

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

March, 2014

MARCH QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 22, 2014

1:30 PM

BLAND COUNTY ARCHIVES
@ MOUNTAIN HOME
CENTER, ROCKY GAP, VA

For our quarterly membership meeting on March 22, 2014, Mr. John Dodson, Mrs. Kara Wikle, and Rocky Gap High School students have invited members and friends of the Bland County Historical Society to a presentation of student work completed during this academic year. The Bland County Historical Society attended their presentations several years ago. We are honored to be asked to return this year for our March 2014 Quarterly Membership Meeting.

The Mountain Home Center is located adjacent to the Rocky Gap School. The Bland County Archives, housed there, consist of hundreds of photographs, maps, artifacts, cemetery catalogs, and over 300 oral interviews.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 p. m. The Historical Society will be serving light refreshments. Please join us and bring your friends.



President's Message

As most of you know, the office of the Bland County Historical Society has been closed for the winter. We have continued to answer research questions and fill orders while closed. On the Genealogy Corner of the website, I will be discussing some of the questions we have received recently and inviting you to lend a hand in answering these inquiries. We plan to re-open the office on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 9 A. M.

During the next three months, we have several activities that will interest you. First, plan to attend our **BCHS quarterly meeting on March 22** at 1:30pm at the Mountain Home Center in Rocky Gap. Students at Rocky Gap High School will be offering a program about the work they have completed this year using the latest in digital technology. Then, on **April 5, 2014**, the Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Association will be holding their annual **Family History Institute** at the Wytheville Meeting Center. This year they have a great program planned. The number to call to find out about this event is found in the Calendar of Events in this newsletter. We will be having a booth selling our books at the Family History Institute. **Ceres Day** will be held on **May 3, 2014**. This event has become a real walk through the history of Bland County. At this event there are heritage demonstrations; the FFA Museum is open with its extensive display of farm equipment; a wide array of food is available for sale beginning with a sausage biscuit and gravy breakfast, followed by a beans and cornbread lunch. There will also be a flea market and yard sale. BCHS will have a booth selling our books and other items.

As we plan our activities for 2014, photographers will be interested in the **theme for our 2015 BCHS Calendar, Homes of Bland County**. We will begin accepting pictures around June 1, voting will take place during the month of July, and the calendar will be available for sale at the Festival of Leaves. See our rules about submitting pictures of Bland County Homes.

I invite you to come by and see us in 2014

Ann Hardy Beardshall

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

Activities for 2014

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- March 22, 2014, 1:30pm, Mountain Home Center, Rocky Gap
- June 21, 2014 TBA
- September 20, 2014 TBA
- December 11, 2014 TBA

PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2015 BCHS CALENDAR

(Theme: Homes of Bland County)

We have again decided to hold a contest for the 2015 BCHS Calendar. We will be releasing a list of rules for the contest before the contest begins on June 1, 2014. Some preliminary rules:

- The photographs must have been taken during the past five years (2010-2014).
- The address of the house must be identified in the photograph so we know it is located in Bland County.
- A brief history of the house (who has lived there) is required.
- This year we will only be accepting digital images. No prints, please.
- We will begin accepting pictures on or after June 1, 2014.
- Voting will take place during the month of July, 2014.
- The calendar will be available for sale at the 2015 Festival of Leaves.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are asking for volunteers to help us operate the office. You do not have to be a Board member to work in the office. Please let us know if you have an interest in helping us out. It requires your being present 4-8 hours on any given Thursday or Friday. It is actually quite enjoyable to talk with our patrons about the history of Bland County. And if we don't have anyone coming in, you can enjoy browsing our collections and the Bogle Library. We plan to hold training sessions so you will be aware of where things are and what to do when you work in the office. Please volunteer to help us out at BCHS by calling 276-688-0088 and leave a message.

BLAND COUNTY ON THE INTERNET

BCHS Website: www.blandcountyhistsoc.org

See the LINKS section to many of the area websites, including:

- County of Bland
- Ceres Alumni Association
- Bland County Archives
- Wolf Creek Indian Village
- Blog on The History of Appalachia

Facebook Groups: There are many Bland County related groups on Facebook. In the search area, type in the following and you will find many of interest. A few to follow are:

- *Aunt Gertrude's Journal, Brenda King is transcribing and annotating this journal. Right now you can read a daily account from 1954. Brenda also poses questions and asks for help in determining information about various individuals that AG wrote about in 1954. Join the fun of helping her locate this information.*
- Bland County Photographers
- Scenes from Southwest Virginia
- Bland County Proud
- Little Creek
- Bland County Public Library

TWO UPCOMING HISTORY-RELATED EVENTS

Nineteenth Family History Institute of Southwest Virginia - Sat, Apr 5, 2014

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:45 p

Location: Wytheville Meeting Center

Address: 333 Community Blvd., Wytheville

Brochure: -

http://www.wythecogha.org/documents/Family_HistInstBrochure_2013.pdf

Phone: 276.228.2445

Website: <http://www.wythecogha.org>

Ceres Day Sat May 3, 2014

Time: 8AM (Breakfast), 10AM (Crafts/Exhibits)

Website: www.ceresva.org

Bland County History as recorded in the Bland Messenger, January 1964

The Bland County Historical Society has a large collection of Bland County Messengers donated from numerous sources over the years. Read the *History of Newspapers in Bland County* on our website: www.blandcountyhistsoc.org. and our policy for accessing. Below is a sampling of the information available in the Bland Messenger in January, 1964. It is worth noting that there was no mention of snow. It must have been a quiet January.

January 2, 1964

- The Bland County Development Corporation held a meeting at the Bland Hosiery Mill on December 21, 1963. Mr. Curry reported \$273,000 in gross business with a \$67,000 payroll, all of which goes to Bland County residents with the exception of 1 man from out of state.
- Mr. and Mrs. Grover Wright celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a dinner at their home." A picture cutting their anniversary cake and guest list completed the article.

January 9, 1964

- Two Bland County Senior students were awarded Good Citizenship Awards by the Wilderness Road Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Ronald Pauley and Dorothy Penley were chosen for their "outstanding service, leadership, dependability, and patriotism.
- Road Association Issues New Tourists Information Map, Thousands of Copies being Distributed In 5 States. This was the lead headline for Jan 9th's paper followed by several columns about the information to be sent to the targeted group.

January 16, 1964

- County Chief Fire Warden, G.R. "Park" Brown reported a total of 16 forest fires burned in 1963, damaging 640 acres. He pointed out that 99% of this year's forest fires were caused by human carelessness, the chief causes being smokers or brush and trash burners.
- Pat Jennings, Congressional Representative, reported on the 2nd session of the 88th Congress and the Health Insurance Act (what we know now as Medicare??) being proposed to establish a program under Social Security. (The Editorial Column was a diatribe on this proposal.)

January 23, 1964

- Headline: Thieves Break into Two Schools, Damage Heavy. In 2 separate events, thieves broke into the Bland School and stole \$62 and damaged doors and windows. A few days earlier there was a break-in at Bastian Elementary. Damage was done to doors, windows, locks on ice cream and milk coolers. The floor was littered with cartons and wrappings but there was also a large pot of beans on the stove. Mrs. Muncy, the principal, said, "I am sure grateful the thieves didn't decide to mess the floors with beans."
- Gospel sing for the March of Dimes scheduled for Sunday afternoon at the East Chapel Community Church beginning at 2pm. (Announcement)
- Park Drive-In Theatre at Pearisburg is showing "The Girl Can't Help It" in color, starring Tom Ewell and Jayne Mansfield. (Advertisement)

January 30, 1964

- Approval of a request for a loan of \$150,000 to replace the Bland High School Building that burned last year was tabled until the February meeting. Victor Gilley presented the need for immediate action by the board considering the time required for preliminary planning, approval from Richmond and construction.
- T.E. Mallory, County Agent, reported on 1963's agriculture progress despite the serious drought. He reported participating in 48 adult meeting, 84 4-H Club meetings, 728 office consultations, 878 farm visits and 1150 telephone calls.

Sue Ellen Tate

The Bland County Historical Society is located in the "old jail building". Volunteers are at the jail each Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for research and shopping, and on other days by appointment. PHONE: (276) 688-0088. Please note: *The BCHS Office has been closed during the months of January – March, 2014. We will re-open on Thursday, April 3, 2014. We will continue to answer questions submitted by email or by phone.*

If you have not renewed your membership for 2014, please call us at 276-688-0088 or print a membership application from the website and return to us.

Purpose of the Bland County Historical Society

The purpose of the Bland County Historical Society is to bring together those people interested in history, and especially the history of Bland County. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area. It provides for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it. Through the Society's office, the Bogle Library and this website, assistance with historical and genealogical questions is offered.

Bland County Historical Society is a 501c 3 Non-Profit organization.



**Mailing Address:
Bland County Historical Society
PO Box 416
Bland, VA 24315**

**Send e-mail to:
info@BlandCountyHistSoc.org**

Phone: 276-688-0088