cities to the federal government. The movement was given much impetus by reason of the support of several presidents but particularly of Theodore Roosevelt, a worthy protagonist. From burned over lands in the Great Lakes region to the salmon in Alaska, he gave unstinted support to every measure which might be considered as helping in saving our resources for the future. In such type of forest reserve every precaution is taken to prevent or minimize fire loss. In other national forests such as the Sequoia reserve in California and the small White Pine reserves in Michigan, the citizen of the future may read the story of the vast forests which covered so much of the country when it was visited by the first Europeans. In some cases artificial lakes had been produced by power or irrigation dams. These presented wonderful opportunities for many types of recreation. Visitors left preaching the gospel of conservation as a public duty nor neglected to discuss the chances afforded for play and the wonderful playgrounds in these big forest areas. Water sports as well as winter relaxation was shown by the marinas which sprang up and the ski slides being constructed. The public was becoming recreation minded.

In the 1920's people with money to spare began to donate to state governments land suitable for park purposes. States started to advertise these playgrounds and their recreational advantages. Scenery became an additional attraction which aided in drawing attention to any one area. It, as a rule, means mountains and while the Western chains were often overwhelming in their grandeur, those of the East had charms of their own which the public soon recognized. People visited the Blue Ridge and Great Smokies in North Carolina and Tennessee. As the subject was discussed the two possible locations were these already famous localities. The Smokies are massive and really formidable while the Blue Ridge has the added attraction of the mysterious haze which so often surrounds the mountains, giving them their popular name.

The legislation which we have outlined shows clearly the uncertainty of legislatures on the subject, both as to size and general management. The first Congressional action which was approved on February 21, 1925 (43 Stat. 950) provided that the Secretary of the Interior should “determine the boundaries and area of such portions of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia lying east of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and between Front Royal on the north and Waynesboro on the south as may be recommended by him to be acquired and administered as a national park to be known as the Shenandoah National Park...and to receive definite offers of donations of lands and moneys and to secure such options as in his judgment may be considered reasonable and just for the purchase of
lands within those boundaries and to report to Congress thereon. Provided that the Secretary of the Interior may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, appoint a commission of five members, composed of a member of the Interior Department and four national park experts, such four members to serve without compensation.” The Act further provided for a clerk to be paid not to exceed $2000 a year and for necessary traveling expenses of the commission and for the payment of $10 per diem in lieu of traveling expenses and setting a total of $20,000 for expenses and providing an appropriation for the same.

From the foregoing, it is apparent the Congress intended to keep a close rein on all the commission did.

An Act (144 Stat. 616) approved May 22, 1926, provided that approximately 251,000 acres should be acquired for the Shenandoah National Park and establishing a minimum size of 250,000 acres. This had previously been set at 321,000 acres. Finally, Act approved February 4, 1932, placed the minimum at 100,000 acres. All this sounds confusing but in those days the country was “feeling its way”. But the conclusion was clear and in the affirmative.

The final accession of land to the Federal Government for the Shenandoah National Park was made by the Commonwealth of Virginia on December 26, 1935. The total ceded was 193,177.75 acres. Of this figure, 14,619 acres came from Greene County. The principal entrance to the Valley between Front Royal and Waynesboro is Swift Run Gap used by the early explorers and the road followed by Route 33 between Route 29 and the Valley where Routes 11 and 81 are available for tourists.

Mr. R. Taylor Hoskins, Superintendent of the Park, gave the author two hours of his very valuable time and, with Mr. E. Ray Schaffner, Chief Park Naturalist, gave him the information needed. They estimate that 470 families were removed from their homes to make way for the new enterprise. Of these, 57 families and about 285 persons were in the area acquired from Greene County. If this proportion was general, about 2300 persons were displaced. Four types of individuals were affected.

First, there were those where the breadwinners were able bodied and otherwise prepared to go out into the world and make their own ways. These were paid in cash and left to their own devices.

Second, there were a good number who would need a helping hand if they were to adjust to a new way of life. They were given small homesteads and placed on them by the Federal Relocation Commission. A considerable number of this group were placed in a project near Geer, Virginia. The houses were small and acreage limited. Gradually these people found places for themselves and drifted away from the relocation sites.

Third, there was a small group of people wholly incapable of fending for themselves. They were made wards of the state.

The fourth consisted of a few old and usually infirm people who lived near the edge of the Park. They were 13 in number and were given life leases of their properties. Only one (Mrs. Tom Shenk) of them still lives (1968), and she is carefully looked after by the Park officials.
Superintendent Hoskins had estimates prepared by federal employees showing that the average cash income of the displaced families had been about $70.00 a year. Much of their living needs had been supplied by barter. Their occupations were varied. Some got out a few logs which they sold to dealers or exchanged for the necessities of life. Some had a few head of cattle which grazed on the hills. Before the chestnut blight destroyed all the trees, the prime industry was harvesting and processing chestnuts for the market. While tan bark was still used by tanners, some men secured hemlock or white oak bark for sale to the manufacturers of leather. Hunting and trapping brought some trading stock. Stanley, in the Valley, was the blueberry capital of the world before the park took over. Some made liquor under federal license and some, it is rumored, did so illegally.

The Shenandoah National Park is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior as planned in the early legislation, as previously related. Its management is a model of efficiency which may be explained - at least in part - by the fact that Superintendent Hoskins became the Park's first Chief Ranger in March 1936 and served there in that capacity until April 1938. Twenty years later (September 1958), he returned as Superintendent and joined with many other employees of the Park who have had long records of efficient contribution to its management. (1968)

Of interest to Greene County is the fact that in recent years, there have been some 2,275,000 visitors annually to the Park. No tie-in with the Park is possible but these crowds of visitors must provide a rare opportunity for a major recreational project located near Highway 33. An artificial lake with a marina and cottages would provide employment for a goodly number of people from April through October. In addition there would be a large sum of money spent in the community for necessities and services.
Chapter XVII
Churches
By the Reverend Max Greene
Secretary of County Ministerial Association

Stanardsville Methodist
Binghams Methodist
Mountain View Methodist
Mount Vernon Methodist
Mount Paran Methodist
South River Methodist
Stanardsville Baptist
Swift Run Baptist
Liberty Baptist
Pleasant Grove Baptist
Ruckersville Baptist
First Bible Baptist
Bacon Hollow Baptist
Mt. Olivet Christian
Evergreen Church of the Brethren
Shiloh Church of the Brethren
Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren
Mountain Grove Brethren
Grace Episcopal
Lydia Pentecostal
Middle River Pentecostal
Geer Pentecostal
Pocosin Pentecostal
High Top Pentecostal
Temple Hill Mennonite
Mt. Hermon Mennonite
Shady Grove Mennonite
Amicus Seventh Day Adventist
Shiloh Baptist
Bethany Baptist

As already noted in the chapter on Social Life in Pioneer Days, religion played an important part in the lives of the early settlers. Folks came for miles, walking, riding horseback or even in wagons drawn by oxen over corduroy roads, made by laying logs side by side across the highway to span soft places or bits of water. They brought their dinners and sometimes suppers with them, perhaps to spend the entire day listening to sermons and visiting with friends whom they had not seen for months. The sermons were stern denunciations of all evil and there were many things in those days which would not now be considered serious. It is possible that they enjoyed the idea that although good people had a hard life on earth while bad ones usually had the best things of this world, that in the future life conditions would be reversed.

The occasional visits of ministers would often be the time for several marriages as young folks in those days did not plan elaborate weddings, merely waiting for the coming of the minister to perform the ceremony. It was a time too for youths to get acquainted and many a romance began on these red letter Sundays.

The First Church

The Protestant Episcopal Church, the child of the Church of England or the Anglican Communion, was the first to be established in Virginia. In the Mother Country the Church was supported by taxation. In Virginia there was much opposition to that method and in lieu of such support the various parishes were given tracts of land, known as the “glebe” farms. These met most of the parish costs. The latter were not at all uniform in size or date of establishment. As told in the chapters on William Monroe and Blue Ridge School, many of the early settlers were “dissenters” as members of other protestant denominations were called. These were often either
indentured servants or their descendants. So there was continued
dissatisfaction with the still important part played by the Episcopal
Church and its adherents. Finally in 1802, the “glebes” were
expropriated and sold with the money being assigned to the support
of education.

It was natural that the Episcopal Church would be the first to be
established in pioneer Virginia. The income to meet the expenses of
the individual parishes was assured. These organizations often
followed loosely, county lines but there were parishes embracing
more than a single county. For example, St. Thomas Parish included
all of what is now Orange and Greene Counties as well as parts of
adjoining political divisions. (“The History of St. Thomas Parish” by
the Reverend Phillip Slaughter.) Note that the will of William
Monroe (in Appendix to this volume) does not mention Orange
County, merely St. Thomas Parish.

A number of settlers had improved farms in Orange County at
an early date and it was felt that an Episcopal Church was needed.
One, called “Mountain Chapel”, was built in 1725 on the Jennings
Farm. The site, according to tradition, was the seat of the last of the
Indian trading locations. It was of such flimsy construction that it
was ready to fall down by 1730. The Bishop of the Diocese of
Virginia commissioned John Rucker and John Lightfoot to find a
suitable location for a new building. (John Rucker was the uncle of
Thomas Rucker who settled near there and gave Ruckersville its
name in honor of his Uncle John.) They finally chose a site near the
old chapel toward Ruckersville. This building was occupied in 1732
although we have no record as to the date of its consecration. It was
known as “The Orange Church”. In the years ahead the action of the
Virginia General Assembly, already noted, expropriating the “glebe”
farms weakened the Episcopal Societies and following the custom of
the time, the building was used by other denominations. The Old
Orange Church was served for a time by the Reverend James Waddel
known as the “Blind Preacher” and a Presbyterian. (The majority of
this historical data was based on A History of the Baptist Church in
Ruckersville prepared by the late Mrs. A. L. Hord, nee Miss Helen
Ewell, for the Centennial of the Ruckersville Baptist Church held on
June 29, 1952. Amplified by an article written by Mrs. A. L. Hord
(Miss Ewell) and printed in the Greene County Record in the issues

It became apparent in the 1870’s that the old church was no
longer suitable for use. A new structure was needed. On June 9,
1879 a piece of ground in Ruckersville was given by Major Ben
Herndon to the Methodist, Baptist and Disciples Societies for the
site of a new church building. The three bodies were legally
organized by 1892. Services were held in various places until
September 14, 1910 when the Baptist Church was dedicated. The
Methodist and Disciples continued to use it for a time but gradually
their membership declined and the building left to the Baptists.
There was an upper floor which belonged to the Masonic Lodge. As
this was the oldest church in Greene County dating back to 1725,
we have gone into details of its history. Today it is a flourishing
congregation. An interesting sidelight is the tangled ownership of the
old church building. The three congregations and the Masonic Lodge all have a vested interest and in the case of the churches it is hard to clear the title. The Masonic Lodge of Ruckersville joined that of Stanardsville in April, 1938, but meets in Ruckersville once each year to preserve its claim. It has paid part of the insurance and upkeep since its first occupancy.

As the Episcopal Church was the first to have a building in what is now Greene County, we follow its later work. In 1895 a congregation was organized in Stanardsville (Church Register). The present church was consecrated on July 1, 1901. By that time much interest had been developing in the mountain people both as to religious and educational privileges. Records are hard to find now and in many cases are non-existent. However, we know (Church Register) that under the pastorate of the Reverend Willis M. Cleveland, D.D. (1906 to 1911), there were a number of mission churches organized and schools and auxiliary buildings were erected. Among these places were Lydia, High Top, Cecil Chapel, Upper Pocosin, Lower Pocosin, Wyatt Mountain and several others not named. Then under the leadership of Archdeacon, the Ven. George P. Mayo, D.D., a mission in Shifflett Hollow had 36 communicants. The Blue Ridge School which has a chapter by itself, was opened in 1909.

We know that there were missions under the sponsorship of other denominations but again the paucity of records makes it impossible to chronicle them.

Other Baptist Churches

The Baptist Society was early in the field and today a church of that denomination is available to every resident of Greene County. The complete autonomy of each Baptist Society makes it difficult to obtain any centralized records so the author has had largely to rely on the memory of older people and the good offices of The Reverend Max Greene, pastor of the Ruckersville Baptist Church and (in 1968) secretary of the Greene County Ministerial Association. There are six churches of that denomination in addition to the one already discussed.

Swift Run Baptist Church

The Swift Run Church is said to be the second oldest Baptist Society in Greene County. It was organized on May 6, 1824. The present building was completed in 1887. These dates were given the author verbally, but are probably substantially correct. During the pastorate of The Reverend B. H. Burnette which began in 1910, the congregations of Ruckersville joined with those of Swift Run, Liberty and Spring Hill (in Albemarle County) to form a “field”. They then purchased a parsonage about two miles southerly from Ruckersville on Route 29 (Church Records). This was later sold and another pastor’s home purchased in Ruckersville. This has since been replaced by a lovely new house on Route 29 across from the Circle Inn.
Today (1968) Ruckersville has its own pastor with Swift Run, Liberty and Stanardsville joined to form a single “field”. Pleasant Grove has no regular pastor while First Bible Baptist and Bacon Hollow Baptist Churches are not affiliated with any group. Shiloh and Bethany Churches have a colored membership with regular but rather widely spaced services. (This information was furnished the author by Mrs. Maude Parrott of Ruckersville.)

Dundee Baptist Church

I could not find exact information relative to the Dundee Baptist Church. The story told by some older persons is that it was a very old congregation with a building dating back to the days when a gallery was provided for the slaves. It united later with the Stanardsville congregation about 1929. (See Thornton family)

Pleasant Grove

Various dates are popularly given for the construction of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. It is said to have had a gallery for the slaves. It had 26 charter members. As noted above, it has no regular services. (Much of the data on the Baptist and Methodist Churches was secured by Mrs. A. L. Hord. It is in the possession of Mrs. Marcus (Anna) Watson, Ruckersville, Virginia.

Stanardsville Baptist Church
(Data furnished by Mr. B. D. Douglas and Miss Mary Melone)

The problems of lack of records in the case of this church are similar to those of so many others. However, we know that the place of worship for the Stanardsville Baptist members was for several years a building diagonally across the street from the County Office Building. It is now used as a dwelling place.

At a meeting held on October 30, 1927, plans were made for a new building to be located on Route 230 in Stanardsville. The new church building was completed and dedicated the following year. As already noted the Dundee Society had decided to close their church and a large part of their membership joined the new Baptist Society in Stanardsville.

A Sunday School was organized and services begun on March 23, 1930. The pastor for the present “field” of Baptist Churches in Greene County resides in Stanardsville. The congregation has had a consistent growth.

Bible Baptist Church

Bible Baptist Church is located about two miles East of Stanardsville on Route 33. No official information was obtainable but The Reverend James Woods is the pastor. Much stress is placed on evangelism. For several years the group worshipped in a tent but now a modern building serves their needs.
The Bacon Hollow Baptist Church, we are informed, has irregular services. It too stresses the evangelical work. We are told that neither of these two churches is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Liberty Baptist Church
(Data by Deacon Marvin P. Breeden)

This Society was organized in 1832 and tradition says the building was erected shortly after that. It was located on the north side of Middle (Conway) River and so in Madison County. The story runs that the river changed its course and the structure was then in Greene County. Correct or not, the new building, erected in 1965, is definitely in Greene County. A large part of the membership has usually lived in Madison County. While the Liberty membership has never been large the Church has been known for its many good works.

Methodist Churches

Following the Revolution the activity of pioneers was vastly increased. Settlers moved steadily from the east to the central territories. Included was western Virginia where much good land for tobacco culture was available. Where these people settled, the Methodist Church usually appeared to minister to the religious needs of the newcomers. Churches were built and services conducted in the new and scattered schoolhouses. Tradition and occasional newspaper stories tell us that the Churches were there but no records have been kept. Toward the close of the century we discover in the Deed Books of the various counties, records of transfer of a lot to people representing one of the evangelistic churches. But sometimes even that deed was not recorded. The Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison County was erected in 1724 and has been in continuous use since then. Mr. Claude L. Yowell told the author that the trustees of the Church had found that they had no deed to the property. It had come originally from the farm Mr. Yowell had bought some years before. So he gave them a deed covering the building and grounds. Thus the society had supposed for well over 200 years that they owned a property which really had never been fully transferred to them. Thus the reader is warned that much of the material on the churches of Greene County cannot be presented as factual—merely as a rule, the sum of the best knowledge available.

Mt. Vernon Methodist

Mt. Vernon Methodist Church celebrated its centennial on August 5, 1961. It brought friends and former members from far and near. The principal speaker was a former member of the congregation, Mr. R. N. Williams. He regretted deeply the lack of records of authentic value. However, he did do a lot of digging on his own account and gave some very interesting facts, many of them new to the members and visitors present. All this is recorded in the Greene County Record of August 17, 1961.
The land upon which the church now stands was then owned by
Granville Kennedy who came into this region about 1938, the same
year which saw the creation of Greene County from part of Orange
County as it then existed. The original trustees were listed as George
Runkle, Junius P. Garth and Champ Y. Powell. This list is of special
interest as all of them are family names of people still living in
Greene County.

Popular tradition is that the site prior to its purchase for the
church building was occupied by a building used as a private school
owned and operated by Granville Kennedy. At the time of the sale
the school was operated by Granville’s nephew, Fontaine Kennedy.
It is said that religious services were held at the school building but
only irregularly.

One addition has been made to the original lot. From time to
time the building itself has been altered and enlarged to meet the
needs of a growing congregation. During World War I the church was
opened to the Red Cross and also used for other patriotic meetings.

The pastorate of the Reverend Ernest Hall from 1901 to 1905
was apparently a particularly thriving period as he and Mrs. Hall are
still spoken of by older people who have heard of them from their
parents. Sometime during his pastorate Reverend Hall cooperated
with Dr. Sims in founding and operating the GREENE COUNTY
REGISTER. This was the county’s first newspaper and according to
George W. Chapman’s recollection it was hand set here but printed
in Madison. Incidentally the paper was allowed to lapse after some
twelve years according to the files in the Alderman Library. It was
revived later as the Greene County Record. The location of the
Church has aided in keeping its attendance and membership at a
good number for a rural church.

Mt. Paran Church

Much of the data about Mt. Paran Church was published in the
Greene County Record of August 24, 1954.

Robert Holbert was a veteran of the War of 1812 located in
what is now Greene County. He owned a good sized plantation and
in the 1850’s he decided he wanted a church near his property. As a
Methodist he offered a piece of land and $50.00 in cash to aid in the
proposed plan. Dr. J. F. Early also was interested but wanted it near
his home. The two combined forces and a site was chosen on the line
separating the holdings of the two men. It was built in 1854.

Old settlers or their children still speak of “The Old Log
Church” and others tell of a family owning a private school near the
site of the church and desiring a church nearby. It may be that both
accounts are substantially correct and all three forces united in
forming a membership and building the church. It may even be that
some logs were used in the construction of the church which is still
in use. It has been remodeled to some extent and numerous
additions and improvements made. Gifts have come from many
sources and the church is still an object of affection on the part of
its past and present membership. It is now a member of the Greene County Methodist Circuit.

Mountain View Methodist Church

Mountain View Church is located about half way between Stanardsville and Ruckersville on Route 33. In 1949 Greene County Methodist Churches were united in one charge. A Mr. Leon Lee was sent to be a temporary pastor to the circuit. He seems to have been a vigorous, if quarrelsome, person. Much of the preaching contained statements, it was said, which were not in harmony with the doctrines of the Methodist Church. He was told he would not be returned because of his various statements. He promptly left and began to organize a group of people sympathetic to his ideas. He called for "A FREE CHURCH". This was in 1949. Malcontents of different denominations joined his group. A church was planned and the future looked good.

Then dissension broke out among the members. They all wished to travel in one direction but had various ideas as to what direction. In 1950 several distinct groups had developed. The more conservative people saw that they must affiliate with some well organized church. They finally decided on the Methodist Conference which agreed to accept them provided no financial burden was placed on the Methodist Conference. They agreed and the Mountain View Church became a part of the Greene County Charge. This was in December of 1950.

The church was built largely by voluntary help both in labor and materials and free of debt when it was ready for use. It was dedicated in 1955. An addition was made in 1964 when classrooms, a wash room and a kitchen were added.

In the meantime the Methodist Society in Ruckersville had dwindled and finally it ceased to function and its members went elsewhere. A number joined the Mountain View Church. Then in 1959 the church in Stanardsville with the Bingham Church was set off from the Greene County Charge and given its own pastor. The present Greene Charge has four churches, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Paran, South River and Mountain View, with the pastor living beside the Mountain View Church.

South River Methodist Church
(Data by Mrs. T. P. Runkle)

(So far as can be learned, there are no records of the Methodist Church of South River. Mrs. T. P. Runkle loaned us a clipping from the Greene County Record of July 12, 1934. Interested readers will probably find this as the only information available concerning its early history. The article has been cut some but the most remains.)

No records exist outside the memory of the oldest members concerning the early days of South River Methodist Church. It is certain, according to universal reports, that services were held in the private homes as early as 1840, perhaps earlier. The story of its building and later remodeling is much the same as those of other pioneer houses of worship. The lot was given by Mr. Jerry Walker to
be used forever for church purposes. Labor was often contributed as also were some materials. Money came more slowly but many of the necessary furnishings, including the pulpit, were also given by friends of members of the congregation.

A touch of nostalgia comes to everyone who knew those early days in the mountain churches when he learns that the pastor read two lines of a hymn with the congregation then singing them, guided by a leader with a tuning fork.

The first church had a gallery for the colored folk as did most of those early churches. The building was later remodeled and then replaced by the present one which takes care of a large congregation and membership.

Among the names of the active early participants in South River Church work was that of Mr. Mike Mauzy, first Sunday School Superintendent. The first librarian was Mr. Brazile Runkle. Later superintendents were William Shelton, John Wesley Melone, T. M. Shelton and Mrs. Carrie Teel.

Stanardsville Methodist Church
(Data by Mrs. J. H. Whitlock)

This is the largest Methodist congregation in Greene County, although younger in years than the rest. Its history is interesting chiefly due to the fact that during the War Between the States the basement intended for Sunday School classes and social events, was converted into a hospital and used during the terrible epidemic in April of 1862 when so many of the soldiers in the Confederate Army of General Richard S. Ewell (then camped on the old Buckner farm near South River) suffered from what was then called a “fever”. Over 30 died despite the best efforts of the women in Stanardsville who nursed and cooked special food for the ill soldiers. These were buried in the vacant ground at the rear of the Zion Baptist Church.

The first date known to pertain to this property is October 20, 1854 when part of the property was purchased. The next is January 1, 1858 when additional land adjacent to the first purchase was obtained. The basement was high and a gallery was constructed for the use of slaves. After the war the basement ceiling was lowered and the gallery removed.

Subsequently, rooms for Sunday School classes and social events were added. Today the spire of the building is a landmark and the structure itself is a real addition to the town appearance.

Bingham Methodist Church

Bingham (Binghams) Methodist Church has the oldest church building still in use in Greene County. It lies directly across the county line between Albemarle and Greene Counties so is unique in that the clergyman and his hearers are in different counties.

The land on which the building stands was sold by Harry Austin and his wife Sally to a group of men who would hold the land together with their successors in trust for church purposes. The deed is to be found in Albemarle County Deed Book No. 12 on page 10.
The only date given is January 1796. Greene County was still a part of Orange and three of the twelve trustees, George Bingham(s), Basil Gueiss (sometimes spelled Guies) and William Oliver were residents of Orange County. A copy of the deed as recorded was shown to me by the Reverend H. G. Schroeder—then pastor of the two churches—as it was hanging on the wall of the church adjacent to the platform holding the pulpit. It called for one acre of land described by “metes and bounds”. The purchase price was five shillings, as stipulated in the deed.

Some of the foundation appears to be very old but the fine condition of the structure suggests that it has been at least partially rebuilt. Tradition is the only source of further information and as the stories vary it is difficult to know where the truth lies. The Reverend Schroeder told the author that he was able to find only about 35 of the people listed as members of the church. Like so many small rural churches, the attendance at services in larger churches has tended to wean the congregation from the old ways as good roads and autos became common. One thinks of “The Deserted Village” as he drives by.

Mt. Olivet United Church of Christ

(The information on this Church was given the author by Mr. E. Z. Morris, supervisor from the Monroe Magisterial District.)

The Mt. Olivet United Church of Christ located in Dyke, Greene County, Virginia, is the lineal descendant of several churches, some in the Valley, having the same or similar names.

This Society was organized long before 1890 and the members worshipped in a log-bodied building known as the Mt. Carmel Christian Church in Bacon Hollow.

About 1892 the service was moved to a new church building and the name was changed from Mt. Carmel to Mt. Olivet Christian Church. This church was located near the present Evergreen Church of the Brethren (better known then as “The Pines”). The church cemetery is still on this site.

About twenty-five years later, the Society decided to have a more modern building which would be located near the center of the homes providing the membership. The site selected was in Dyke. A building was begun at once with much of the labor and materials donated either by members or friends of the church. This new building was dedicated in 1919.

Sometime later, due to the merger of The Congregationalist and Christian churches, the name of the church was changed to Mt. Olivet Congregational Christian Church and it carried this name until a few years ago when this denomination merged with the Evangelical Reformed Church. Now the church bears the name of Mt. Olivet United Church of Christ.

It has been provided with two additions. The first in 1955, provided more Sunday School rooms and a Chancel. The second in 1965 put in a new basement with furnace, rest rooms, kitchen and fellowship hall. The history of Mt. Olivet Church presents proof of the loyalty and diligence of its members.
The Evergreen Congregation

(Information furnished by Mrs. Wayne T. Allen and Mrs. Jake Harlow.)

The Evergreen Congregation of the Church of the Brethren consists of the Evergreen and Shiloh Churches. The Evergreen Church was organized in 1892 at a meeting held under a tree near the present cemetery. A frame church was built across the highway from that first meeting place. At the beginning the Mt. Olivet Christian Society met with the Brethren but later withdrew and built its own church in Dyke.

By 1945 the frame church became unsatisfactory and it was decided to start a building fund for a new edifice. The first deposit was made in the bank on November 13 of that year when $312.76 was credited to the building account. The account grew little by little and on May 20, 1951 the new church building was started with a groundbreaking ceremony. It was dedicated on April 19, 1953. The new structure is a fine stone building, commodious and an architectural triumph.

Notice should be taken of an educational program carried out by the Church of the Brethren in Greene County. Commonly called CBIS (Church of the Brethren Industrial School) this institution gave instruction in both academic and vocational work. It met a real need and was well patronized until modern roads and transportation, together with the development of the Greene County High School made the school no longer necessary and it was abandoned.

Cedar Grove Church

by The Reverend I. L. Bennett

The Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren is located two miles south of Ruckersville and one-half mile east of Route 29.

It was organized around a few members consisting of Wetsels and others in 1885. The early preachers were chiefly farmers who held Sunday services, most of them came from the Valley of Virginia. Services were held in the Cedar Grove School building until 1898 when the new church was built. One of the early ministers who came to speak on Sunday and to furnish such other services as needed was George Maupin, the first of a line of devoted pastors. Others were Henry Knight, Carl Driver, George Flory, I. S. Long, W. H. Sanger, Jacob Via, and Dan S. Garber. The latter was succeeded by The Reverend I. L. Bennett in 1950 who is still serving the congregation as pastor.

The present church building was remodeled in 1963-64 when a Sunday School room was also added. In 1960, a very desirable new parsonage was built.

Sunday worship services and Sunday School are conducted each week. A Vacation Bible School is provided each summer and an adult Bible Class meets weekly. Its present (1968) membership is 136.

Cedar Grove Church is one of four making up the East Mt. Carmel congregation.
Pentecostal

As the original Church societies left the churches they had founded as the result of the consolidation and urbanization of the rural communities, other organizations took over the remains of the buildings, many in excellent repair. These newcomers were not as closely organized with strong central controls and could continue without outside interference. They were largely strongly “fundamentalist” in theology and strict in their interpretation of right and wrong. Most of them believed that the day of Pentecost was near at hand and they were diligent in their preparations for the day of final judgment. They pointed to the book of Revelations which is the last section of the New Testament. They unquestionably have done much good, especially with people who did not like something or other about the older denominations.

We have five such churches listed with us. They are Lydia, Geer, Middle River, Pocosin and High Top. We are informed that there are small differences between them but fundamentally their theology and practices are much the same. In any event they all meet local needs and deserve every encouragement.

Mennonites
(Data furnished by Charles Shank)

There are three Mennonite Churches in Greene County. Thanks to research work done by Mr. Charles Shank of Stanardsville, we can give the following information. They are located at Mt. Hermon, Temple Hill and Shady Grove.

Swift Run Hollow area was served for years by the Mt. Hermon Church of the Brethren but at last their minister ceased going to that church. For a time they were without religious services. Then one of their members invited the Mennonite Society to send a minister to them. One responded. For a time the people met in private homes but in April of 1937 the former Brethren house of worship became available and was used until the flood of 1942. It was undermined and no longer safe. The Mennonite Society then built a new stone church. It is now in use each Sunday for preaching and Sunday School services with an average attendance of 45. Midweek services are held twice monthly except during the winter.

Temple Hill

The Methodist Brotherhood built and used for years a church on Route 33 near Lydia. They finally ceased having services there in 1940. The Mennonite Missionary Board purchased it and has used it since then as a meeting house. Preaching services have been held there weekly ever since that year.

Shady Grove

An Amish Mennonite Church was established at Shady Grove in 1961. This Society stands perhaps midway between the traditional
Amish and the modern Mennonites. The older Amish church is very conservative while the modern Mennonites accept the fact that times have changed and have adopted many new inventions and customs.

Seventh Day Adventist Church
(Data by Mrs. Carol Thompson and C. B. Hamm)

For many years there were active groups of Seventh Day Adventists in Greene and neighboring counties, especially in the Valley toward Front Royal. They were vigorous in their efforts to convert others to their faith, the chief tenet was probably the belief that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent. They also had strict dietary rules and observed Saturday, the seventh day, as the true Sabbath. They were sincere and hard workers.

Mr. C. B. Hamm, who had been a convert in his youth and a consistent follower of his faith through early manhood, became interested in organizing a church. He had already done much speaking in support of his church and with his wife distributed pamphlets discussing the chief articles of his faith.

In 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Hamm bought a building in Nortonsville and began making it ready for services. Mr. Hamm made the benches and did much of the other work involved. Two and a half years later, Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Detamore joined the Hamms in worshipping as Adventists. Home meetings were held. In 1937 a Society was organized with 20 adult converts who were baptized by immersion. A campaign for a church was begun. On their way to attend a meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Hamm noticed an old store building in Amicus and at once decided it could be made into a usable church. The committee was at once favorable to the proposal. The owner put a very low price on the property with two acres of fine land included. Other arrangements helped them get started and shortly there was a new church in Amicus, near the center of Greene County. The present (1968) pastor lives in Charlottesville but gives ample time to his charge in Greene County.

Grace Episcopal Church

While the Episcopal Church did pioneer work in the mountain mission field, the other denominations speedily took up the work. We have written at length about the early Episcopal Church work and its decline and slow recovery. It is because the entire field was first met by them and that faith had the first churches in what is now Greene County. After its founding of The Blue Ridge Industrial School, that part of the work they had assumed was done when the Parish of the School was founded as Neve-Gibson Parish.

Grace Church at Stanardsville was consecrated in July, 1901, by the Coadjutor Bishop, the Right Reverend Robert A. Gibson, and has since that time, first as a mission church and now as a self-supporting institution, served the community.

The author was talking with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Powell and they stressed the fact that there had been a real change in the type of people in the mountains and hollows. I asked them why that had
come about. With one voice they replied, "the Mission schools and
the Blue Ridge Industrial School". (The word Industrial was later
dropped.) As we meet and become acquainted with the present
generation of these areas, one is soon convinced of the
transformation and is ready to concur with the Powells.
“Progress” is the word most commonly used to explain many of the inexplicable things in our modern life. Some are really aids in better living. Not to mention them and their progress through the years would be to represent Greene County to the world as lacking in many of the amenities of modern life. Hence we present these few paragraphs as evidence that Greene is up to date in most of the fields which “Progress” produces.

In order to avoid any preferential rating of one of these aids as more important than another we have treated them in the chronicle order except for the weekly newspaper which to an old time publisher is of prime importance.

It has not been easy to secure the information needed except through the kindness and knowledge of Commonwealth Attorney T.B.P. Davis and Judge R. N. Early who have given freely of their time to help the writer.

The Virginia Telephone Company, the Potomac Edison Company and the Virginia Gas Distribution Corporation officials have also been most kind in giving information. Then Mrs. Wayland Garth in the county treasurer’s office gave of her time to secure information for us. Many thanks to all of them.

The Weekly Newspaper

Until the summer of 1903, so far as the author can learn, Greene County did not have a newspaper of any kind. If any efforts had been made, time had erased their memory. However, August 21 of that year a weekly newspaper was born and given the name of The Greene County Register. However, for some reason not known, the front page gave the name of Greene County Journal. Probably someone had planned to float such a paper and had the nameplate made. In any event the interior pages all carried the name, The Greene County Register. The company president was Dr. E. W. Sims and the editor was E. Dulaney. Reverend Ernest Hall was reported to have been of great assistance in the early years of the little newspaper.

So far as the author can learn, only two copies of the first issue are in existence. One is in the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia and the other is owned by Mrs. Ackline Dean of Stanardsville.

The Register was published for about 12 years when the burden became too great for Dr. Sims to carry and it lapsed. It was later revived under the name of The Greene County Record. So far as we can discover, there is no file of the Record existing anywhere. Mr. David Morris had one but a few years ago much of it was the victim of rats and Mr. Morris disposed of all of what was left. However, the paper carries the volume number 60 and it is 66 years since the Register appeared so it is logical to assume that Greene was without
a weekly paper for only about three years.

The paper is now owned by the Green Publishers of Orange, Virginia. It is edited by Mrs. Mildred Beckmann along with the Madison County Eagle, also owned by the Green Company. For a number of years and until her death, Mrs. Ella Bickers was the local manager.

The short history of the various agencies which serve Greene County such as the utilities is often desirable as reference material. A short statement about them follows.

Banking in Greene County
Data furnished by I. D. Davis and Judge R. N. Early

The Bank of Greene County, Virginia, opened its door for business in 1908. Locally owned, its directors knew their depositors and borrowers personally and this tended to gain confidence on both sides of the counter. However, as was the case with most banking houses during the period preceding World War I, growth was slow at first. Then came the Great Depression of the late 20's and early 30's (really until World War II broke out, banks were often in serious condition). In 1933 all the banks in the country were closed for a time by presidential order. Many never reopened. Others opened but with new stockholders and loss of most of their money by depositors. Greene's bank reopened promptly and neither depositors or stockholders lost anything at all.

In 1931, a fire destroyed the building and its furnishings. Only the vault and its contents were saved. The bank was soon doing business as usual.

Then came the era of mergers. In 1948, the Greene County Bank merged with the People's National Bank of Charlottesville. It continued to operate as a branch of that bank. Shortly, another merger made it the People's National Bank of Central Virginia. Then in 1962 a series of mergers made it a very large bank, the Virginia National Bank. Its board of directors remain local people and the institution has prospered under this arrangement.

Telephone in Greene County
Data furnished by Commonwealth Attorney T.B.P. Davis and Mr. D. L. Armstrong of the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company

The Greene County Telephone Company, Inc. was organized in 1901. It was promoted by Dr. R. B. Pennington who also owned the line to Harrisonburg. But people were doubtful and the necessary stock sale and subscriptions for phone services were slow in coming. Finally in 1904 the situation was ready for the initial phones and lines. L. C. Davis was the company secretary and the switchboard was in his home.

In 1912 the original company was dissolved and a new one organized. It was named the Mutual Telephone Company of Greene County. In 1918, Mrs. Pearl Shelton took over as switchboard
operator and general factotum. At this time outside connections were begun. Mrs. Shelton remained in charge for 34 years.

In the meantime, several different corporations owned the Greene operation. In 1927 the Piedmont Telephone Company absorbed the Mutual created in 1912.

The Piedmont Company was succeeded by the Southern Utilities Corporation. This in turn sold to the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company which has connections with all leading companies. In 1957, a new building was erected on Main Street giving better service to all the local users.

Electrification
Data by Judge R. N. Early

Of all the various utilities serving the public, this shows greatest difference in rural and urban users of electricity. The modern farmer has everything possible electrified. His peak hours are different from those in the city. Consequently, every large producer and distributor of electricity has to meet two different problems.

In 1908 the Northern Piedmont Electric Corporation was chartered to provide electricity particularly in the rural districts. The region included Greene County. Kerosene had been king of the nighttime for so many years that it was hard to dislodge. However, progress, while slow, was steady.

When the Great Depression came upon the country, President Franklin D. Roosevelt took the reins and turned his attention first to labor and the farmers. Among the remedial legislation passed by the Congress, often under his prodding, was the Act creating the Rural Electrification Administration. This provided aid for corporations selling electricity to the farms at a low but reasonable rate. Soon thereafter the office of Farm Extension Agent was adopted by Greene County. Jesse Ewell was named to the post in Greene. He faced two problems. One was to secure the cooperation of the farmers in meeting the new Federal plans for the Triple A's and the general program for rural electrification. In both he was highly successful. William Decker, the present county agent, gives Mr. Ewell much credit for the work he did.

The more densely populated territory is served by the Potomac Edison Company which gives service to Stanardsville and places immediate to the town. Their service is excellent although they are only distributors.

A few farms were served by the Central Power Company with headquarters in Lovingston in the Valley.

Local distribution is made by the Virginia Gas Distribution Corporation. The only local service is to users in and near Stanardsville where its use began in November of 1938 with 15 customers. Today, July 9, 1969, the corporation serves 152 patrons, 127 of whom are residential. The corporation is steadily improving its possibilities for carrying loads of more heavily compressed gas.

The local office is in Culpeper and the manager is H. J. Myers.

Actually the early work was done and gas sold by the Virginia Gas Transmission Corporation, incorporated July 30, 1920, and
acquired by the Atlantic Seaboard December 11, 1953, and immediately dissolved.

Natural Gas Use in County
Data from S. C. Trimmer and H. J. Myers
of the Virginia Gas Distribution Corporation

In 1931, Atlantic Seaboard Corporation crossed Greene County with its pipeline, with its compression plant located at Bickers, 2½ miles west of Stanardsville. It went from the Eastern Kentucky field to the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Of course, only localities with some condensation of population could make distribution possible. The line was 9.8 miles in Greene County. The pipe is 20 inches in diameter and is now being replaced after over 30 years use by a pipe still 20 inches in diameter but constructed to carry much higher pressure than is now the case.

Greene County Public Schools, 1976

The central office consists of a Superintendent, Director of Pupil Services, Elementary Supervisor, Federal Coordinator, two Speech Pathologists, School Psychologist, Clerk of the Board and two secretaries. The School Board consists of three members, one from each magisterial district.

Greene County is located in an area which provides an excellent opportunity to continue your education. The University of Virginia offers an excellent graduate program in education. It is located in Charlottesville approximately 22 miles from Stanardsville. Madison College also offers an excellent graduate program. It is located in Harrisonburg approximately 32 miles from Stanardsville.

Housing is available in the county on a limited basis. There are some apartments, furnished and unfurnished available each year. Houses for sale and rent are becoming more available each year. Some teachers live outside the county and commute daily using car pools when possible. All teachers are encouraged to live in the county, however, it is not a requirement.
Chapter XIX

Beverley Grant

In Colonial days the land of newly discovered or conquered countries was considered to be the property of the king of the winning country. He was free to do whatever he wished with it. Sometimes he gave tracts of land to pay off old debts, sometimes to win future support, and sometimes for cash as were always in dire need of money.

In accordance with this custom, the three Georges, Germans but kings of England by reason of heredity, bestowed lands in lavish fashion. In June of 1722, King George I gave a tract of 24,000 acres to a group of eight men, one of whom was Harry Beverley and another William Stanard. The land lay first along the Rapidan River and then South River. It extended back from the rivers for varying distances and reached well into what is now Greene County. Probably because of the eight recipients, many have called it the Octonia Grant. Usually, however, it is known as the Beverley Grant although there were a number of smaller grants given the Beverley family. The eight grantees paid 120 pounds and agreed to "seat and plant it within five years". By the word "seat" was meant locating a building for government use and perhaps both a trading post and a residence for the trader to be installed. We still see the word "seat" as in "county seat".

After five years had passed without any work being done, Robert Beverley started a suit to annul the patent given by the king. The annulment was granted and in 1729 a new patent was issued, this time to Robert Beverley. (All this from the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library.) The chain of records is not quite complete but the official ones definitely give facts.

In 1733 Robert Beverley died, having a few days prior to his death made a will which bequeathed 6,000 acres toward the westerly patent to his nephew, Beverley Stanard. These lay "to the great mountains". Before his demise, Robert Beverley had sold a number of fairly small pieces of land. Doubtless there had been many other dealings in smaller tracts. All descriptions were by "metes and bounds". The fixed marks were chiefly of trees such as "three oaks" and "two cedars". Obviously these have long since disappeared. The sole one left is given in the original patent as a large rock near a "small branch" emptying into South River. This rock was marked by a figure 8 with loops of equal size and a right angle cross touching the upper loop. The patent says this mark was on the southwesterly side. A granitoid rock on the Shelton farm on the South River answers this description except that the mark is out on the northerly side. The branch is there. The depth of the inscription has made some wonder if this were placed there at some later date. Others wonder if the inscription was there before the patent was granted because it sounds like an accomplished fact. Others wonder if the first mark was on the southerly side and has disappeared as the rock...
slowly settled. The soil is often too thin to permit any such settling of the stone. Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Shelton have been very kind in showing the author the location and cleaning out and marking the inscription for the picture which goes with this text, engraving with chalk to make it stand out clearly.

This grant has been the subject of much study and conjecture. When the writer first began this little book, he was told by several reliable people that the original patent was issued to William Stanard who had eight sons and gave each of them 3,000 acres of land. But a search of the deed and other records prove that this tradition is untrue. The will of Robert Beverley is on file in the office of the Spotsylvania County Clerk. Part of it is illegible but enough is in a condition to verify the above statements.

It may be that we have given this rock and the story more importance than it deserves but there has been much speculation and many stories told about its origin. The grant itself describes the mark so it was important nearly 250 years ago. Should the time come when Virginia has real historical landmarks honored by tablets, the way to this rock should be indicated.

(Since the author’s death, this mark has been duly entered by the Commonwealth of Virginia as an Historic Landmark.)
Chapter XX
Here and There
A Glimpse at the Past

Commonwealth Attorney T.B.P. Davis has taken a real interest in the preparation of this volume. He has loaned the author a number of interesting items. One which is especially valuable is an old account book of Dr. R. B. Pennington, who was not only a good dentist but proprietor of a general merchandise store, even advertising steam threshing equipment for service. One of special interest is a recapitulation of the presidential election of 1884 showing both popular and electoral votes. Evidently the public was dissatisfied with the electoral college then as now. It reminds the student of the famous blunder made by a clergyman who in supporting Blaine said in a speech that the Democratic party was that of “rum, Romanism and Rebellion”. This offended many groups of voters and while he received a majority of the popular vote he lost New York and several other sizeable states so that Cleveland won a majority of the electors. There have been several other minority presidents since then and the Congress is sure to offer an amendment abolishing the electoral system.

The matter of prices is also of interest. The good doctor, really dentist, had a large number of charge accounts. We give a few of the prices charged for the housewife who is tired of current cost. The advertisement of P. Lorillard and Company shows that the book’s entries were made about 1888 to 1900.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 lbs. crackers</td>
<td>20 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 lbs. coffee</td>
<td>22 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb. nails</td>
<td>5 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 broom</td>
<td>25 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 pounds sugar</td>
<td>1 dollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 round bucket</td>
<td>20 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cakes soap</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb. soda</td>
<td>6 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 box matches</td>
<td>2 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-half gallon oil</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 spools cotton</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Greene Gets a Seal

Probably few citizens of Greene County, except officials have known that Greene County had never adopted an official seal. But County Treasurer, E. D. Jarman some months ago called attention to the oversight. The supervisors agreed and Mrs. Lelia Bickers was commissioned to design one. The design was made official on September 6, 1969 as it appears on the title page of this volume.

Mrs. Lelia Bickers with the aid of some other interested ladies arranged a ceremony for unveiling the seal which had hitherto been seen only by officials of the county and the ladies assisting the
program. It was a gala affair with the Congressman, State Senator and State Delegate present and speaking appropriately. E. D. Jarman was master of ceremonies and county officers added remarks. Papers were read by Mrs. Herbert Silvette and Mrs. Anna Watson. The big event was the unveiling of the seal itself which was done by little Miss Susanna Shelton, daughter of Lt. Colonel and Mrs. H. R. Shelton.

Apple Butter Time

"It’s Apple Butter Time."

The words bring memories both fragrant and delicate. A tradition of the “Mountain Folk”, their descendants and many visitors. Almost every person likes the delicious although perhaps for some, oversweet product of the apple. While it was still legal, many mountain families made excellent apple brandy or “Apple Jack”. Their skill as distillers of either brandy or “Moonshine” was proverbial. Mr. James F. Jarrell told the author that he could at 12 years of age, set up and operate a small brandy still. But Federal laws and the heavy taxes made the business unprofitable and most turned to other ways of making a living from their farms. The apple trees were still bearing and apple butter, the work largely done by the women and older girls, remained a source of table delicacy and occasionally a sales item. Older residents still tell stories of the “apple butter days”.

Bessie Thornton Turner in her delightful account of the Blue Ridge School tells of a typical day spent in making this table favorite. Today the members of the Evergreen Congregation of the Church of the Brethren appear to be the only organization keeping up the old tradition of making and selling their product of apples. Loaded with church members and their families, cars wind their way about to the appointed place and men and women spend the night paring, quartering fruit freshly picked and “sorted” to discard any not prime. A huge iron kettle, copper lined when possible, is used, like the ones our forebears used as a vessel in which to cook hog food. The fruit laden kettle is hung over a bed of coals and more fruit is added as fast as the earlier load is cooked down. Sugar in large quantities is added. All this time the contents are being stirred with a huge wooden paddle as folks agreed that any extended contact between kettle and contents would ruin the fine flavor of the finished product.

All the time the chorus was chanting to the paddle users an old folk song which ran:

“Twice round the edge
And once down the middle
That’s the way to stir
The apple butter kettle.”

Admittedly poor verse and much license but so were many other of the old words. At least the old custom is partially preserved by the Brethren of Evergreen Congregation.
Census of 1782

Despite the fact that England had not as yet recognized the independence of the colonies, it was apparent that if Cornwallis surrendered, it was all over but a treaty of peace. Virginia in 1782 took a census of her people. It was taken by various individuals and showed the name of the heads of households, the number of white people and the slaves held by each family. This list is of great importance to the researcher. The name of the person taking the census may not be of importance because they listed only the names of their own areas. It was natural that each was assigned a territory contiguous to the census takers.

While Greene and Madison Counties were still a part of Orange and there was no geographical information given, if one name familiar to the student can be located, it can be assumed that the entire group in which his name appears was situated in that territory and so a fairly accurate list of those in what is now Greene could be compiled. This method calls for serious possibilities of error but seems to be the best we can do.

This analysis is given here in order that future students may be aided as the author was not. In the chapter on William Monroe, the custom of “head rights” was explained. This applies to both indentured immigrants and those who came on their own.

The entire census and records with authorities are given in Scott’s interesting history of Orange County.

There were a few named Morris and they would seem to be of different origin. There were two Shiffletts, one a woman, and this supports our earlier assumption that there were several different sources of the people bearing that name. A few names are given below as examples.

The name of Dean does not appear at all on the census list. Powell, Rucker and Davis are well represented. James Beasley, Jr. was a landowner but did not have slaves. So the first Beasley, as earlier noted, was the earliest settled in the Blue Ridge Mountains although there had been a good many in the Valley.

Thomas Snow was noted and also a William Stanard. The latter was not a resident of the county but did own 52 slaves who worked for him, which has already been discussed. The name of Taliferro was twice recorded but while prominent for a number of years, they had entirely disappeared by the Civil War—that is so far as Greene County is concerned. The name of Haney appears both with and without the “i” before the “n”. John Haney appeared for his headright in 1741 and Rich’d Lamb in 1749. A Jane Morris appeared for her headright in 1740 but of course could not be responsible for the name after her marriage. A William Morris appeared in 1748. He may possibly be one of the ancestors of the Greene County families.

“John Ogg and wife” appeared in 1752. The name is uncommon but E. Z. Morris, supervisor for the Monroe magisterial district, says that he has been informed that a family of that name owned the farm which he now owns and built a house still standing with some additions, coming here over 200 years ago. We have been unable to secure any further information. If it is correct, this may be the same. A director of the Wool Pool from Louisa County is named Earl Ogg. Efforts will continue to secure some information from him.
**Chapter XXI**

**Some Greene County Families**

Nearly all county histories have sketches of a number of families of the area being discussed. Most of our readers know that we have been much distressed because of the lack of records either in or outside the family itself.

But history is largely the story of people. Their lives are the meat as well as the bone of the structure. After much hesitation and discussion with others, we have decided to write something of what we know about a few of the families who lived here at an early date.

We believe that almost all of our readers will understand that no personal reasons have dictated our choices of subjects.

The chapter on the Census of 1782 gives some of the methods we have used. It has been hard work but should be worth much to future students of Greene County’s history.

Beasley

As we have seen in the chapter, “The White Man Comes,” the first settlers in what is now Greene County were believed by Mrs. Hord to be James Beasley and Henry Kendall. They came in the 1740’s, the families settled in Swift Run Gap and Saddle Rock Mountain. Again some difference of opinion exists as to which family settled where. However, Linzy Beasley remembers the house where he was born was in the Gap itself.

Sometime not chronicled but inferred, John McMullan appeared and married Theodicia Beasley. He later enlisted in the Continental Army to fight in the war for Independence. He was on the roster of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hawse. He and Theodicia had five children before she died. He later married Edith Stowers by whom he had nine more children.

James Beasley, Jr., wife and all his children except the two oldest of Theodicia’s children migrated to Georgia and passed out of this narrative. James III married Edith, daughter of Henry and Ruth Kendall while Mary Beasley married Lewis Powell. This would seem to prove that some of the Powell family may have lived in this region before the Beasley family. However, he may have been from either what is now Madison or Orange counties. Another bit of disturbing evidence is the record cited by William Brockman in his history of the Hume and Kennedy families. It appears that Granville Kennedy married Mildred Hume in 1725 and lived in Madison County for the first year and then moved to a location “against the high mountains” describing closely a site in the Blue Ridge now in Greene County. Later another Granville Kennedy had nine children. Three of the daughters married Powells and one son married a Miss Powell. A long road united the Beasleys and descendants of the Hume, Kennedy and Powell families.

The author spent a delightful hour visiting with Linzy Beasley
now living with his brother George near Geer. He told of the tobacco raising and other crops. He walked to the Sunny Side School, a distance of two miles. Roads just weren’t in bad weather. The old house where he was born is gone now due to the absorbing abilities of the national park.

The family scattered, some went to Wolftown and others to Orange County. But the early Beasleys left their influence on later generations.

Since the establishment of the Shenandoah National Park, the cultivated lands have been small lots and the resulting crops are scanty, but the people who knew the old ways miss them with regrets.

McMullan

The story of John McMullan has already been told in connection with that of the Beasley family. After he had taken most of his family to Georgia, we completely lost track of him. However, some of the male members of the family returned in sufficient numbers to keep the family actively interested in the affairs of the county, even before it was officially formed. They settled along South River where a little village and a postoffice bore that name although it was spelled with an “e” rather than an “a”.

In the Civil War, Captain Lyn McMullan and his brother, a First Lieutenant, distinguished themselves as good soldiers and officers. Hardesty says that the Lieutenant was promoted to a captaincy and another McMullen (note the “e” instead of the “a”) was also made a captain. Captain Lyn McMullan was placed in command of a force sent by General Thomas (“Stonewall”) Jackson to clean out the small company of dissidents who took refuge in Hensley Hollow. He finished that assignment in short order.

The name has gradually diminished in numbers and only a few are left. The road sign “McMullen” still marks the one-time village.

Haney

Three Haneys (Hainey or Haney) were here asking and receiving their head rights in the 1740’s and 50’s. Unfortunately not much more is known about them. They were apparently active in church work and many were construction workers and contractors. They do not appear to have held public office or other work which necessitated their being known widely except as good neighbors. There are still a number living and working in Greene County.

Collier

To residents of Greene County, this name means merchandiser, Scott Collier. The name is comparatively new to Greene County but it is owned by several of that line of business operation. Scott Collier purchased the business of J. Meadows in 1922. It is located on the South River Road and the site has been occupied for more years than we can determine by a “general store”. Mr. Collier before his purchase had been a farmer on Route 33 east of Stanardsville. He is still operating the business.
The family has been active in church work and civic affairs. The male members have been prompt in recognizing their civic responsibility. One large “general store and a station” aid in keeping the family record as merchants.

Monroe

William Monroe’s name is indelibly connected with education in Greene County by a high school named in his honor, although it was erected long after his death. He lived in Greene County. He worked his farms, owned and leased, apparently worshipped his God, and probably performed all the functions of a good citizen. He died leaving considerable property for those days, the result of hard work and a burning desire to do something to relieve the lot of the children born to poverty. The story is told more fully in the chapter titled “William Monroe”.

Chapman

The former flood plains of Swift Run have been the seat of a number of good farms of ample size for cattle raising. Among those with a fine herd was the Chapman farms. The best known of the family was John S., the renowned attorney. He had a wonderfully good personality and a deep and wide knowledge of the law. He was never a public official but his oratory was always available for important occasions.

Near the John Chapman place was another owned by Willis Chapman, a close relative.

After the death of John Chapman, the farm was operated by his son George William, who became as well known in the cattle industry as his father had been. He finally sold the farm and cattle when labor became so scarce but still lives on part of his former property. George William has never been eager for public life, preferring to show visitors his records as a cattleman than to sit on public platform.

He aided the author much in giving him information about the burial place of William Monroe and data about Monroe’s landholdings. He is a member of the Greene County Humane Society which administers the Monroe Fund.

Dean–Deane

The name of Dean or Deane is very common in Albemarle, Madison, Orange and Greene Counties. The spelling is optional but was probably spelled with an “e” to begin with as many old English names, short, had the final “e”. Why, the author does not know. But it seems to have been often a method of distinguishing different branches of the same family. Dr. Halsey A. Dean who has made a long and careful study of the Dean genealogy, generously wrote seven pages of the family tree.

Many of the local Deans will tell the questioner that some of the names are no kin of theirs. Elvin Dean, with the local bank, has
given the matter some attention but does not feel that he can give a
definite answer. He told the author that some people claimed that
there are five distinct lines represented in Greene County. (Mrs. Lelia
Bickers gave the writer the name of Dr. Halsey Dean, 1816 Birnam
Wood Drive, McLean Hamlet, McLean, Virginia, who had made a
real study of the family genealogy.) Dr. Dean responded quickly and
courteously.

The material he gave cannot be repeated here because of lack of
space but will be made available at the school library for students.
Dr. Dean says that two brothers, William and John Dean, were living
in the part of Orange County which later became Greene. This was
in the latter part of the eighteenth century, perhaps about the time
of the Revolution.

At first farmers, the Dean men rapidly went into all sorts of
employment. They were successful doctors, teachers, lawyers,
merchandisers, mechanics, and probably other important methods of
living. Thanks to Dr. Halsey Dean, cousins may find each other,
perhaps in the next block.

W. D. Deane is the present sheriff of Greene County, which
office he has held for several terms. His family were merchants on
Middle (Conway) River.

Estes-Dulaney

For many years the Dulaney family, located in Ruckersville,
represented the early type of business where one or two firms
furnished the public with everything except prescriptions for
medical supplies. These were not the days of the cracker barrel and
local cheese but they were happy ones whenever the entire family
went shopping, often in the old lumberwagon.

But "progress" had caught up with the times. Automobiles and
good roads, combined with the advertising in the daily papers, wrote
"The End" to many of the time honored customs of our fathers.

Possibly this influenced the Dulaneys or possibly they looked
for new worlds to conquer. In any event in 1946 they sold the
business, lock, stock, and barrel, to Emly and Angus Estes. (These
names suggest a Scottish origin.)

Fire destroyed the housing for some of the Dulaney business
enterprises and the new owners shortly decided to forego almost
everything except the usual staples of a general store, as such were
called. They were the probable ancestors of the modern department
store which sells everything except prescription drugs. They made a
striking success of their methods and in the 23 years they have
operated, have built a very good following.

Only people who have lived in a small community can really
appreciate what the general store means to its public. The proprietor
becomes the confidant of his customers. He cashes their checks,
gives credit when needed, and hears gossip which he promptly and
diplomatically forgets. Much weeping on their shoulders and
sympathy and advice is generously given. The Estes have done that.
Emly died some three years ago but Angus carries on.

There are other Estes in the county but any kinship between
them all is very slight or non-existent.

Hamm

Sometime near the beginning of the 19th century Bennett Hamm bought a large farm near what is now Dyke. The general area was well populated with Powells who had several large farms in the neighborhood. Bennett Hamm's son, Robert Allen, continued as a farmer but the next generation, in the person of C. B. Hamm, left the farm. This was in 1919. While he and Mrs. Hamm returned to the region where he had been born and spent his early years, they did not return to the farm. Mr. Hamm is best known today for his active interest in the Adventist Church.

Shifflett
(Much of the data for this sketch was furnished by Mrs. Gene Collier)

This name is variously spelled with one or two "f's" and two "t's" but doubtless many members of the same family use different spellings so that means little if anything. In connection with the Revolutionary War, the author discussed the origin of the Shifflett group(s) giving several unrelated possible origins. In fact we came to the conclusion that there were several sources from which the Shiffletts came, English settlers, German prisoners of war, and an Anglicization of a Rhineland surname. In any event, they are here.

Shifflett Hollow was, along with Bacon Hollow a convenient refuge for drifters who lived off the country as they traveled. This class may have contributed to the population of those two communities.

As a matter of fact, Albemarle County has more citizens of that name than does Greene. Many have been merchants or professional men. One of the requests granted for a headright was made by a woman of that name, proving both that she had come from the British Isles, probably England, and that she was capable of running a farm.

The development of the Shifflett family makes an interesting study in the entire subject of heredity environment. In fact Greene County is an excellent field for such a study.

Stanard

This name keeps appearing in both written records and tradition often in contradictory fashion. It first appears in connection with doubts in all directions, chapter on Beverley Grant.

The loss of Deed Book No. 1 during the Civil War deprives the student of all reliable records but apparently a William Stanard, perhaps also Beverley Stanard, sold lots of various sizes to people living in or near what is now Stanardsville. Certainly a William Stanard was postmaster here at an early date and the post office first and then the little community took his name and became Stanardsville. Then Krebs, writing about 1940, places a store owned
by a "Captain" William Stanard located on a corner a block north of Main Street. He was said to have lived in a house just north of the store. Miss Violette Moyer, daughter of Thomas Moyer who owned the property, confirms the fact that they lived in a house located practically on the site now occupied by her home. Her father, Thomas Moyer, left it to her.

When Greene County was organized, a Stanard gave the young county the block on which the county building and courthouse now stand. Due to the loss of the Deed Book No. 1, related, it is impossible to know what the first name of that Stanard might be.

The name keeps occurring in mysterious fashion. Scott in his interesting history of Orange County, named a Stanard as an authority on some phases of Piedmont history.

We know that a Stanard was interested in trial acreage, sold lots to people who wanted Stanardsville realty, was postmaster, probably owned a general store, had the community, later a town, named for him. The women Stanards outnumbered the males, and some members of the family achieved some reputation outside the local circle. We can infer with safety that the family was in some way connected with the Beverleys, a prominent name both here and in England. Certainly Robert Beverley favored his nephew, Beverley Stanley. They must have had some of the elements of greatness to achieve their standing.

Jarrell

The Jarrell family first attracted notice early in the 19th century when the days of the apple were very influential in the land. In the days before the federal taxes were not heavy, the farmers realized that more money could be made by sipping their produce as liquid rather than as ripened grain or fruit.

Stills were set up and placed in operation. Mr. F. L. Jarrell told the author that he was sure he could go into the back yard and construct and operate a still after even 65 years absence from one. He said that his family made wine and brandy only and from apple juice. Apples were common in those days and in fact they are today in the Valley and in Albemarle County. North Garden has a well-constructed distillery.

Mr. Jarrell was a very fine man who enjoyed above all studying his family tree and discovering who were his ancestors as well as current relatives. He had all the enthusiasm of the amateur genealogist and delighted in coming to conclusions relative to them. He was a bit inclined to jump to conclusions but as a rule they were sound. When he passed away, the field of genealogy lost a good patron.

The Jarrells settled along South River where they were good farmers. The author's last word from him was that he could not give any information about the people who were of the right age to serve in the Continental Army. He did tell the author a few whom he knew to be eligible. He gave the writer much valuable information concerning the Beverley Grant.

All in all the author is much indebted to Frank Lloyd Jarrell for
his valuable information and the pleasure he appeared to have in giving it.

Taylor

Charles Taylor was listed in 1782 but possibly lived near the county line in Orange County as it is today. Whether he is the progenitor of all the Taylors now in Greene County is not known by any members of the family. The odds seem to be that they are all “Kinfolk” but the degree of cousinship grows thinner with each generation. Former president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, was surely of this clan. His son “Dick” Taylor was one of the really great generals during the Civil War where despite his youth, he attained the rank of Lieutenant-general with several brilliant campaigns behind him. The Taylor men have been successful as artisans, farmers, merchants and office men.

Durrer-Harlowe
(Data by Mrs. Ottie Harlowe and Miss Maxine Harlowe)

Durrer is a German name. The first of that family came to the region now Greene County in the early 1800’s. A large number of settlers of Germanic origin came to Virginia in the early years. We have already noted in Chapter V, The White Man Comes, the story of Colonel Spotswood. At this late time, we cannot do much in the way of determining the fault of who was guilty. Some of the Germans who came to Germanna settled in the Valley and a few filtered back into the areas now composing Greene County. The original Durrer may have been one of those wanderers.

Mack le More Durrer was married in Greene County in 1864. Samuel Durrer was born in Greene County. Later, in the present century, a Samuel Durrer married Mary Ann Rucker, uniting two families of Germanic origin. Selden Durrer, a present supervisor and Mrs. Anna Watson represented two branches of the family. A sister of Supervisor Durrer married a Harlowe thus uniting the Durrers with an old English family. The first of the Harlowes who came to Virginia arrived there about 1616.

Harlows spell the name both with and without a final “e”. Many of the old English names ended with an “e” until it was shortened by some in the interest of simplicity. There is a question whether the two lines are in any way related. Both have been simple folk, hard working, substantial citizens. They have consistently been farmers or builders or mechanics. They represent the strength of any country.

Duff

In 1740, a man named Mark Duff, of Protestant faith, appeared in a Virginia Court (County unknown) to prove his claim to 50 acres of Virginia land. So we know this about him but no more. It might be possible by much hard work to find out where he settled. That is
hardly worthwhile.

A century ago we find a family of Duffs located in Amherst County, Virginia. It was in Amherst County that Eugene Stinette Duff was born—date uncertain.

Duff is a Scottish name and the family must have originally come from Scotland. This suggests the possibility that they came from the large Scottish-Irish settlement in the Valley where Beverley had his famous “manor”.

Eugene’s parents came to what is now Greene County at an early date, now unknown to any of our informants. Two other families, of whom we have record, came here at the same time. The party included the Stephens, Parrotts and Whites.

Eugene Duff married Katherine Blakey, thus uniting the newcomers with an old established family. They had a typical pioneer family of six sons and one daughter, now Buress Hoffman. Eugene Duff was a natural woodworker and built some of the best buildings in the Blue Ridge School. The chapel still stands as proof of his prowess as a woodworker. For thirty years, Mr. Duff taught the boys of the school the fine art of real woodworking. The school is in many ways a monument to his memory.

Gilbert

(Data by Mrs. E. C. Gilbert and Miss Maxine Harlowe)

This name has been well-known and honored in the annals of Virginia and the United States. The first mention we have been able to find in the reference rooms of the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia is to a Thomas Gilbert (the name Thomas was well remembered through the years by those responsible for naming the young man). The family name appears in an old William and Mary quarterly, saying that in 1679 a man of that name had been stabbed to death by a friend. The latter’s defense sounds natural today. He was mentally disturbed and not responsible when it happened. Then Sir Humphrey Gilbert, step-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, was a well-known navigator and explorer in the northern parts of the New World.

The name, variously spelled, but usually as Guis de Gilbert. The reverse of a medal owned by Miss Maxine Harlowe placed early Gilberts in Massachusetts. One of them went there via Norfolk. The medal is the best source we can find. We surely appreciate Miss Maxine’s kindness in telling us about it. We do know that there were Gilberts here at an early date and that the family now has several branches which probably could, if the data were available, trace them to a common ancestor, either here or in England.

Melone

(Data largely by Mrs. Edith Jarrell)

While never a large family, the Melones have played an important part in the early development of Greene County. The name John Weasley appears frequently among the men of the
family. John Weasley Melone, the second to have the name in Greene County, was a supervisor of the County for 35 years and contributed much to the early stabilization of life in the county. Russel Melone was sheriff of the county for a number of years and, like all of the rest of the family, was an ardent Methodist.

While there has been much speculation concerning the arrival of the first Melone, it seems probable that he drifted away from the Scottish-Irish settlement near Staunton in the Valley. Most of them were said to have been Presbyterians but the Methodists ranked next in number--at least during that part of that period.

The family early owned land in the South River area and its members were active in the affairs of the South River Methodist Church.

Fitzhugh and Fletcher

These families had a large place in the 19th century analysis of Greene. However, while they were important as long as they were here, they gradually disappeared except for grave markers and old folks’ memories. A store on South River was owned and operated by the Fletcher family and the place was called Fletcher. The same name was given the postoffice when it was established there. It has long ceased to serve the community. Fletcher Fitzhugh tells of going to Sunday School in the Dundee Baptist Church.

Collins

Members of the Collins family have been in the area represented by Greene County for many years. The present representatives of the family are engaged in various enterprises including farming, financing and speculation. All of them seem to be lucrative. Prior to the reign of the automobile they were great horsemen and horse breeders so the fact that they became interested in dealing in automobiles is natural.

Price

The name was once well-known in Greene County area but is now almost entirely forgotten. It lingers a little in some given names. Miss Violette Moyer told the author that her father’s full name was Thomas Price Moyer and her middle was Price. It is known that at one time he owned land along what is now Route 33. He is believed to have lived in a house near or in the business section of the town. Certainly now the name is gone and remembered best perhaps for the burial vault in the large field in the Mack Moyer estate. It was said to have been constructed for the burial place of his family and when Mrs. Price died, her casket was placed in it. But when ten years later he died, the family moved the one casket and placed it with his in a lot in the town cemetery near the school.

One amusing story quite in keeping with those semi-pioneer days is told by the older folks. In those days the sale of liquor both over the bar and in bottle was legal. Moonshining (the illegal
manufacture of spiritous liquors) was common. It was fiery stuff but in the language of the day “had a quick answer”. It also was cheap and was frequently the only whiskey sold by the drink and was called “bar whiskey”. It was common to purchase supplies of various legal brands, drain their contents into special containers and refill the bottles with contraband. When word came that “revenuers” were coming, quick change of liquids was made and the illicit liquors were hastily hidden in the vault, by that time merely an old relic. The officials were satisfied and left, a quick change back to “normalcy” was made.

All this is illustrative of the times but has nothing to do with the Price family.

Herndon

This is another family which came and lived a while and then disappeared or nearly so because of the dominance of females among their children.

We know that the Herndons were here. The chapter on Churches noted that a Major Ben Herndon donated land for the purpose of building a church on it. This lot is still occupied by the old Baptist Church in Ruckersville.

Mrs. Jane Fitzhugh, born a Herndon, told the author her grandfather, John G. Herndon, settled at an early date in Dawsonville where for many years he was the proprietor of a general store and also postmaster. This famous old name persisted in Greene County for a number of years. She did not know anything about Major Ben Herndon.

Early

Despite the fact that we naturally think of Earlysville when we hear the name of Early and that community is in Albemarle County, the Early family has long been closely connected with the business interests and public life of Greene County. The present representative of the Earlys is Judge R. N. Early who became County Judge after having held the office of Commonwealth Attorney for a number of years. He was active in much of the business life of the county, including banking and telephone service.

Judge Early’s father, Nathaniel Early, was for eight years delegate to the state assembly. Following that service, he became State Senator. While holding this office he gained a national reputation by reason of his rather bitter fight to remove from Virginia schools a history which he felt was unfair to the South. After 26 years in the state senate, he resigned to become State Revenue Collector for Virginia, which office he held until his death.

Judge Early has maintained a private law practice throughout his other activities.

Eddins

The name Eddins appears on almost every list of early settlers. In the census of 1782, they appear to have been pretty well
concentrated in the South River region.

The name is Scottish and persists to the present time, as for example, Angus used as a given name. They have been farmers and their property is said to have been part of the Conway Grants, which largely lay between the South and Middle (Conway) Rivers, touching each.

Some of the family have been interested in public life and in business. The new Greene Hills Club was promoted and being managed by Angus Eddins, Jr.

A number of Eddins men were soldiers in the Army of the Confederate States of America. Good industrious men and women are the chief asset given Greene County by the Eddins family.

Snow

Thomas Snow was granted his "head right" of 50 acres about 1753. It is speculative but probable that he was the progenitor of the large number of that name in Greene County. They have owned and operated farms but their chief interest has apparently been commercial, as members of the family have owned "general stores" in Dyke and Quinque. Again the stock has been good and helped make the county a growing community with increasing prosperity.

The name is British and we know that the first Thomas Snow must have been British as birth in one of the British Isles was one of the necessary qualifications for receiving the "head right".

Douglas

(Data furnished by Mrs. Annie Ewell and Mrs. Mozelle Brown)

Douglas is a Scottish name and John Douglas was a scot, born and bred. He became some kind of seaman and is known as "Commodore". He appears to have been in some kind of voyager service but its nature is shrouded in mystery. He apparently left his ship in New York on one trip and went to Virginia to settle down. He was located shortly afterwards in the Greene part of Orange County. He was a muchly married man, having four wives. The first two had children but the last two were childless. The first wife had the sons, Rice and Porterfield. The second wife had three sons and a daughter. Mays, Francis and Judson were the males and Margaret was the daughter.

Rice Douglas was the son of John by his second marriage. This son of John lived near Barboursville outside Greene County. Among his children were Benjamin Theodore and John Edgar. The former married Lizabeth Parrott and had one child, Annie, who married Jesse Ewell whom we met as the first County Extension Agent in Greene County. John Edgar married Lucy Herndon. Three of their children still live in this county. They are Buford who was until retirement a banker, and Grimsley, who is the father of Mrs. Zirkle Blakey and Mary Douglas Brookings.

The family believe that all the Douglas families in the region are descended from John and so are distant kinfolks living in Ruckersville.
Moyers

In his excellent history of Madison County, Claude L. Yowell tells the story of Germanna and the three German contingents hired by Governor Alexander Spotswood to work his iron mine and operate his smelter. The first such group came in 1714. Another came in 1719. The third and last came through the result of a shipwreck in 1724. The last one was much the largest and comprised over 100 souls, some minors, but with the best of health, strength and experience. Spotswood fell out with each group and they scattered. A large number settled in the Valley above the big colony of British who settled about what is now Staunton. Many of both groups ultimately came to Virginia. John McMullen was probably from the Scottish-Irish while a good number of the Germans crossed the Blue Ridge, some to settle along the trail now Route 33. Among these were the Mayers (pronounced Moyers, which may be why some of them chose to spell the name that way). Some of the Germans chose lumbering as their occupation and found ample forests in what is now West Virginia. Others tended toward merchandising. In fact every field of endeavor was tried by some of them. One of the family, Thomas Price, later dropped the “s” to separate his business transactions from others of the family. He later moved to Stanardsville, bought land and built a store which he conducted for years, leaving it to his daughter, Miss Violette Moyers who still operates it.

A rather unique situation existed during the period not far removed from the Civil War. There was no railroad in Greene County and frequently travelers wished to go to some point on the Southern Railway from some point in the Valley or the Cumberlands. They would leave the western train at Elkton and take a stage across to Gordonsville. This often necessitated stopping for meals or lodging. There were two inns on the road between the two points. Both were operated by Mayers (brothers). There seems to have been no bitterness or “hard feelings” between the two landlords.

The chapter on the Civil War tells of one military march along the present Route 33 when General Ewell moved his troops from Gordonsville and through Swift Run Gap.

As we have noted in the case of many families, the failure to have male children has tended to reduce the number of families with that name. But the Mayers under any of the names have done yeoman service for Greene County.

Shelton

The Sheltons have been in the area for many years. Hardesty says that one member was an officer in the Revolutionary War, having gained his commission by reason of his merit as a soldier. Whether or not he went into the army from Greene is not known. But Sheltons were farmers along South River for many years. When the turkey and other poultry markets were good, they were prominent in that industry. One member, T. M. Shelton, was very prominent in the business. Now that many have dropped out of poultry raising, he has found it profitable to remain in it and has
recently enlarged his facilities.

Another son is a Lt. Colonel stationed in the Pentagon. He has an enviable service record.

The present farming operations are under the direction of “T.M.” as he is known. He is the administrator of the estate of his father, H. K. Shelton.

The farm is the site of the famous “Octonian Rock” pictured in the chapter on the Beverley Grant.

Blakey

This is an unusual name and should be readily researched. However, despite the best efforts of B. B. Blakey (P. O. Box 2272, University Station, Enid, Oklahoma) Churchill Blakey was born about 1690 in Middlesex County, Virginia. Mr. B. B. Blakey is a very enthusiastic researcher and has done a great deal of work in the study on the family history. He uses freely the “name” system of tracing families of the same surnames. That is, he follows from generation to generation the same given names, feeling that if that particular name appears repeatedly in one line it establishes a very high degree of probability of it having the same origin. He finds that the name Churchill belonged to some men in each generation.

Prior to 1793, Orange County included both Madison and Greene as now organized. This often makes it difficult to determine where the subject actually resided when the event was recorded. For example, we know that one John Leathers transferred property to Angus Blakey in 1792 and again in 1795, but we do not know where either of them lived on those dates (Orange County records). Blakey was on the original board of trustees of the Mt. Vernon Methodist Churches. (See chapter on Churches.) When the Methodists first organized in Madison County, Robert O. Blakey was secretary of the meeting. A Churchill Blakey was married in Greene County in 1832. Thus it appears that they were much alive and interested in church work during those early years.

Mrs. Margaret Blakey Trimmer and her brother Zirkle have held public office, the first as a member and later chairman of Greene County School Board and Zirkle Blakey as county treasurer, which office he did not seek again. He preferred to sell goods rather than his services.

Of interest to genealogists is the fact that Mrs. Trimmer’s parents were cousins and both Blakeys. This was not unusual in pioneer days when the extent of selectivity was small. However, three generations prior there was another marriage in the Blakey line of cousins but of somewhat more distant degree of relationship.

Conway

The author has been unable to locate any data as to the terms of the Conway Grants. We know that they held part of the land between the Middle (Conway) and South Rivers. We also know that they are reputed to have built homes on the Middle River. But apparently while living in Greene County for a time, they finally...
sold their interests in that property. The Kirtleys lived just east of the Conways but only owned a few acres south of Middle River. They too made little impression on the history of the county.

**Ogg**

In 1740 John Ogg and his wife appeared and received a headright. Then they apparently disappeared from history. However, in a talk with Supervisor E. Z. Morris he told the author that an old house on his farm had been built by a man named Ogg over 200 years ago. He became interested and found that several farms in his neighborhood, near Dyke, had belonged to men by that name. The house, pictured elsewhere in this volume, was of log construction and later sided over with lumber. Two additions have been made and the house was in use until a few years ago but now is utilized for storage purposes.

The author found that the name still persists in Louisa County but was unable to secure more definite information. The Oggs are no longer in Greene County but they left an indelible mark on the region.

**Sorrelle**

This family appears in the persons of Captain Thomas and his sister Nancy in Greene County. They married and had children who also married here and had families. But soon the name ran out so far as Greene County is concerned. The blood strain carried on, however. One of the third generation married James Blakey. Another joined her life to that of John Gibbs. Nancy married John Gibbs and so became the ancestress of that line. Mariah married Jesse Blakey, Virginia wed William Sims. Ophelia married Jennins Maupin. Thus the Sorrelle blood line was well preserved. (No dates or place names are available.)

A number of Sorrelle men never married and others moved away so the name has disappeared from Greene County.

**Ewell**

The advent of the Ewell families was comparatively recent when compared with many others but their impact was sufficient to warrant a short sketch in this history. Dr. Jesse Ewell, a cousin of General R. S. Ewell of Civil War fame, came to Ruckersville to practice medicine. He was graduated in 1876 from Washington College, now a part of the University of Maryland. He came to Greene County in 1882 and began his practice here in Ruckersville. A year later he brought his bride, Mary Jane Ish, to his new home. In 1892 Dr. Ewell suffered an attack of “lockjaw” which lasted for a considerable time. The case called for nationwide interest when he finally recovered and the splinter causing the trouble was removed.

Dr. Ewell was not only a very successful physician but a valuable citizen. His son, Jesse Jr., was the first Extension Agent for Greene County where he made a remarkable record, stated elsewhere in the volume. His daughters were also very well-known for their many
sterling qualities as well as intelligence and beauty.

Thornton

The Thornton name, like many others in the pioneer world, had a tendency to have large families but chiefly daughters. The sons often moved to other regions, married and spent their lives away from the ancestral home. They did make a mark upon the South River region and at least one member was an able practicing physician in Ruckersville. He bought a home and transformed a small outside building into an office which was used for many years by one doctor after another. The man who started that custom passed away at an early age but not before he had made a name as a successful physician.

The property was owned by Dr. George Jennings, and then by Dr. Jesse Ewell, whose name became a household word among both old and young.

Anthony Thornton owned a farm on the river and he transferred to the Baptist Society a piece of land on which Dundee Church was built. (See chapter on Churches.) When the Society there was finally dissolved, the land related to the man who then owned the old Thornton place.

Jarman-Durrette

These two families seem to have come to the Piedmont region from the Valley. Before that, we have neither legend nor fact supported by records. Both families owned and operated farms in one of the better farmlands in Greene County. Both were interested in the various civic problems. Both families furnished county officials, both families gave good examples to the rest of the world.

Greene County treasurer, E. D. Jarman, gave the author the few facts given here. His mother was a Durrette. Thus the two lines were joined. Mr. Jarman recently sold his farm and is now relieved of that responsibility.

Bickers

The previous writeup on the Bickers family was incorrect and was brought to the author’s attention. To leave our readers with the correct information and with Mr. Johnson’s permission (before death), the story of the Bickers family is presented:

The census of 1790 in Orange County includes the names of Robert Bickers, William Bickers, John Bickers, Nicholas Bickers and Joseph Bickers. The above names were the only heads of families by the name of Bickers living in the United States at the time of taking the Federal Census for the 13 states of the Union and according to the records in Orange County and the Bickers family tree, they were all residents of Orange County. It appears that Thomas Bickers, the second generation of the Bickers family in America, was the son of
Robert Bickers born in Orange County about 1740.

The Bickers were evidently farmers when they came to Orange County from England in 1708 and migrated to Culpeper, Louisa and Greene counties.

Benjamin Iverson “Ivy” Bickers, born in Greene County, as a boy worked on his father’s estate; later engaged in the drug business. He was postmaster at Stanardsville for many years. He was Clerk of the Circuit Court of Greene County for 32 years.

During the “great depression”, Mr. Bickers was actively raising funds for sidewalks, water and sewage for the Town of Stanardsville.

It is probable that the County Office building built with W.P.A. money, would not have been built or natural gas would not have come to Stanardsville without the efforts of Ivy Bickers who put up a vigorous campaign and managed to persuade the gas company to run a line into Stanardsville. The Gas Compressor Station on Rt. 604 was named in honor of Mr. Bickers.

He passed away about the completion of his term as Clerk when he was succeeded by his son, Randolph Wycliffe “Jock” Bickers, who is still the efficient incumbent of that office.

Ivy was the sixth generation of Robert Bickers, the late R. A. Bickers was Commonwealth Attorney in Culpeper County and another cousin was the late James F. Bickers, Sheriff of Louisa County and Lindsay Bickers, manager of the Greene County Record.

The late Dr. Alston Hubert Bickers practiced medicine in Philadelphia. He was a brother of Ivy.

It appears that the Bickers were farmers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, law enforcing officers and engineers.

Brill

The name Brill is probably of French origin and seems to have been spelled with a “u” and often a final “e”. The name of a Count de Buille is said to appear in old records of the 14th century. This is, of course, based partly on speculation.

About a century ago, William H. Brill, Sr. came from Rockingham County and bought a fine farm on what is now Rt. 230. The house was on the high land above the highway and he built a shop down by the road itself. For many years, he made and sold harnesses of every type, boots and shoes. Mr. Brill was also a skilled blacksmith and ironworker.

William H. Brill, Jr. worked with his father in both shops and also helped operate the farm. The place became known far and wide as the Brill Shop.

Mr. Brill, Sr. had 14 children, twelve of whom survived to become adults. Mr. Brill, Jr. had seven children, five of them were males. To raise a family of this size would appear to demonstrate industry of those Brill men.

The sons and daughters as a rule married local people and while big families are no longer in vogue, their size established the family in the county.
Watson
(Data by George Nathaniel (Nat) 
and Miss Kelsie Watson)

Joseph Watson came from Madison County over eighty-four years ago and settled on Toms Road. There were seven children in the family which was of Irish origin. Possibly, they came to Madison by way of the Valley where there was a large Scotch-Irish settlement.

Most of the family were farmers but Marcus Watson was engaged in Mercantile work for many years. He has taken an active part in public affairs and is now a member of the Welfare Board in Greene County.

Mr. George Nathaniel (Nat) is ninety years of age and still of sound “mind and memory”.

Morris

It is very difficult to determine the origin of the Morris families. A few refer to a Colonel Morris as their progenitor but do not seem to know much about him. It is highly probable that they have no common background. We do know, for example, that Grover Morris and his brother Jean are descended from a Union soldier who was killed in the Civil War, perhaps Second Manassas. His sons came south to find his grave and liked the country, sold their farms in the North and came here to live.

Doubtless others may have been moved in much the same manner. One fact is certain, there are a large number of them here now. After reading the section on the Shifflett family, many will be tempted to think that some of the early residents of Bacon and Shifflett Hollows may have come to this region for much the same reasons.

Greene County has had a number of active citizens named Morris, but many have been what are termed “day workers”, men who enjoyed a comfortable living working for others.

A few by the name of Morris have been engaged in seasonal activities, moving from a job no longer needed for some months to another then in demand. Fleeting labor was a big factor in the economy of the country until very recent years have introduced power and automatic machinery.

Breeden

This is another of the names which have been household words for many years but whose annals have not been adequately preserved. They were good sturdy citizens representing what is good, but leaving no traces and so no record for publicity purposes. Mr. J. R. Breeden was principal of William Monroe High School for 25 years.

Rucker

The name has been well preserved in Greene County. But like Stanard there are conflicting stories about the men who gave the two
Two books have been published which give what the authors believed to be accurate accounts of the Rucker family. One was by Sudie Rucker Wood and the other by Edythe Johns Rucker Whitley. They do not always agree so the researcher using them must endeavor to draw a reasonable and sound conclusion. Mrs. Wood stresses the fact that Peter was shipwrecked and subsequently became the ancestor of the Virginian Ruckers. Mrs. Whitley speaks of Peter Rucker as a follower of John and Thomas Rucker about 1700. The constant appearance in each generation of the names Peter, John and Thomas makes it hard to separate them and to assign the proper actions to each.

To one of them Peter was German and sojourned in England for a time as it was a period of bitter persecution of members of the several religious organizations. It seems fair to give to John and Thomas, brothers any honor due the first comers to Greene County territory.

We first hear of John Rucker when the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia appointed him and John Lightfoot as a committee to find a location for a church to take the place of "Mountain Chapel" which had become too bad physically to permit further use. This was in 1730. The old chapel had been built in 1725. The new one was completed in 1732 and stood for many years. (See chapter on Greene's churches.)

John Rucker, the church builder, died in about 1736. He had a nephew named Thomas who named Ruckersville in his Uncle John's honor.

It is difficult to be sure whether or not any particular Rucker lived in what is now Greene County. We do know that they lived in that neighborhood in all three counties, Orange, Madison and Greene.

Sims
(Miss Senannie Beaty furnished most of the data)

This name is spelled Simms and Symmes as well as in other ways. But the majority of local writers use just one "m" so we are using it with apologies to Miss Beaty.

The family was here by the early 19th century, perhaps earlier. The Sims Copper Mine was worked about that time and it was located on a Sims property. Others lived along South River. The best known was Dr. Edgar Sims who gained a fine reputation as a physician and also as a leader in local affairs. As mentioned in the story of the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church, Dr. Sims, with the aid of the Reverend Ernest Hall, founded Greene County's first newspaper, the Register.

Dr. Whitley Sims lived in Ruckersville. A cousin of Dr. Edgar Sims, he shared with him the respect of the entire community. He too was not only a physician of note in the community but was also a leader.

Several families of that name still live in or near Ruckersville but
any relationship to either of the doctors' lives is remote.

Powell and Kennedy

The surname, Powell, is one of the most common listed in the telephone directories of Stanardsville and Charlottesville. There is some dissension as to whether or not they all stem from the same family root. However, it seems probable that all the local Powells had the same ancestor. The Powells have a rather remarkable family tree in that they all have the blood line of three well-known families. The Scottish Humes were prominent for centuries and active in the many internecine struggles for power. The Powells were Welsh and again the turbulence and that faculty made them leaders in the struggles for a place in the ruling class. The Kennedys were gifted men and women who produced teachers, clergymen and writers.

The unions began when Granville Kennedy married Mildred Hume. He had been an enlisted man in the U. S. Army during the War of 1812 in spite of his extreme youth. He was an honored soldier and then returned to Virginia.

In 1860, a second Granville Kennedy was married to Mary Henry and lived near Stanardsville. He enlisted in the Confederate Army and was wounded and later taken prisoner. After the war he returned to his old home and resumed his life as a farmer. The couple had nine children. Three of the daughters married Powells. The first was wed to Champ V. Powell, well-known in Greene County. One of the Kennedy sons married a Miss Powell. It becomes apparent that the Kennedys and Powells were ancestors of many of that mixed blood.

In 1607 a ship load of supplies and recruits for the little colony at Jamestown arrived in safety after a hard voyage. This ship also brought the famous Captain John Smith, warrior, leader, explorer and organizer. Some years past, Jamestown erected a plaque in honor of the event and placed on it a list of the voyagers who came in the ship. There were two Powells on the roll. They are presumed to be brothers. One went to Spotsylvania County. There is no trace of the other one so far as the author knows. Ellis Powell saw and read the plaque a few years ago.

As noted in the story of the Beasley family, Mary, the daughter of James Beasley, the son of the first settler in Swift Run Gap, married Lewis Powell. While we do not have the date of that marriage, it must have been before the marriages of the children of Granville Kennedy so it is probable that at least one Powell family was in the present limits of Greene County before the several unions of Powells and Kennedys already noted.

The Powells have largely been farmers. Paulus Powell declines to talk much about the events of his early years, saying that his memory is no longer accurate. In conversation, he will tell of many interesting phases of life in those early days. The Powells have been active Methodists at least since their arrival in Greene County. Their activities have been those of good citizens much inclined to attend to their own business, leaving to others the cares of mankind.
Geer

Geer is the name given to the postoffice and general community around it. The name is also found in the Census list of 1782. But we were able to learn very little regarding the family beyond the fact that they seem to have chiefly been farmers and gave their name to the community.

Runkle
(Data by Mrs. Mamie Runkel and Mr. Cecil Runkle)

The name is German in origin and in its native home the spelling is Runkel. The Runkle family in Greene County is believed by some of its members to have derived from some family imported from Germany by Governor Spotswood to work in his iron mining and casting business. A number of the families, especially in the three migrations from the homeland, settled in the Valley. In a number of cases, some families came on to cross the Blue Ridge.

Mr. Cecil E. Runkle of Ivy visited the Rhineland in the summer of 1969 and went to see the old castle located in Runkle, Germany. This was the ancestral home of the family. He was much impressed by what was evidently a splendid example of the architecture as well as the warlike spirit of the times.

As noted in the articles on the Mt. Vernon and South River Methodist Churches, the Runkles were active in church and Sunday School work. While the name is no longer a common one, it is found in all accounts of the early progress of the region.

Kendall

Henry Kendall settled on Saddle Rock Mountain, probably in 1748. (See Chapter IV.) The family seems never to have been large but James McMullan married Henry Kendall’s daughter and so the lines were united. Neither history nor pioneer tradition tells us much about the family although they were most surely pioneers.

Davis

Davis is another of the many Welsh names found throughout the county. We do not know when the family first came to the Blue Ridge country nor where they first settled. We do know from family memories that they were at an early date settled on the banks of the South River where Thomas Davis was head of the family. He and his son Isaac were both captains in the Continental Army serving under General George Washington. From that time, the members of the family have played an important role in Orange and then Greene County. Because of their partiality for the name Thomas, it is a bit confusing trying to construct a family tree. Today the name covers many degrees of relationship from brother to distant cousin.

They have always been a military family from the Revolution to World War II. They have held political offices. For example, Senator
Thomas Davis, although living at a considerable distance from the center of population, was a member of the state senate for a number of terms. In fact he engineered the act through the Assembly which made Greene, then a part of Orange County, an independent unit, much to the disgust of many men interested in Orange County politics. They have been farmers on a large scale for the Piedmont area and have kept much of the land in the family by wills. In later years, their interests turned to business. I. D. Davis was a banker of repute. T.B.P. Davis is Commonwealth Attorney for Greene County. Modern refinements have been promoted by members of the Davis family. For example, the telephone for the county was largely promoted by Davis. In passing, the author wishes to say that he was persuaded to undertake this project by T.B.P. Davis who has given him much help in information of every sort pertaining to Greene County. If the work has any merit, much credit must be given to “T.B.”

Garth

Mr. Charles T. Garth of Geer, gave the author a skeleton of the family tree. It does not go into details. However, the first entry showed the marriage of his maternal ancestor, William Parrott, with the first child of that union, Charles Parrott, born in 1772.

Charles T. Garth was well known in Greene County as he was clerk of the county school board for 31 years. A cousin, W. J. Garth, was for a long time the very efficient commissioner of revenue for Greene County. He was succeeded on January 1, 1969 by his son, S. W. Garth. These two lines lived in Geer where another Garth, Charles W. Garth, son of Charles T., is the postmaster of Geer, Virginia.

While technically farmers in that they owned and supervised farms, they gave much of their time to other activities, chiefly of a public nature. There are still a rather large number of Garths in Greene County.

Their close relationship to the Parrott family makes them both closely connected in personal and civilian life. Both families have been here since the early part of the 19th century and so must be considered as pioneers.

Lamb

(Data largely by Rosser Lamb)

In 1740 Richard Lamb was granted his “head right” of 50 acres. The author has not been able to determine whether or not this is correct, as there is considerable contradiction about these dates. It is probable, however, that date is fairly close to the exact time of his appearance. Whether or not he came to the Piedmont area immediately is not known. In fact, we do not know that he ever came here. However, the given name of Richard has been used in several generations.

Mr. Rosser Lamb says that the Lambs have always been carpenters or wood workers. He says some of the finest wood work in Greene County was done by a Lamb. He worked for years in
Washington as a carpenter before he returned and bought a farm.

Mr. Frank Lamb is a very busy contractor and builder. Occasionally one of them enters business or one of the professions but they are the exception in the past years. Mr. Rosser Lamb's description of the method used in hewing boards, planks, and timbers by a broad axe was very interesting.

Wood
(Data by members of the Wood family)

Warner C. Wood is Supervisor for the magisterial district of Ruckersville. Mr. Wood's forebears have been established in that region for a number of years. His mother was one of the McDaniel family treated in an earlier section.

Mr. Wood is employed by the Geological Survey Bureau of the Federal Government, with an office in Charlottesville. His father is an active owner of a poultry farm near Ruckersville, bought in 1942, paying special attention to turkeys.

Mr. Wood was elected supervisor in 1967 succeeding Sterling Lamb who had held the office for many years.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he has been actively interested in anything which he feels is important to Greene County.

McDaniel

The name of McDaniel is a well-known one on Route 33 between Stanardsville and Ruckersville but has not been many years in Greene County. Henry McDaniel came here and by dint of hard work and good planning, became a very successful farmer with a fine family of both sons and daughters. About all we can learn about them is the fact that they are good citizens and prosperous in their business.

However, another family of that name had crossed the Blue Ridge from Elkton and settled in the region of Dyke. They too were successful farmers. Now most of them live in the Ruckersville area, but some still reside and farm near Dyke.

While the first mentioned family came from Madison County, the others, about 100 years ago, came from the Valley.

It is fortunate that we still have in this country men who love the land and what it produces. Otherwise our economy would fall very flat.

Parrott
(Data furnished by Mrs. C. S. Parrott of Quinque)

Mrs. C. S. Parrott, in response to our request for aid, furnished the author with an abstract from a history of the Early family and connections by Miss Ruth Early.

The family was originally English and came to Virginia by way of Barbados and in 1649 they settled in Lancaster County.

Other accounts give Amherst County as their home before
coming to what is now Greene County.

Richard Parrott was a Vestryman, a commissioner of Lancaster County, high sheriff, senior justice of Middlesex County court. This shows an early interest on part of the family in public affairs.

Their son, Richard, is recorded as the first male child of English parents born in Lancaster.

Their interest appeared again when a Parrott was named the first sheriff of the newly formed Greene County in 1838.

Maupin

The name Maupin is obviously of French origin. While the family was never represented in Greene County by a large number of individuals, those who lived here and in Albemarle County were very active. Gabe Maupin married here and spent the balance of his life in what is now Greene County.

It seems probable that the Maupins were French Protestants who migrated to the New World to escape persecution. A goodly number of these French families found their way into Virginia from North Carolina where they settled on their arrival in North America. A few, judging by the scanty references, came first to the Valley where they did not find the same conditions for successful agriculture they had known in France.

Another example of this movement may be found in the case of Mr. Jefferson’s importation of French grape cultivators and winemakers.

Mr. M. H. Harrison of Elkton, Rt. 2, wrote the author on Dec. 10, 1969, a letter about Thomas Jefferson and his attempt at winemaking for which he is said to have imported French workers. He had had the story from his grandfather who presumably was well acquainted with Mr. Jefferson. He says that Mr. Jefferson believed that the large number of people named Morris may have been the corruption of the French name Morisette. A not improbable conclusion.

As the sketch of the Morris family points out, we know that more than one line of that name is still represented in Greene County.

One of the Shifflets we know about came from England according to the family traditions but we did suggest that many who came from other sources changed the name to Shifflett to help cover their Germanic origin and so escape detection as runaway prisoners of war. Mr. Harrison’s letter may have suggested a fertile field for research.

Stephens

(Data by Mrs. James Stephens and Mrs. Charles Utz)

The Stephens family first came to what is now Greene County together with three other families, as previously noted, from Amherst County, Virginia. They came in time so that one of their group, Mr. Parrott was made the first sheriff of the new county. Their first settlements were centered around what is now Quinque.
George Stephens was the name of the first of the family to come to this region. He was married twice—his first wife died in 1823. His second wife, married in 1825, was Theodisa White Early, thus uniting the newcomers with a family which was already established in the region. Tradition says that James G. Stephens bought the post office in what is now Stanardsville but at that time was known as Stephensville.

Then, the area was known for the distilling of apple brandy and the entire region was famous for its apples. With the heavy taxation and the regulating laws, a good many of the farmers continued the manufacture of illicit apple brandy and grain whiskey. The Stephens family, on the other hand, secured the necessary licenses to continue the work in a legal manner. Not only did they process their own produce but they also did "custom work" for their neighbors. The time came when, with the warehouse full, the government took action to collect the alleged failure to pay all the taxes due. A judgment was secured but about that time a fire destroyed the warehouse and all its contents. As a result, the proprietor went through bankruptcy and the farm and business were sold. However, one of the women members of the family purchased the farm for her brother and so kept it in the family. There was, of course, gossip relative to the origin of the fire but this was absurd because it destroyed the only means the Stephens family had of salvaging their losses. However, Quinque ceased to be a Stephens property. In 1934, Mr. James Stephens purchased the farm and the almost palatial home.

The old family cemetery was allowed by a new owner to grow into bushes and brambles. Mr. James Stephens and his sister, Mrs. Charles Utz, are planning to restore it as far as possible. That will be a genuine aid to the researcher in the history of the community.

Another family alliance was consummated when George James Stephens married Mary Elizabeth Beasley, a descendant of the reputed first settler in the present county of Greene.

**Eppard**

(Data by Carl Eppard)

Daniel B. Eppard came to Greene County from Page and began farming here. The farm he purchased was known as the Annie Miller farm although, as noted elsewhere, the Millers no longer owned any property in the county.

In 1912, Mr. Eppard purchased the mill near South River, since known as Eppard's Mill. This mill was powered by water as were the other mills of the county. The water in this case came from a small run or creek which flowed down to the river itself. He continued to operate the mill and farm until about 1953 when he sold his holdings and retired to enjoy a happy rest. He is still living at 99 (1970), proving at least that hard work does not necessarily bring about a demise at an early age.

After Mr. Eppard came to Greene, a number of relatives came from Rockingham County to settle here, chiefly as farmers. All the
Eppards in Greene are at least distant kin of the pioneer, Daniel B. Eppard.

Mr. Carl Eppard is a member of the Greene County Board of Education.

Mitchell

In the early days of the county, this was one of the leading families, but the name has passed away so far as Greene is concerned. Their chief work seems to have been as auditors and accountants. Some say that they were magicians with figures. There was constant demand for their services as accountants. They married well but the family finally drifted away from Greene County. The name is still remembered but little is known about the family history.

A number of other families, such as the Millers, Winters and several others, have left their names on old records and tombstones, but none of a character to warrant any statements about the family records. The author hopes that some others will be tempted to use this material as a basis for further research in the history of Greene County.
Chapter XXII
What is Ahead

It would not be fair to close this little volume without mentioning the possibilities of Greene County. It is true that natural resources in most fields are not encouraging. Greene does have one potential given her by nature. That is WATER. Its rivers and rapidly flowing minor streams must be impounded both for conserving its use for the annual dry seasons and to permit an even flow so necessary for industry. Several miles on Route 29 and a similar stretch of land on Route 33 provide ample acreage for building and parking space.

The annual cash economic status (see State Planning Commission Reports) of Greene citizens is much below the state level and while it is often implemented by home farm crops, winter lumbering and other seasonal sources of income, the average is still below that of the state per capita figure.

Of late, the county has gradually become a “dormitory” community offering room and board to workers who live here but work outside the county. Obviously this creates many demands such as water, sewage disposal, schools in addition to many incidental demands which, while small, accumulate until the total is a burden. The cost is not shared by many who enjoy them.

Industry demands plenty of water, electric power and land at a reasonable price. This Greene County has chiefly in potential. It does not secure the uniform supply of water. The new Rapidan Service Authority would seem to give promise that this situation will shortly be remedied as well as supplying the more closely occupied communities such as Stanardsville and Ruckersville assurance of adequate water for personal and household demands.

In addition to the possibilities above discussed, Greene County has wonderful potentialities for recreational facilities. There are many lakes, some large enough to furnish sites for summer residences with fishing and water sports and golf within a short driving distance. An excellent school system, with ample water and building sites, makes the county a desirable year round residential region. Greene surely has a future.
Appendix A

Errors and Additions

After publication of the chapter on Education in Greene County, Captain Nathaniel Ewell, USA Retired, wrote calling the author’s attention to the fact that the story did not mention Dr. Jennings who was an early, if not the first, superintendent of Greene County Schools and who Capt. Ewell said did a great deal to give better school facilities to the youth of the county.

The entire chapter had been prepared by a committee of the Greene County Educational Association. It was chaired by Mrs. Esther (Mrs. T.B.P.) Davis and the author immediately consulted her about it and she agreed that perhaps Supt. Jennings was entitled to some special mention. She thought that while few people now remembered him, his contribution had been considerable.

Incidentally, we should thank Captain Ewell for his detection of an error which placed the early Baptist parsonage two miles northerly from Ruckersville. He said it should be southerly. We at once consulted Mrs. Anna Watson who is our chief authority on Ruckersville and she tells us that the Captain was correct. That has been corrected in the body of the text. Thank you, Captain.

Beasley addition

The author regrets that he did not learn the following facts before writing the article on the Beasley family. But we now know that while many members of the family moved to other localities, some did not and achieved places of importance in the mountain area. Wyatt Beasley, one of the earlier members, became a fine lawyer and later achieved a considerable reputation as Circuit Judge. His picture hangs in the courthouse.

Another, some say Wyatt and others say Randolph, became a well-known doctor although not remaining in this area., named his son Wyatt, which seems to have been a favorite name, even given to a mountain.

Fletcher
(Date by M. K. Gott, a cousin of the early Fletcher)

William H. Fletcher was a prosperous farmer on Middle (Conway) River. When the Civil War broke out, his son, John Fletcher, who is a graduate of V.M.I., recruited a company of volunteers for the Confederate Army. John Fletcher was chosen Captain of the company and served with distinction.

After his father died and the other sons had not made a success of the farm, he returned to Greene County.

He shortly learned of the copper vein along the foot of the
Blue Ridge Mountains and having trained as an engineer, he decided to try his fortune. He invited Abraham Taylor to join with him in an effort to develop a paying mine. He married Louisa Taylor, daughter of his partner, Abraham. They worked at developing a mine (commonly known as the Sims mine) for several years. There was copper there of fine quality but only occasionally could be found a pocket large enough to be worthwhile, but not of sufficient value to warrant continuing their efforts.

Captain Fletcher then opened a store which in 1883 became a post office which, with the little store and the little community, was named Fletcher.

Mr. Fletcher was instrumental in establishing the first school at Fletcher, where he taught for the remainder of his life. His home was always open to ministers who would travel into the community and upon his invitation, many held services in the schoolhouse he had built.

Durrer-Harlowe Families

Miss Maxine Harlowe, who is an indefatigable researcher into family history, has given us some more interesting information about the Durrer-Harlowe families.

The first two marriages representing two branches of the Durrer-Harlowe family were: Ottie P. Durrer to Jesse R. Harlowe and Buford G. Durrer to Minnie M. Harlowe.

Mack de Moore Durrer, born in 1864, in Greene County, was the son of Samuel Durrer.

Toll Ticket---Greene Co. Telephone Co.

Time February 6, 1883 At No. Fletcher 8...........

From W. A. Singleton

To Maxine Harlowe

................. 191.....

...............Gen. Mgr.
Appendix B
Economy Data

It was the intention of the author to place in the Appendix one to three tables which would tell clearly and briefly the story of the changes in the economy of Greene County. However, it appears likely to be very time consuming as well as expensive and he has decided not to do so. Rather he is referring prospective researchers to the annual economic reports prepared and published by the Division of State Planning and Community Affairs. The address is James Madison Building, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Greene County has had a rather tumultuous existence but now seems to have settled down to a calm mid-age. Judging by the number of inquiries both by mail and in person of people who seem anxious to put us under a microscope and try to find out what makes Greene County tick, the interest will continue to grow and we hope that this little volume will be of genuine assistance, both to students and the studied.

The extension service has a very good summary of all the agriculture and related activities. This may be obtained by writing the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va., Extension Service. Between the two sources the researcher may secure all the known available data he may wish to pursue.

Since 1968 the old 8th and 9th judicial circuits have been combined to form the 16th Judicial Circuit and the judges of the Circuit Court in 1976 are:

George M. Coles
David F. Berry
Vance M. Fry
Harold H. Purcell

By 1976 Greene County was a part of the 16th Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court System served by Ralph P. Zehler, Jr. Chief Judge, and William D. Reams, Jr.
Appendix C

Will of William Monroe

At a Court held for Orange County on Thursday the 23 of March 1769, the Last Will and Testament of Wm. Monroe Deceased was presented into Court by Wm. Bell, Gent, and Wm. Cox and was proved by the oaths of Chas. Smith and Nathan Mallory, two of the witnesses thereto, and ordered to be Recorded and on the motion of the said Executors who made oath according to Law Certificate is granted them for obtaining the Letters of probate thereof in Due form they giving Security whereupon they with Geo. Taylor and John Barley their Secruities entered into Bond for the same in the sum of 1000 pounds.

Test Geo. Taylor C.O.C.

WILL OF WILLIAM MONROE

In the name of God Amen. I William Monroe of the parish of St. Thomas in the County of Orange being of present mind and sound memory and calling to mind the uncertainty of human life do make this my Last Will and Testament; first I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God trusting in his Mercy and in the merits of my Redeemer for the Remission of all my Sins; my Body I commit to the Earth to be buried at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as to my temporal estate; I bequeath and Dispose of in manner following—

Imprismes I give and bequeath to my Daughter-in-Law Ann Harris one Negro Girl named Betty and her Increase for ever; to be Delivered at the Death of her Mother if she should be Longest Liver. Imprisime I lend to my beloved wife Frances Monroe all my Estate; consisting of Negroes; Horses; Cattle; Hogs; Household Furniture; and every individual Part or parcel of my Estate after my Lawful Debts are first paid; to be used in a moderate manner; without waste; my Will is that my estate should not be sold or any part thereof until the death of my wife and after her decease to be sold every part and parcel thereof; my Will is that if my said Daughter-in-Law should Depart this life before my said wife her mother that the said Negro Girl before left her as Legasie shall be deemed part of my Estate and sold as the other part by my Executors to the highest bidders; and the money arising from the same to be Disposed towards Schooling such poor Children as my Executors shall think most in want; and I do hereby constitute and appoint Wm. Bell and Wm. Cox my joint Executors of this my Last Will and Testament and I do hereby revoke and Disanul all former requests and Legasies by me heretofore in any way
left or made declaring this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament in Witness. Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of March 1767.

In the presence of
Charles Smith
Ann Smith
His
Nathan X Mallory
Mark

His
William X Monroe (SEAL)
Mark

As a Quarterly Court held
North County of Glynn
At the Court House on Thursday
the 11th day of August 1782
Present: Thomas Orris, Canto
Miller, S. H. Davis, James McSpedon. 3 Gent. Justices.

On the Motion of Michael P. Mayo, he
Said the Sheriff of the County of
The sum of three dollars. Licence is granted him
to Pay a House of Spirits on Demand at the
Demand in this County, until the first day of the
next May term of this Court.

Benjamin W White, Foreman, John Linn, David
Morrise, George M. Shearan, William P. Mayo, James
Stuckless, Triptae D. Ed, William L. McSpedon, Mary
Smith, Isaiah Syman, James M. Elly, John
Carrington, Andrew White, Eashing Smith
Michael P. Mayo, John Morris, John P. White,

was sworn a Grand Jury of Inquisition for the Body
Of the County of Glynn who having on the
charge delivered in a short time return to Court and having no presentments to make was
discharged.

William L. Earle, Constable, who hath been duly
commissioned to produce the law in the Courts of this county
recently, on this motion they have to produce in the Court,
and therefore he took the oath of Oath to the Court
announcing the Birth of a new County to this Court,
and the order of the law, the law, and the oath
to perform the Constitution of the United States.
Appendix D
Facsimile of the Original Beverley Grant

Earliest known map of what is now part of Greene County.

Octonia, Spotsylvania County, Va.
Plat, 1721 September 7, of 24,000 acres in Spotsylvania County, Va. In 1729 this land was patented by Robert Beverley and called Octonia.
Appendix E
Facsimile of Petition for New County and Signers' Names

TO THE HONORABLE LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA.

The Petition of the subscribers, citizens of the upper end of Orange County, State of Virginia, most respectfully sheweth,

That your memorialists participating in common with their fellow-citizens in the enjoyment of free government, have ever looked with interest to the prosperity of our republican institutions, as the best guarantee for the security of the many and diversified blessings as a community of freemen, it is our great privilege to enjoy under our happy Constitution, and none do we recognize with a higher spirit of exultation than the right of petition to the constituted authorities of the country for the redress of our grievances, which right can only be withheld when we cease to be free, and which we have hitherto refrained from making known to your honourable body, in consideration of the political excitement of the public mind upon the subject of the reform of the State Constitution, by which modification we had some reason to hope of relief under the then contemplated remodeling the counties by a new organization of the Government.

Your memorialists further represent to your honourable body, that the great distance at which they reside from the seat of justice of their county, renders it both inconvenient and expensive in attending court; being often detained there by serving on juries, being detained as witnesses, and the more frequent procrastination of law suits, and not unfrequently by the high water of two rivers that intersect their travelling thither or returning home, and the extreme badness of the public highways from beyond the mountains to the Court House, which is nearly impassable for six months of the year or during the winter season. Orange County is about seventy miles in length, and for some distance above the Court-House, the breadth is but ten miles, it being thirty or forty miles from the Court House to the top of the Blue Ridge, which divides this county from Rockingham. The above obstacles and inconveniences often prevent the magistrates from this part of the County from attending court, and the public business is thereby injuriously neglected. The great and many privations which your memorialists labour under, have induced them to ask your honourable body to enact a law authorising a division of the County of Orange, by a line running nearly north and south from some point on the Albemarle line between Cavesville and Barboursville to the head waters of Marsh Run, thence with the meanderings to the mouth of said run, emptying into the Rapid Ann river, the dividing line between Orange and Madison. This division would form a compact county ex-
tending from the said designated line to the top of the Blue Ridge, a distance varying from twenty to thirty miles, and varying in width from ten to twenty miles, embracing a population of about seven thousand industrious citizens, many of whom, by their daily labour, are subjugating the huge mountains to all the valuable purposes of agriculture. Within this boundary a Court House may be located at Stanardsville, which is near the centre, & the citizens, like most of the other counties, will be enabled to attend court and return home the same day, which they can seldom do in their present condition. Stanardsville is situated 23 miles from Orange Court House, 25 from Charlottesville, 84 from Harrisonburg, and 15 from Madison Court-House. By the location of a seat of justice there, the citizens (a greater proportion of whom reside above there) and the magistrates would be enabled to attend court promptly and despatch the public business without delay. Wherefore, by this division of the county, no injury whatever can arise to the remainder of its citizens, and while we rely on their magnanimity in the spirit of equal laws for a hearty co-operation in behalf of our sovereign rights, and a redress of our grievances we look with confidence to your honourable body, the Legislature of our State, to grant this petition of your memorialists which they deem reasonable and worthy of your deliberate consideration.

N. C. Jennings,
Harwood Riddle,
J. B. Oliver,
James Lamb,
Abraham Eddins,
John W. Taylor,
J. R. Eddins,
Bluford Eddins,
W. Riddle,
Fielding Riddle,
Parks Goodale,
Thornton Rogers.
James Burns
Seth Fair Williams
William Eaton 15
August G. Gear
Nathaniel Gear
Matthew Night

Wm. Dunivan
Thomas Moran 20
John Gear
James Gear

Michael Hayes
Daniel Phil Kumble
Linn Hayes 25

Wm. Nichols
Candy Sims
Smith Eddings
James Lanz 20030

William Lanz
William She...
Samuel H. 
Elijah Huffman
Henry Fogle
Emile Simons
John Shiff
Emmanuel Dunker
N. A. Dean 60
James Atell
W. M. Powell
George Sheeiman
John Marr
Dalmatine Kezeley 65
Levi Morris
George Powell
Downing Smith
Jesse W. Marr
Zachariah Taylor 70
Henry Warden
Bezaleil Parrot
Ranpers Lamb
Albert Easton
Stewart Marks
Thomas Tyler 95

Mary Nancy
John Nancy
David Shiflet

Helen Ko Byratt
Youth Smith 100

Abraham Taylor
William C. Knight

James Nancy, Jr.
Matthew Lamb, Jr.
Jeremiah Jan." 1115

Jacob Flood
George Dean
Santer, Dean
Lamplough, Humb
This petition with its 122 signatures requesting that a portion of Orange County be separated and made into a new county was presented to the Virginia Legislature in 1838 by Thomas Davis, State Senator from Orange County. The original is in the possession of his great great grandson, T.B.P. Davis.
SCENES AT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—These photos were snapped yesterday as hundreds of Greene Countians gathered at Stanardsville to celebrate the county's centennial and dedicate a new county office building, constructed under a WPA project. At the top are shown 24 residents whose aggregate ages represent 1,794 years of service to Greene. They are (left to right): Front—L. M. Smith, 78; T. B. Gentry, 72; J. L. Thomas, 70; H. W. Moxey, 78; T. B. Hensley, 85; E. G. Garrett, 80; Mrs. E. D. Durette, 78; J. B. Durette, 71; W. N. Crawford, 73; Q. H. Collier, 71; Leonard Slow, 70; G. W. Davis, 76; C. L. Southard, 73; J. W. Roberts, 78; Euston Shifflett, 72; W. A. McDowell, 74, and R. L. Taylor, 70. Rear—J. B. Hensley, 85; O. M. Edens, 85; James Bickers, 84, and Sam Breeden, 70. Directly below, hardy Greene Countians listen to an address by State Treasurer Edwin B. Jones, Governor Price's representative at the celebration. At his left is State WPA Administrator William A. Smith, who made the dedicatory speech. Below, Miss Renee Cole, queen of the centennial, and County Clerk Benjamin I. Bickers pose before the new building.—Whitaker Photos.
Green Residents Celebrate 100th Birthday of County and Dedicate New Building

Stanardsville Decked Out For Occasion

STANARDSVILLE, (AP) — Descendants of the hardy Scotch, Irish and English pioneers who first settled Greene County yesterday celebrated the 100th anniversary of the date when it was officially cut off from Orange County in 1838.

The formal dedication of the new two-story county office building, of Colonial design, erected under a project of the WPA and sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, was the highlight of the day. The building represents an expenditure of more than $25,000, of which WPA contributed $13,442.

The new building, now 90 per cent complete, is built around the old steel vault of the original clerk's office. The structure is of fireproof construction with large offices on the first floor for the clerk and county treasurer. The second floor has eight office rooms, one of which will be reserved for the county school board. The board also will have the use of a large supply storage room.

The basement contains the trial Justice's office. The WPA project embraces landscaping the grounds and laying walkways, and erecting walls around the courthouse green.

In simple ceremonies, Greene County residents memorialized the famous Revolutionary War general for which their county was named—Nathaniel Greene.

Then with2Ene Cole, pretty 18-year-old native girl, presiding over the program, the new building was dedicated "to the use of the officers of the county."

It was a colorful crowd that gathered around the speaker's stand, erected on the portico of the century-old courthouse. Flags and bunting gave the village a festive air, heightened by the strains of jazz and patriotic tunes.

A highlight was the attendance of 24 residents over 70 years of age whose combined ages represented 1,794 years. The oldest was J. J. Taylor, 91.

John S. Chapman, former State senator, was master of ceremonies. After tracing the history of the formation of the county, he introduced John J. Morris, trial justice, who delivered the address of welcome. State Treasurer E. B. Jones, representing Governor Price, used as his theme the life of General Greene and paid tribute to the progressiveness of the county.

Treasurer Jones also praised President Roosevelt and described him as "a man interested in the welfare of the most people rather than a select few."

"People may say now that you have overburdened the county, but the future generations will commend your foresight," he said.

During the recess, a luncheon was tendered the officials at the Hotel Powhatan.

After the luncheon, State WPA Administrator William A. Smith addressed the crowd, pointing out that local WPA workers had received the bulk of the wages in connection with erection of the building. He said the partnership between the Federal Government and Greene County authorities exemplified the philosophy of the WPA program, which embraced recognition of the fact that needy persons were ready and willing to work for subsistence and should be given the opportunity.

Others who spoke were Delegate E. O. McCue of Charlottesville, N. B. Early, collector of internal revenue, and Judge Lemuel Smith of Charlottesville.
Greene County Jail, Court House, and Clerk's Office, ca. 1900. Left to right are: Mr. Morton, caretaker; -—; Zirkle Blakey, Sr.; W. B. McMullen, Sr.; Zeb Paige; Commonwealth's Attorney John Thomas Bray; Russ Melone; —; Reuben Thomas.

Courtesy of Mrs. R. W. Coppedge
View of old Ruckersville going east on the Rockingham Turnpike. Left to right: log house of the Miley Shotwell family; doctor’s office; Ewell-Hord house.

Courtesy of Mrs. Ralph Murphy

This church was known by many as the “Old Orange Church”. It was owned in partnership by the Baptists, Methodists and Disciple Societies and the Ruckersville Masonic Lodge. The latter occupied the upper story. (See chapter on Churches.)
Main Street, Stanardsville, circa 1900.
Courtesy of Mrs. Grover Morris

Grace Episcopal Church, Stanardsville ca. 1910.
Courtesy of Mrs. Grover Morris

Courtesy of Mrs. Marcus Watson

Brill Shop – On the right is Blacksmith William Brill, Sr. with his son, William Brill, Jr.

Courtesy of Glenn Brill
Ellis Powell, Gray Moyers, and the author inspect the Octonian Rock on the H. K. Shelton farm, South River.

We wish to express our appreciation to everyone who was kind enough to lend us pictures and help to identify persons in the pictures used in this history.

Publisher

Close-up of the inscription on the Octonian Rock, which was filled in with chalk for this photograph.

Photos by John W. Dickey
Supervisor E. Z. Morris and author look at the Ogg house, now used as a place for storage. The main part is said to have been built by the Ogg family about the time of the Revolution. The main part was of log construction, with two wings added in later years. (See Ogg Family in chapter on the families of the county.) (Picture by J. W. Dickey)

George Thornton Cabin, built about 1775, on the Ennis Haney farm. 

Courtesy of Mrs. Adelaide Powell
Courtesy of George H. Parrott

Dennis Frye, sr. with his family, two sons and nine daughters, mother and aunt in front of his farm home. This farm remains in the Frye family today. The two surreys were required to take the family to church. Circa 1920.  
Courtesy of Mrs. Hugo Scott
CARPENTER SCHOOL
On old Carpenter Mill Road
About 1905

1st row: Fay Herbert, Robert Dean, Kennie Dean. 2nd row: Vivian Harlow, Mary Florance Sims, Lois Root, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Blanche Dowell, Unknown, Unknown. 3rd row: Unknown, Richard Creel Sims, Nan Dean, Unknown, Ethel Root, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Clyde M. Sims, Werner Payne, Mamie Durrer. 4th row: Parthenia Sims, Marvin Durrer, Ollie Twyman, Colbert Twyman, Florance Root, Lilly Carpenter, Annie Durrer, Florance Dickerson, 5th row: Frank Dean, Dennis Payne, Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. Baker (Teacher), Ross Root, Benjamin L. Sims, and Van Durrer.
Front to back (l to r) Nellie Smith, Charlie Smith. 2nd row: Bernard Smith, Doris Smith, Jessie Smith, Bob Smith, “Bunks” Herndon, Abbott Herndon, Kemper Weaver, Marvin Floyd Weaver, Creel Weaver, Kemper Lee Sims, Smith Estes. 3rd row: Ben Leake Weaver, Robert Weaver, Sanford Deane, Jr., Carson Deane. 4th row: Mary Estes Gordon, Russell Rust, Elva Smith Rust, Laura Smith, Nellie Estes Smith, Ola Sims Weaver, Addie Weaver, Horace Weaver, Jim Herndon, Dona Weaver Herndon, Mary Ellen Smith, Mittie D. Sims, Lutie Sims, Kenneth Herndon, Leslie Smith, Richard Creel Sims, Lucille Sims. 5th row: Elizabeth Estes Marshall, Mildred Gordon Holmes, Hilda Gordon Suddith, Ruth Gordon Lohr, “Sis” Weaver, Azle Deane, Jim Estes, Sanford “Black” Deane, Jeremiah Deane. 6th row: Eudaline Sims, Mamie Smith Estes, Luna Herndon, Vivian Estes, “Pack” Herndon, Dona Herndon, Annie Sims Herndon, Laura Estes, John Estes, Arbea Creel, Lois Dean, Kelsie Weaver, Florence Sims, Marguerette Sims, Arline Gay Sims, Katherine Herndon, Lyla Weaver.
Plaque located in the Courtroom of the Orange County Courthouse.

In Memory of
WILLIAM MONROE
Poor children of Orange.

Benefactor and
Philanthropist


Hog Butchering, ca. 1922.

Courtesy of Mrs. John Wetsel

Courtesy of Mrs. John Wetsel
Scenes from Greene County in the 1920s.

Courtesy of Galen Morris
Robert Angus Gibbons. Courtesy of Sally B. Gibbons

l-r: T. N. "Uncle Tommy" Graves, Henry Moyers, and George W. Davis.

Dr. R. B. Pennington

B. Ivy Bickers

Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren, Ruckersville. Courtesy of Mrs. John Wetzel
Jesse Pennington, Union Army Sutler, served in Greene County under General Custer, and returned here to live after the war.

Courtesy of T. B. P. Davis

Old Ruckersville Post Office closed when new post office opened in August 1956.
The house, occupied by Cicero Samuels and family, displays in many ways the remarkable woodworking ability of a craftsman of by-gone years.
Church Of The Brethren Industrial School

CBIS bought Joe Harvey's property.

CBIS School, ca. 1930.

CBIS Bus.

Sewing Class.

Miss Nelie Wampler, Brethren Missionary with Miss Sanger.

Miss Wampler.

Courtesy of Galen Morris