



BLAND COUNTY JAIL  
ESTABLISHED 1866

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# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Winter 2017

DECEMBER 2017

#### **BCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Nov 25, 2017, 9-3 Table at Small Business Saturday at the Bland Farmers Market Shelter. We will be closed on Nov 24 (Black Friday).**

**Dec 2, 2017, 1:30 pm Winter Membership Meeting at the Jail.**

**Dec 9, 2017, 4-6 pm Open House before, during and after the Bland Christmas Parade. Parade will end on Courthouse lawn this year.**

**Dec 15, 2017, 9am-3pm. Last Day BCBS will be open before Winter Closing. Re-opening in Spring 2018. TBA.**

#### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Even though the office will be closed during the Winter Months, we will still answer genealogy and history questions about Bland County. Submit your questions to [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org) or leave a message at 276-688-0088.***

***We will also fill orders for our books and other items while we are closed. Just fill out order form available online and mail to us. Form available on link "Items for Sale" at BCBS website:***

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

#### ***President's Message***

Greetings to all,

As we come to the end of 2017 we have much to be thankful for and many blessings to count. As I look back over 2017, there are many things, here at BCBS of which I am proud to be a part.

If you did not attend the September membership meeting you missed a great program on the Carroll County Courthouse Tragedy. Shelby Inscore Puckett from the Carroll County Historical Society presented an informative program on the nationally known event that happened at the Carroll County Courthouse in March of 1912. Locally, it is known as the "Allen shoot out in the Carroll County Courthouse." I do not have room here to do the story justice. If you did not attend that day you missed an excellent program. The Carroll County Historical Society would welcome you if you wanted to go and learn more on this topic.

We have interesting and informative programs at all of our membership meetings and invite you to join us. We would also like to encourage anyone to give us suggestions for programs for membership meetings. Our next membership meeting will be December 2, 2017 @ 1:30 PM at the Jail. We will be having our Christmas Celebration instead of a speaker. During our business meeting we will be voting on our new slate of officers.

As you start planning your 2018 New Year I hope you will plan to join us and be a part of our Historical Society!

I have been honored to be your President. I am looking forward in continuing to work with this board.

***Molly P. Thompson, President***

**Winter Quarterly Meeting, December 2, 2017 1:30 pm**

**Bland County Historical Society – Old Jail**

**Business Meeting, Election of Officers, Christmas Social**

Our quarterly membership meeting will be held on December 2, 2017 at 1:30 pm in our society office in the former Bland County Jail. The main agenda item will be election of officers for 2018.

The slate of nominees is as follows:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Eisle Havens</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Molly Thompson</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Barbara Justice</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Brenda Thompson</b>

Others can be nominated from the floor if they have expressed a willingness to serve. We are always looking for new board members and we are pleased to announce that Kathy Havens has consented to be nominated as a board member.

As always all members are encouraged to come and socialize following the election of officers. Refreshments will be served and gifts can be purchased following the meeting.

P. S. We continue to have our display of the Fallen Heroes of Bland County on view through the end of the year.

**Christmas Open House During the Bland Christmas Parade**

**December 9, 2017 4-6 pm**

**Bland County Historical Society – Old Jail**

**Join us before, during and after the Bland Christmas Parade**

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY AT THE FARMERS MARKET  
NOVEMBER 25, 2017**

**Need a Special Christmas Gift from Bland County!**

**Be sure to shop at the Small Business Saturday at our table at  
the Bland Farmers Market**

**Saturday, November 25, 9am - 3 pm**

**Items for Sale at the BCHS Table**

- Bland County Historical Society 2018 Fallen Heroes of Bland County Calendar
- Other Fallen Heroes Items: DVD, CD for PC, and Book
- Re-stock of our magnificent BLAND COUNTY AFGHAN
- Others items such as
  - Prints of the Bland County Afghan, Bland County Communities (Bastian, Ceres, Mechanicsburg, Rocky Gap and Bland) by Sharon Puckett; Downtown Bland in 1940s by Randy Newberry.
  - Books, including *The History of Bland County* and *Family Histories of Bland County*; and many others
  - Cookbooks
  - Calendars
  - Hats. Cups with Bland County logo
  - Notecards
  - Marble Courthouse

**Theme for the 2019 Bland County Historical Society Calendar**

**“Country Life in Bland County”**

The theme for next year’s calendar (2019) has been chosen. Please start taking photos of “Country Life in Bland County” for next year’s calendar. We are once again asking for photos from you, and hope to see lots of picture submissions about country life in our beautiful Bland County. Please see the rules for submission of your photographs on our website: [www.blandcountyhistsoc.org](http://www.blandcountyhistsoc.org) or call us at 276-688-0088. Deadline for submission is July 1, 2018.

## **FALLEN HEROES PROJECT**

It is with a sense of pride that we can report that the Bland County Historical Society has completed the project that we began following a request from the staff of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA. The request was for Bland County information "to build a database of photos and brief biographies on all the soldiers on the Shrine Wall who died while wearing the uniform of the U. S. Military, beginning with World War II forward."

The Board of Directors accepted that challenge and with the guidance of Ann Beardshall, a group of members began researching the lives of those Bland County men who were identified on the War Memorial as well as checking with various other sources. The family stories we gathered, the photos, and the information about the places they served and died have all had an emotional impact on us.

Besides the requested information we also chose to collect this information on World War I soldiers who died during the conflict. Military members who died during Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War are also included.

We are sharing all this information with Bland County people through the Fallen Heroes Display which has been exhibited in the Historical Society Office for several months. We are indebted to the American Legion Post 20 for lending us its collection of photographs of the men who died in World War II.

In addition, the Display was shown at our Festival of Leaves Booth in October. Ann Beardshall has presented the information to a number of organizations, including a presentation of the WWI Fallen Heroes at the Historical Society Meeting in June, to the American Legion Post 20 at the Veterans Day Celebration in November sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, to the Bland County Retired Teachers November Meeting, and recently to the Stuart-Wilderness Road Daughters of the American Revolution.

As the final result of all the information gathered, Ann Beardshall edited a book, containing most of the information that had been obtained by our various members. We also dedicated a commemorative 2018 calendar to this project highlighting the men from Bland County who died in these conflicts.

It has been an honor to learn of our Bland history through the men who gave their lives for their country. This project will remain a part of the archives of the Bland County Historical Society and available to anyone who wants to study and remember these brave men.

## **FESTIVAL OF LEAVES 2017**

For the first time in several years the weather was beautiful and the crowds were larger and happier. Ann and Elmer Beardshall and Pat Turner decorated our booth in the Fair Display Building with pictures of Bland County's Fallen Heroes surrounded by red, white and blue. There was patriotic music in the background as well as a wonderful slide show featuring the men whose stories we have told in the calendar and book. We were proud to have so many veterans and families thank us for this moving project.

## **BCHS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CRUISE-IN**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cruise-In was held on Sunday Afternoon of the Festival of Leaves at the Society Office at the old Jail. There were 25 cars entered in the Cruise In and plaques and gift bags were given to each participant by organizers, Jerry and Molly Thompson. Attendance by festival goers was very high this year. Music was provided by John Goins.