

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 10, 2018, 1:30 pm

Spring Membership Meeting at the Bland Library

April 6, 2018, 9 am – 4 pm

Our Historical Society Office and Gift Shop will be reopening from our winter hiatus on this first Friday in April. Until then we remain available by email (info@blandcountyhist.org) or phone (276-688-0088). Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

April 14, 2018, 8:30-4:45 pm

Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Society will host its 23rd Family History Institute. For more information, call: 276-228-2445.

May 5, 2018, 8:00-3:00pm

Ceres Day at the former Ceres School Campus, Breakfast served starting at 8:00 AM, Crafters and exhibits start at 10:00 AM.



President's Message

First off, I would like to thank the members and board members for allowing me the honor to be a part of the Bland County Historical Society! I feel with the help of the members, and volunteers, that we can accomplish many positive things in our future! Speaking of Board members, please help me to welcome Kathy Havens as our newest member of the Board of Directors. Kathy will bring many positive values to our organization.

I would love feedback from the members, and the general community, of what they wish to see come from the Bland County Historical Society. Please remember, no suggestion is too large or too small. We want to hear from our valued peers!

I feel that our goal is to learn and preserve our History. We are all connected by the love we share for Bland County and I feel that, together, we can keep Our History alive! I, personally, love hearing stories about my own history and family and I feel I learn something new every day. One of my personal goals is to gather these stories in writing or via audio so I can tell my daughter and her future children, in hopes they will preserve and honor our own history.

One of the projects that the Historical Society will be diligently working on will be the memory bricks project at the Veterans' Memorial in Rocky Gap. Our goal is to raise enough money thru donations and sales to make sure all Fallen War Heroes of Bland County are memorialized with a brick. My cousin, Bobby Wright, was killed as a POW during the Korean War. I feel that making sure that he, and many others who have perished in war are honored with a brick is the least we can do to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice they have made.

As I write this, I can hear the frogs singing their evening tunes! I know it is only early February but hearing these frogs this early in the year makes me excited to know that Green Up Season is upon us! Spring is a time for new beginnings, new growth and new dreams. May the magic of spring fill your souls with vivid colors and light!

Thank you for your continued love and contributions to the Bland County Historical Society. Without your involvement, we could not continue to preserve your history!

*Eisle Havens, President
Bland County Historical Society*

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 10, 2018 at 1:30pm

**BCHS Spring Membership Meeting
Bland Library Conference Room**

The BCHS Spring Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 10th at 1:30 in the conference room at the Bland Library.

Speakers for this meeting will be *Jim Bob Penley and Denise Romano*. They will be speaking about the *Barn Restoration Project at the Bland Fairgrounds*, including a history of the barn.

Following the meeting light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

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"Why Bland" They Ask

"Is it that boring here?
"Is the food really that bad?"

Many, maybe even most of us from Bland County have been asked some similar question because the name Bland is rather unique for a place.

The answer of course, has nothing to do with our food or our rural nature but is based on the historical role of one of Virginia's early and important patriots, Richard E Bland (1710-1776).

In 1861, in response to citizens' requests, a new county was created by the General Assembly from parts of Giles, Wythe and Tazewell counties. The push for a new county was the long and difficult journeys for people in the soon to be Bland County to reach the courthouse and the desire to maintain their taxes for their own use. The name, Bland County, was given to recognize the contributions of Richard E. Bland.

The "Bland County History Book" provides a short biography of "Revolutionary Patriot, Richard E Bland. Born in Prince George County in 1710, he was well-known as an accurate historian and a writer. He was among the earliest and most important writers to assert that the American Colonies should have equal status with England and was not dependent upon the English Parliament.

Richard Bland served from 1742-1775 in the House of Burgesses. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774 and 1775. He was also chosen as one of 11 men who composed the Committee of Safety that was the governing body until the Constitution was adopted in 1776.

And so, we are reminded that Bland County was named for one of Virginia's early leaders and patriots. Tourists Beware: ask and you may get a history lesson!

*Submitted by
Sue Ellen Tate*

2018 Membership Drive

As has been our custom in the last few years, we send out membership renewal announcements in March. These renewals remain effective until March 2019. Please look for our membership letter in your mailbox soon.

In addition, we will be soliciting funds for our current project to purchase memorial bricks at the Bland County Veterans Memorial in Rocky Gap in honor of all the Fallen Heroes of Bland County. We will be providing a listing of those that do not currently have bricks with your membership letter. You will be able to designate the serviceman for your contribution. If you have no preference, it will go into the general fund to purchase bricks. Each brick will cost \$50.

We also will make available to anyone receiving the renewal letter an opportunity to buy a 2018 Commemorative Calendar and/or the book entitled Fallen Heroes of Bland County. The cost of the 2018 Calendar is \$15 + \$2.50 for mailing. The book has been reformatted to a smaller size. The cost for the book is \$35 + \$5.00 for mailing.

Calendar Contest for 2019-Theme: Country Life

We are once again returning to our former method of choosing pictures for our 2019 BCHS Calendar. This year the Board of Directors has chosen the theme: "Country Life."

To date we have received about 15 wonderful pictures from our most prolific contributor, Doris Carr. She would like some competition, so get clicking and send us your photos.

We have a few rules. They must be submitted electronically to info@blandcountyhistsoc.org, taken in the last 5 years, be recognizable scenes in Bland County, and have not been "doctored" with Photoshop.

Deadline for submission is 7/31/2018. Voting will take place at BCHS during August. Calendars will be available at the Festival of Leaves. In October 2018.

2018 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Eisle Havens
V. President	Molly Thompson
Secretary	Barbara Justice
Treasurer	Brenda Thompson

Other Board Members

Kathy Havens-Johnny Goins-Louise Aliff
Virginia Gills-Barbara Kemp-Barbara Laban
Harold Ramsey-Vicky Rycroft-Sue Ellen Tate
Pat Turner

