The Charles R. Greene shoemaker's ledger

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2011

In 2009, Colin Kourelis was renovating a house at 154 Middle Road in Dunkirk. A false wall was taken down and behind it was found a small (3¾" x 6¼") memorandum book with lined pages. The covers are gone and many of the empty back pages have been chewed into by some nest-building creature. A few of the pages have pencil or crayon scribbling, so the supposition is that the little book was lying around in the attic, used briefly by a small child and then dropped into the space behind the false wall on the floor below.

An inside flyleaf has a penciled inscription that can just be made out:

C. R. Greene Boots & Shoes No. 71 Main St. Fredonia N.Y.

Number 71 Main Street today would be 7 East Main Street, a store in what was called the American Block. In the 1870s (the small booklet has entries from August 1872 through April 1873), the business at 71 Main Street was Frazine, Greene & Co., boots, shoes & rubber goods. The proprietors were George N. Frazine, Charles R. Greene and Leverett B. Greene.

Charles (the C. R. Greene of the memorandum book) used the booklet to make a kind of shorthand record of orders he received, whether or not they were completed, and what was the charge for the work. The penciled entries later had two parallel ink strokes marked through them, probably indicating that his records had been entered into the store's ledger of all accounts, and, no doubt, more neatly written out for a permanent record.

Charles R. Greene was born on 8 November 1848 to Roselle and Eliza (Barker) Greene. Roselle Greene had come to Fredonia in 1832 to apprentice with Leverett Barker, Fredonia's very successful tanner, who had married Desire, the daughter of Hezekiah and Sarah Barker (no relation) and built the first brick house in the village in 1821, today's Barker Historical Museum. Roselle Greene became a partner of Leverett Barker's, marrying his daughter Eliza in November 1837. The family also had tanneries, mills, and homes in Versailles NY.

When Leverett Barker died in May 1848, Roselle Greene became the head of the household, with Eliza responsible for Emeline Barker, 17; Julia Barker, 14; and their own children, Leverett B. Greene, 8; Mary B. Greene, 6; and Kate Greene, 3. Charles followed in November 1848. Roselle Greene died in 1859, leaving Leverett Barker Greene to take over his father's role. Charles attended the local school and was able to have five terms at the Fredonia Academy from 1865 through 1867. He must then have apprenticed as a shoemaker, so that he was able to become a partner in the Frazine, Greene & Co. shoe store in April 1872. (G. N. Frazine was probably the money behind the business rather than an active partner, since he had long been a successful hardware merchant, established

a coal yard and was involved with several other ventures over the years.) Once established in the store, Charles Greene married Alice, the daughter of Franklin and Ann Burritt, in October 1872.

Unfortunately, Charles became ill. His ledger entries end on 11 April 1873 and he died on 9 November 1874 of "congestion of the brain," age 26. His young widow, Alice B. Greene, moved back in with her parents, the Franklin Burritts, until 1 May 1879, when she was married to Frank Conn of Dunkirk, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Office there. They lived on Fifth Street at the corner of Eagle Street, about at 19 West 5th Street, moving to Brooklyn NY by 1887. Because the house where the ledger was found, 154 Middle Road, was not built until the later 1920s, Charles Greene's ledger must have been preserved, perhaps by accident, elsewhere. It may have come to Dunkirk with Alice Greene when she married Frank Conn and was left, then, at their 5th Street home. There is no way of knowing how it migrated to the Middle Road attic and behind the false wall.

The original small ledger has been donated to the Barker Historical Museum through the generosity of Colin and Susan Kourelis, along with a scanned version. That will allow researchers to examine the entries without having to handle the fragile original. The ledger and the scan are accompanied by a printed transcription of the ledger's text along with an index to the names which would be of particular interest to genealogists and local historians.

Ledger

Aug 19 1872 N Palmer Geo wife A Pr Shoes 1 " Rubber

> 20 Clara Whitney 1 Pr Shoes

23 Miss Lydia Denton 1 shoes

O Simmons 3 (?) Shoes

Warren Kellogg 1 Shoes boy

Mrs David Griggs 1 Shoes Mrs Potter
1 Slips [Slippers?]

26 Albert Tarbox 1 Shoes Mrs

Eliza Lester To 1 Pr slips

J (?) A Putnam 1 Pr Boot

> F C Crane 1 Pr Boots

30 Frank Wiley 1 Pr Boots

Watson Wood 1 Pr Shoes

L.A.Barmore
1 Pr Shoes order

Sept 3
B W Cotton
1 Bot[tle] Blacking

H C Frisbee 1 Pr Shoes

4
A Corwin (?)
Pr Cartage (?)

5 D Smith 1 Pr Rubber

Henry Polfus 3 Pr shoe

Thos Horton
1 Pr Shoes Mrs
" "

½ Doz " Strings 1 Pr rubbers

C M Ball 1 light glass & setting

Sept 7 L B Greene 1 Pr Shoes H[ired?] Girl

C M Ball
1 Box Blacking
2 Pr Shoes
2 "Rubber
2 "Slippers
1 Doz Strings
1 Bot Benze (?) [Benzene?]
1 " Dressing
1 Light Glass & Setting

O Simmons
1 Pr Shoes Dust (? Daut?)

9

L F Harrison
2 Box Blacking
1 pr Slip Watson (?)

Calvin Hutchin[son?]
1 Pr slips

10 L A Barmore Ex (?) chang e chairs

Frank Oneal 1 Pr shoes

Mrs W Ryman 1 Pr Shoes

12 J (?) B Gardner

1 Pr Shoes Daut

Amos Harrison (?)
1 Pr shoes

13 A S Roberts 1 Pr Shoes Per Mrs J Hamilton (?) 1 Pr shoes H G "

A S Roberts
1 Pr Shoes
" " " H.G
per Mrs J Hamilton

14 Cha(?) Bartram 2 shoes Mrs 1 slips

16
Carlton Wilcox
2 Pr Shoes
1 Pair Pls Gaiters
1
Cha(?) Bartram
2 shoes Mrs
1 slips

16 Carlton Wilcox 2 Pr Shoes 1 Pair Pls Gaiters 1 " Childs "

19
A S Couch
1 Pr Rub
O Simmons
1 Pr Rub Daut

20 Hurb Tarr 1 Pr Shoes Mrs Dian Beebe 2 Shoes Geo Tate 1 Pr Shoes Mrs

21 Jairus Porter 1 Pr Shoes

Putnam Bros
1 Pr Shoes firm (?)
W McKinstry
Pr Shoes Lewis

25 A H Barker 1 Pr Boot

26 Alvaro Wilson 1 pr Shoes Mrs Dr Moore 2 Doz strings

28 Wm? Cooper 1 Pr Shoes L S Riggs 1 Pr Boots Wm Smith 1 Pr Boots

30 P H Stevens 1 Pr Boots pr Mr ?

Oct 2
Erastus Waters
Bal on Boots
Henry Polfus
1 Pr Boots

5 Allen (?) McEllwell 1 Pr Boots EdWatson 1 Pr Boots
Putnam bros
1Pr Boots John Clary
1 " Rub a o P
Norm (?) Palmer
Bal on Boots

8
Mrs S Snow
2 Pr shoes Paid
Frank Munger
3 (?) Pr shoes
Jack Baker
1 Pr shoes cash (?)

J M Parker
1 Pr shoes
L Stearns
1 Pr Boots
Ensign Ellis
1 Pr Boots
Tom (?) Glinn
1 Pr Shoes

11 C R Greene ? Trade

B W Cotton
1 pr Boots for Brooks(?)
S G Bailey
1 Pr Shoes Daut
W H Bettis
2 Pr Shoes

14
B W Cotton
1 Pr rub
E Hillard
2 Pr Shoes
J C Parker
1 Pr Rub Daut

S N Hatch
1 Pr Shoes
M Batcheldor
1 Pr Shoes
1 " "
1 " "
Geo White
1 Pr Rub
1 Doz string

16
Stephen Reed
1 Pr Boots Fred Tuttle
O M Couch
1 Pr Shoes
2 " "

Step[h]en Palmer Arkwright
1 Pr Boots
A Corwin
By Cartage

17 W(?) M(?) Sloan 1 Pr Shoes

18
J Gardner
1 Pr Rubs
Ance Luce
1 Pr Boots
David (?) Barker
2 Pr Shoes Mrs
Hutchinson Paid 10/ for Shoes

HR Barker
1 Pr shoes Mrs
W ?? McElwood (?)
2 Pr shoes
Cr
1 Pr Ret[urned?]
HC Frisbee
1 Par Shoes
James Sprague
1 Pr Boots

Nov 4 1872 B W Cotton 1 Pr Rubs Daug

6 A Palmer 1 Pr Boots H. boy

8 J B Gardner 1 Pr Shoes Geo Rood 2 Pr Slips Mrs

9
Geo W Knott
1 Pr Shoes
N Palmer
1 Pr Shoes Bot wife

Geo White 2 Pr Shoes C O Wilcox 3 Pr Rub 1 " "

13 L B Greene 2 for Feckler ??? H ?? Terrell 1 Pr Boots Vincent Dunn 1 Pr Boots

14 Miss Smith 1 Pr Shoes August Bouquin 1 Pr Shoes

> 15 John Fagan 1 Pr Boots

16
Mrs W
W McKinstry
1 Pr Shoes
1 "Rubs
1 "Slips Doves (?)
John Mullen
Pr Shoes
Wm B Law
1 Pr Boots
Richard (?) Cushing
Pete M Hilton (?)
Geo White
1 Pr Slips

18
E Baldrick
1 Pr Rb Boots
Cr
? 1¼ Cords wood
C R Green
Abel (?) Badrich

19 For ? Mrs Towers 1 Pr Rub

> 21 A S Roberts 1 Pr Rubs Pat Fagan 2 Pr Rubs

22 D Pritchard 1 Pr Rubs

E O Wilcox
1 Pr Rubs
John Fagan
By Cash
Alex McElwell
2 Pr Rubs
Stephen Palmer
1 Pr Boots Son

25 J N Rowe 1 Pr Shoes 1 " Rubs

28 O Simpson (?) Daug 2 Pr Shoes

29 M H Sacket 2 Pr Shoes Sam Warren 1 Pr Shoes boy B (?) D K Benjamin 1 Pr Shoes

30 Dr Chas Smith 1 Pr Rubs Nov 1 " Daug Shoes ?? **30** 1 **Stephen Reed 1 Pr Boots James Irving** 1 Pr Boots boy (?) **Dr Chas Smith** 1 Pr Rubs wf? 1 " " Daug 1 Shoes Albert ???? 1 Pr Rubs

Dec 2 1872
Saml Cranston
5 Rush Potatoes
C R Greene
5 Rush P Cranston

3 Allen Pierce 1 Pr Boots Pat McDonald 1 Pr Rubs
Dom Clark
2 Pr Shoes
Geo Rood
1 Pr Boot & Insoles?
By (?) Richard I Mercer
Benj Skinner
1 Pr Shoes

4
Henry Pemberton
By 1 Pr Shoes Ret
Wm Plank
1 Pr Rub B [Rubber Boots?]
Richard Edmons
1 Pr Rubs

5 Tim Canty 2 Pr Shoes

6
W G Till
Pr Rubs sf (sp?)
1 " Slips
Geo H. White
Pr Rubs avenue

7
E H Thatcher
1 Pr Shoes Mrs
Hurb Tarr
1 Pr Boot & Insoles
L B Greene
Let g d? H Tarr
Jack Sage
1 Pr R Boots & Insoles

9 Norman Renolds (?) Wood C R G C R Greene To the above S S Crissy 1 Pr Rub A 10 C R Greene 1 Pr Rubs MRs Henry Davis 1 Pr Shoes 1 " Rubs

11
Henry Davis
James? H. Lake?
1 Pr Shoes Mrs?
L A Barmore
1 Pr Heels putting on

12
Corrington Barker
Bal on Goods
1 Pr shoes?
1 Slips
W McKinstry Rec
To order

13
Sam Williams
1 Pr Shoes
1 Button Hook
H G Wilber
1 Pr Shoes
1 Pr rubs

14
O Simmons
2 Shoes
1 Pr Rubs
D Morris
1 Pr Slips
1 " "
Robt Housdell
1 Pr Shoes
Hurb Davis
1 Pr Boots
Alec Mc Ellwell
1 pr Shoes

16 C M Ball 1 Pr Boots 1 " " A H Barker 1 Pr Slips

18 ??? Swan 1 Pr Rubs Mrs

20 W McKinstry 1 Pr Rubs per order ?? Manton 2 Pr Slips

21 Morgan L Rice 1 Pr Bootsfor Geo Rice Patrick McDonald 1 Pr Shoes

A O Putnam
1 Pr Shoes
1 " "
Anne Bartram
2 Pr Slips
L T Parker
1 Pr rubs
W McKinstry
1 Pr Shoes Mrs Sr?
1 Pr Rubs order
string
Order 24/ -- Bal 15
Chas Pringle
1 Pr rubs

27 Joseph Gardner 1 Pr Boots

28 D K Benjamin 2 Pr Rubs Nelson A Mansfield
1 pr Shoes
C R Greene
1 pr Rubs
1 Pr Shoes Mrs
Robt Hasedell
1 Pr Boots
2 Slips

Jan 2 1873
JAirus Porter
1 Pr Shoes
C R Greene
To Chg? E D Howard

4
Chas Davey
1 Pr Boot Mrs
C M Ball
1 Pr Shoes
L A Barmore
1 Pr Rub daug
H S Morton
1 Pr Boots
John Dickinson
1 Pr Shoes Mrs

6 C R Greene Cr K R Palmer

7 Arkwright Stephen Palmer 1 Pr Boots

8
Stephen Reed
1 Pr felt Shoes
W W Cotton
1 Pr Rubs
C R Greene
1 Cash
C R Greene
To Trade

Russell Beckwith 1 Pr Rub

17
? ? Nobles
1 Pr Shoes avenue

18 Wm G Fell? 2 Pr Shoes W A Adams 1 Pr Shoes Anson Reed 1 Pr Boots

19 Hanson Roberts 1 Pr Shoes

P H Stevens & Co
1 Pr Rubs little Frank
O Simmons
1 ?? Mak 1 Pr Boots

D S Stratman?
1 Pr Shoes
C O Wilcox
1 Pr Rubs
August Burquin
1 Pr Boots
Geo Havens
1 Pr Shoes

25 C O Wilcox 1 Pr Shoes Daut ? ? L Barmore 2 Pr Shoes Boot A O Putnam 1 Pr Rubs

> 27 ??? Tuffts ? 1 Pr Rubs

28 Thos Prushaw 1 Pr Rubbers

30 W W Odell 1 Pr Rub Boots

Feb 1 R H Wolfers 1 Pr Boots artur D A White 1 Pr Rubs

Feb 3
Sheridan
James Morris
1 Pr Boots boy
T L Higgins
1 Pr Rubs
H L Taylor
1 Pr Shoes ent?
Robt Wilson
1 Pr Shoes

4 Dr Moore 1 Pr Rubs

5 J C Orton 1 Pr Shoes

6 Henry Pemberton 1 Pr Shoes baby

7
John Wheeler
1 Pr Shoes
[In margin: Returned]
Clara Whitney
1 Pr Shoes
L M Cole
1 Pr Shoes

10

John Bissell

1 Pr Shoes

C R Greene

To Trade ? D B

A Colburn

2 Pr Shoes

Miss Smith

1 Pr Shoes

[In margin: Returned]

Chas Pringle

2 Pr Shoes

12

Geo Bickers

1 Pr Rub

D R Barker

15

Alex McEllwel

1 Pr Boots

1 " Shoes

17

Chas Cooper

1 Pr Boots

1 " Rubs

18

G M Tremaine

1 Pr Rubs Dut?

L C Tiffany

1 Pr Rubs

19

Mr. Wm Biggs

1 Pr Rubs Dut?

21

H L Higgins

1 Pr Boots H[ired?] Man

22

B W Cotton

1 Bot Blacking

26
W McKinstry
1 Pr Rubs Daut
James H Lake
1 Pr Shoes orral wife
1 " Miss
Warren Kellogg
2 [changed to] 3 Pr Shoes
Lycom Stevens
1 Pr Rub Boots pay in week

27 C M Ball 1 Pr Shoes P F Mace 1 Pr Boots 1 " Slips

28 C R Greene Rubs 1 Pr per clute? H G Wilber? 1 Pr Rub son

Mar 1
Mrs Gates
2 Pr boots son [marked over] Ret[urned?]
Insoles
D K Benjamin
3 Pr Slips
Cr
By Cash

23
?? Harrison
1 Pr shoes
3 strings
O Simmons
1 Pr Rubs Daut?
F G? Stevens
1 Pr Rubbers
Wm Moore

1 Pr Rubs

5

Edward Grover
2 [marked over] 1 Pr Shoe
Mrs McPherson [In left margin marked Ret]
3 Pr Doll Shoes
E.H Ramsdell son
1 Pr Rub Boots
" Insoles

6
Chas S Thatcher
1 Pr Shoes Son
Abner ? Mattoon
3 7/8 wood CRG
C R Greene
Wood A Mattoon
W WWright
2 Pr Rubs

8
B W Cotton
1 Pr Boots Henry
Duane Beebe
1 Pr Boots son
Geo W Lewis
1 Pr Childs shoes
" 8/-- Mrs?
L B Greene(?)
Goods
Geo.H.White
Pr Shoes
___? Beebe
__?????
Hanson Roberts
2 Pr Rubs

Mar 12 C M Ball Tm 1 Pr Boots order " leash

> 15 G Harrison 1 Pr Rubs

E R Greene Cash 1 Pr Slips Tim Canty 1 Pr Shoes baby

> 17 B W Cotton 1 Pr Rubs

19 A Corwin By Cartage Chas/Geo Harrison 1 Pr Shoes

> 20 W.McKinstry Per order

A? Colburn
Pr shoes
? Williams
Pr shoes
J B Gardner
1 Pr Boots

22 Chas Horton 1 Pr shoes Watson Woods 1 Pr slips

24
? Summerkhol?
1 Pr shoes
H B Stevens
1 Pr Rubs
Amos Harrison?
1 Pr Rubs srvant?
Marcus Carroll
1 Pr Rubs

H Miner 2 Pr Slips

27 Jo Zahm 1 Pr Rubs Sans? O C DeWitt 1 Pr Rubs

28 Lu Huntley 1 Pr Rubs Stephen Palmer 1 Pr Boots son

Risley Roberts
1 Pr shoes
C Butler
1 Pr shoes Ret
Bal on ?
29 (cont.)
W? F Harrison
1 Pr shoes Rogers
John Peters
1 Pr Boots
S S Crissey
Order
?? Denton
1 Pr Slips

April 1
James? B Sprague
1 Pr Rubs D??t
Clara Whitney
2 Pr Shoes

Thod? Wolfers
1 Pr Rubs
H Henline
1 Pr Shoes baby
Mrs Storey Grand?
1 Pair shoes
Preston? Moore ???
2 Pr shoes

C Mullett
1 Pr shoes
C R Greene
? to Cash
Wood & Mc?Knott

4

H? Pemberton
1 Pr Shoes per order
Isac? Dr Swift
1 Pr Boot

66

"

5

H A Taylor 1 Pr Shoes W McKinstry & son

1 Pr Rubs

? Cotton?

??

7

D A Clark 1 Pr shoes

8 J C Frisbee 1 Pr Rubs

9 John Lathrup 1 Pr Shoes

10 D. H. Stevens 1 Pr Shoes baby

E Eley 1 Pr Rubs daut

11

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Adams, 14
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Badrich, 9

Bailey, 6

Baker, 5

Baldrick, 8

Ball, 2, 12, 13, 17, 19

Barker, 4, 7, 11, 12, 16

Barmore, 2, 3, 11, 13, 15

Bartram, 3, 4, 13

Batcheldor, 6

Beckwith, 14

Beebe, 4, 19

Benjamin, 9, 13, 18

Bettis, 6

Bickers, 16

Biggs, 17

Bissell, 16

Bouquin, 8

Brooks, 6

Burquin, 15

Butler, 20

Canty, 10, 19

Carroll, 20

Clark, 10, 22

Clary, 5

Colburn, 16, 20

Cole, **16**

Cooper, **5**, **17**

Corwin, 2, 6, 19

Cotton, 2, 6, 7, 14, 17, 19, 21

Couch, 4, 6

Crane, 1

Cranston, 10

Crissey, 21

Crissy, 11

Cushing, 8

Davey, 13

Davis, 11, 12

Denton, 1, 21

DeWitt, 20

Dickinson, 14

Dunn, 8

Edmons, 10

Eley, 22

Ellis, 5

Fagan, **8**, **9**

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Feckler, 8
                   Fell, 14
              Frisbee, 2, 7, 22
            Gardner, 3, 7, 13, 20
                  Gates, 18
                  Glinn, 6
                  Green, 8
Greene, 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21
                  Griggs, 1
                 Grover, 18
                Hamilton, 3
         Harrison, 3, 18, 19, 20, 21
                Hasedell, 13
                  Hatch, 6
                 Havens, 15
                 Henline, 21
               Higgins, 15, 17
                  Hillard, 6
                  Hilton, 8
                Horton, 2, 20
                Housdell, 12
                Howard, 13
                Huntley, 20
              Hutchin[son?], 3
               Hutchinson, 7
                  Irving, 10
                Kellogg, 1, 17
                Knott, 7, 21
                Lake, 11, 17
                Lathrup, 22
                   Law, 8
                  Lester, 1
                Lewis, 4, 19
                   Luce, 7
                  Mace, 17
                Mansfield, 13
                 Manton, 12
                Mattoon, 18
              McDonald, 10, 12
                McEllwel, 16
                McEllwell, 5
                McElwell, 9
                McElwood, 7
    McKinstry, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21
               McPherson, 18
                 Mercer, 10
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Miner, 20
    Moore, 5, 16, 18, 21
      Morris, 12, 15
        Morton, 14
        Mullen, 8
        Mullett, 21
        Munger, 5
        Nobles, 14
         Odell, 15
         Oneal, 3
         Orton, 16
Palmer, 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 20
      Parker, 5, 6, 13
   Pemberton, 10, 16, 21
         Peters, 21
        Pierce, 10
         Plank, 10
        Polfus, 2, 5
       Porter, 4, 13
         Potter, 1
      Pringle, 13, 16
       Pritchard, 9
       Prushaw, 15
  Putnam, 1, 4, 5, 13, 15
       Ramsdell, 18
      Reed, 6, 10, 14
        Renolds, 11
          Rice, 12
         Riggs, 5
  Roberts, 3, 9, 14, 19, 20
        Rogers, 21
        Rood, 7, 10
         Rowe, 9
         Ryman, 3
         Sacket, 9
         Sage, 11
Simmons, 1, 3, 4, 12, 15, 18
        Simpson, 9
        Skinner, 10
          Sloan, 7
   Smith, 2, 5, 8, 10, 16
          Snow, 5
      Sprague, 7, 21
        Stearns, 5
Stevens, 5, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22
        Storey, 21
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Stratman, 15

Summerkhol, 20

Swift, 21

Tarbox, 1

Tarr, 4, 11

Tate, 4

Taylor, 16, 21

Terrell, 8

Thatcher, 11, 18

Tiffany, 17

Till, 11

Towers, 9

Tremaine, 17

Tuffts, 15

Tuttle, 6

Warren, 1, 9, 17

Waters, 5

Watson, 2, 3, 5, 20

Wheeler, 16

White, 6, 8, 11, 15, 19

Whitney, 1, 16, 21

Wilber, 12, 18

Wilcox, 4, 9, 15

Wiley, 1

Williams, 12, 20

Wilson, 4, 16

Wolfers, 15, 21

Wood, 2, 11, 18, 21

Woods, 20

Wright, 18

Zahm, 20