

**BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**PO BOX 416, BLAND VA 24315**  
[info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org)

**NEWSLETTER**  
JUNE 2011

**Quarterly  
Membership Meeting  
will be held at the Jail  
building on June 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:30 PM**

Keith Niday will be the guest speaker, and will give a presentation on his Bland County map collection. He will also have comments on folks he has worked with during his years as a land surveyor in Bland County.

Light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Please come and bring someone with you.

NEW PHONE NUMBER  
FOR THE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OFFICE

**276-688-0088**

MESSAGES ARE  
CHECKED DAILY

**March Quarterly Meeting**



Mr. Eric Workman, Bland County Administrator, was the speaker at the March quarterly meeting. He presented a very informative program on a variety of subjects. While doing research for his thesis at Wake Forest concerning coalmine wars, he discovered that one of the people involved in the wars was a relative of his. This finding sparked his interest in history and genealogy.

More recently he has found that he is a direct descendant of Jenny Wiley. Jenny was the young wife and mother who was captured by Native Americans from their log

cabin on Walkers Creek, in what is now Bland County.

Mr. Workman also shared information about Irene Zisblatt from Hungary. Ms. Zisblatt is a holocaust survivor who travels around the country giving talks about her years of torture, hunger and other hardships.

In addition, he made us aware of the upcoming Sesquicentennial events and dates, encouraging all to mark their calendars and participate in these events.

After a short business meeting, everyone enjoyed fellowship time with light refreshments.

Please look at our website

<http://blandcountyhistsoc.org>

Keep up with what's  
happening with the Society

LOTS OF INTERESTING  
ITEMS FOR SALE.

## MEMBERSHIP

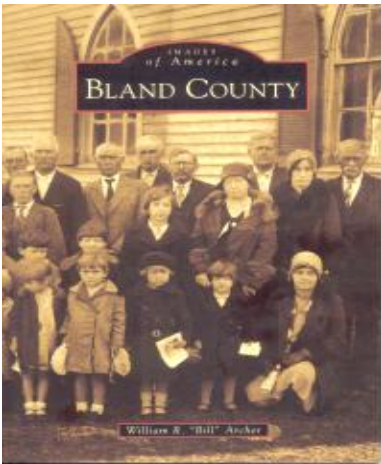
Individual memberships are \$15.00, couples are \$25.00 and students are \$5.00.

We always are in need of new members to support our efforts to keep Bland County History alive.

Please contact us for a membership application.

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## NEW BOOK AVAILABLE



Images of America, Bland County (2011) by local author William R. "Bill" Archer. Cost is \$23.09, which includes tax. Can be shipped for \$3.00 extra.

The book has 127 pages and contains hundreds of black and white photos of people, places, and events in Bland County's history.

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**Our new Phone #  
276-688-0088**

## A NEW PROJECT

The Historical Society is pleased to report that we are presently assisting Supervisor Nick Asbury in getting a historical marker placed on Walkers Creek Road, near the location of the original Jenny Wiley home.

Jenny Wiley was born in 1760 in Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Walkers Creek and in 1778 Jenny met and married Thomas Wiley. There they built a log cabin and had their first four children. In 1789 while Thomas was gone on a trading journey, a group of Native Americans stormed the cabin. They killed Jenny's younger brother and three of her children. Jenny (who was expecting her fifth child) and the surviving child were taken captive. The child was killed when it became ill and shortly thereafter, when the new baby was born it was also killed.

Jenny was held captive for several months in Johnson County, Kentucky. She managed to escape and made her way back to Walkers Creek where she began a new family with her husband.

Her family later moved to Kentucky and she lived there until her death in 1831. The Jenny Wiley State Resort Park was established there in her honor.

We are collecting funds to purchase the Jenny Wiley historical marker. Please contact us if you would like to contribute, or mail a donation to us at PO Box 416, Bland, VA 24315. Designate it for "Jenny Wiley marker".

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*The Bland County Historical Society is  
a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.  
Donations, Memorials, and/or  
Donations in Honor of someone are  
greatly appreciated.*