

# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Quarterly Newsletter

June, 2014

### JUNE QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### PROGRAM: EARLY MECHANICSBURG HISTORY (CIRCA 1830)

### SPEAKER: REV. BOB HETHERINGTON

JUNE 14, 2014  
1:30 PM

For our quarterly membership meeting on June 14, 2014, Rev. Bob Hetherington will be speaking to us about the early planning and development of the Town of Mechanicsburg (circa 1830s). Bob has been working on a book on this topic.

Preceding the meeting, the Wohlford Reunion will be held at Central Methodist Church. The Wohlford, Hetherington, Compton, Penley, Mustard, Stafford, and McNeil heirs will be gathering for lunch. Even though you may not be related, you are invited to attend the reunion, just let BCHS know ahead of time so we can let women of Central Methodist Church know the number that will be present for the meal. Cost of the meal is by donation.

The Summer Quarterly Membership will begin at 1:30 p. m. The Historical Society will be serving light refreshments. Please join us and bring your friends. Bob has many interesting things to tell you about Mechanicsburg.



### *President's Message*

Many of our patrons during the summer are in the area to attend **Family Reunions**, so I thought this might be an interesting topic to discuss. In my family, we have two reunions this year. The **Wohlford Reunion** is to be held on June 14, 2014, at Central Methodist Church at the Slide. My cousins, related to me because we share great grandparents, Gordon Wohlford and Matilda Ann Byrnes, have been gathering for many years. None of the descendants in my mother's generation are living, but many in my generation are still interested in reuniting. Gordon and Matilda Ann Wohlford had 8 children, 7 girls and 1 boy. The name, Wohlford, did not survive in Bland County since the only boy, Charlie Wohlford had a female heir. However, the girls married into the Mustard, Stafford, Compton, Hetherington, Penley, and Miller families. Our reunion now is attended mostly by their grandchildren. The other family reunion I will be attending this year is the **Penley Reunion** that is going to be held at the river house of my brother, Sam Hardy, Jr. on Little River in Floyd County. The Penley girls, Sam, Betty and I hold this reunion biennially.

One of the biggest reunions in the area is the **Groseclose Reunion**. People come from all over the United States. They stay at Pipestem State Park in West Virginia over a weekend and come to Ceres on Sunday to attend Sharon Lutheran Church and visit the ancestral home of the Groseclose family. Many of these attendees stop by to see us. Their reunion is recorded online at Ceres Alumni Association and Dean DeRosa's Old Ceres Image Base websites. Both can be viewed by linking to these websites from the BCHS site.

Last year, the **Hancock Reunion** was held in Little Creek at Wes Hancock's Little Red House. They had great attendance, including Hancock genealogist, Loretta Hancock Patterson from California. She has prepared an outstanding document about the Hancocks that we have in the Bogle Library. Another reunion held annually in Little Creek is the **Davis Reunion**. Other family reunions that are held quite often are for the Staffords, Tates, Kings, Stowers, Lamberts and the Hubbles. Sue Ellen Tate is writing a special section in this newsletter about **Family Reunions**.

Let us know about your upcoming reunions and we will put them on our website and Facebook. And do come by and see what you can find in our Library and Archives about your family.

*Ann Hardy Beardshall*

# Bland County Historical Society

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Activities for 2014

#### PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2015 BCHS CALENDAR **(THEME: HOMES OF BLAND COUNTY)**

We are currently accepting photographs for our 2015 BCHS Calender with the theme, Homes of Bland County. The rules for photographs and submission are:

- Photographs should be of homes in Bland County. They can be old, new, in bad or good condition.
- 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.
- It is required that you provide a brief history of the house (who lives or lived there).
- This year we will only be accepting digital images. No prints, please.
- We request that you submit pictures as they were taken. No "photo-shopping," no filters or other enhancements.
- We will begin accepting pictures on or after June 1, 2014. No pictures accepted after July 15, 2014.
- Voting will take place from July 16 – August 15, 2014.
- The calendar will be available for sale at the 2014 Festival of Leaves.

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#### MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

In our March Newsletter we asked for volunteers and greatly appreciate those who stepped forward to help us out. Molly Penley Thompson and Susie Tate Meadows have worked in the office for us on a regular basis. Sue Ellen Tate, Ginny Gills, Barbara Laban and Barbara Kemp have faithfully worked in the office and on projects. We have had several others offer to volunteer when we begin our special projects scheduled for the coming months. In another part of this newsletter, we will be describing the special projects.

If you would like to help out with the Special Projects and/or work in the BCHS Office. please call us at BCHS - 276-688-0088 and leave a message.

#### Special Projects for 2014

*Obituary Project: Catalog and file our obituary collection.*

*Photographs: Catalog and file our photographic collection.*

*Newspapers: Abstract headlines, marriage, deaths, and pictures from the Bland County Messenger for entry into our BCHS Database.*

*Sheriffs/Jail Project: Research our 26 sheriffs of Bland County and the highlights of their tenure to be put on permanent display in the Jail.*

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#### QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- June 14, 2014 – Quarterly Membership Meeting – Program: Bob Hetherington talk on Early Mechanicsburg.
- September 20, 2014 TBA
- December 13, 2014 TBA

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#### UPCOMING Events

Chautauqua in the Park Festival - June 21-28, 2014  
Bland Horse Show – Sept 5, 2014  
Bland County Fair – August 27-30, 2014  
Lord's Acre Sale – Oct 4, 2014  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tour de Bland – Oct 11, 2014  
Festival of Leaves – Oct 11, 2014  
Rocky Gap Holiday Parade – Nov 8, 2014  
Bland Christmas Parade – Dec 13, 2014

#### BCHS Website and Facebook Page

For the latest information between newsletters, please refer to the following:

Website: [www.blandcountyhistsoc.org](http://www.blandcountyhistsoc.org)

Facebook: Bland County Historical Society.

## *Family Reunions*

Summer is here and that means family reunion time for many of us. Here at the BCHS Office we were reminded of that as we planned our June Membership Meeting. Ann Hardy Beardshall, our president, talked to Bob Hetherington about being a speaker for us on the research he has been doing on Mechanicsburg for a planned book. As a result, the Bland County Historical Society Members were invited to tag onto the Wohlford Reunion. Our meeting will be held on June 14 at the Central Methodist Church at 1:30pm.

Also, we recently heard from the Cousins Reunion in Sutton, Nebraska who are descended from Maude Edwards who was born in Ceres. They are especially looking for Edwards family descendants about whom they have very little information. We have posted a flyer about their reunion August 9 and 10 in our office. It sounds like a fun event with ancestry charts, descendant lists, a family dinner and silent auction. Anyone needing more information please contact our office at 276-688-0088 or their reunion contact Joan Hultman 402-298-6331 or joanhultman@hotmail.com.

Thinking about the silent auction made me curious about reunion events since I have never been to one with any kind of auction. So I checked the internet just to see what other people were doing and found that most of the reunions I have attended are “typical” events involving several generations meeting for a meal, some recreation and discussion. Usually the meal, sometimes catered, sometimes “potluck” is the central event around which all the rest takes place. One of the events that we have had at the Tate Reunions involved a contest for the children who went on a “scavenger hunt” to find out to whom their list of clues referred. A good way to get the kids involved and to learn some family history as well.

Other traditional family reunion events suggested by the Family Reunion Institute at Temple University (yes, there is such a thing!) were singing, talent shows, recognitions ceremonies, arts and crafts exhibits and genealogy presentations or tours. Sharing old pictures and having our younger members create videos are also a great addition to the reunion. I am sure some of these activities take place especially with the many musicians we have in Bland County. It would be interesting to hear from some of you about what special events you enjoy at your family reunion.

Some reunions are large, some small, some meet every year at a specific time and place, others every 3 years or 5 years. We would like to invite any of you planning a reunion to post information about it on our website or newsletter.

*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.**

**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 501c3 Non-Profit organization.



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