

The Spring 2014 Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Bland County Historical Society was held on March 22nd, 2014 at the Mountain Home Center in Rocky Gap. John Dodson, retired teacher and founder of the Mountain Home Center, welcomed the group and introduced Kara Wikle, and Angel Leftwich, current teachers in the program.

Mrs Wikle gave the group information on the current program at Mountain Home Center, including the fact that this past year the students completed 750 interviews of local people in their ongoing effort to document the local history through their stories. They have also developed information on 100 cemeteries in Bland County. Much of this information can be seen online at "Bland Co History Archives". She also presented several videos that students had done including one on World War 1 and Bland County which was researched and put together by students. Several students were there and answered questions and showed us around the Center.

It was an inspiring presentation to see all that these students have accomplished and the enthusiasm with which both students and staff talk about all they have learned about both local history and technology through this program.

John Dodson spoke briefly to the group about an idea he has to have students set up interviews at the Bland County Historical Society. He will get back to the society when he has more details to make a definite proposal, but the response of members was positive.

Following the presentation a brief Membership Meeting was held. There were no December Minutes due to the meeting being "snowed out". Sue Ellen Tate reviewed the Treasurer's report prepared by Jeanne Owens, Treasurer, Virginia Gills made the motion to accept the report without change and it was seconded by Barbara Laban and approved unanimously. Those present were reminded of our upcoming BCHS office opening on April 3. A request was made for volunteers to offer a few hours a month in the office. Other reminders were made of the April 5th Family History Institute and on May 3rd, both Ceres Day and Rocky Gap Days. We plan to have representatives at all these events.

Our next Membership Meeting will be held the 2nd Saturday of June, 2014. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Virginia Gills and seconded by Karla Turner.

Following the meeting the group were served refreshments by Kara Wikle.

Sue Ellen Tate
March 26, 2014