

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2, 2018, 1:30 pm

Summer Membership Meeting at the Bland Library

Now until December, 2018, 9 am – 3 pm

Our Historical Society Office and Gift Shop is open every Friday from 9-3 pm..

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.

July 1, 2018

All photos for the 2019 Calendar, "Country Life" must be received by July 1 for consideration and the voting is planned for August 1 thru the 15th.

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2018

Voting will be held on the days listed in August for selection of the pictures for the BCHS 2019 Calendar.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**June 2, 2018 at 1:30pm
Bland Library Conference Room**

Tiffany Carter, a Bland County teacher and the coach of the award winning Bland County Theater Team will be the guest speaker.

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

President's Message

As promised, we opened the doors to the Bland County Historical Society in April. We are open every Friday from 9am-3pm until just before Christmas. Our gift shop, exhibit displays and our research library are open during this time. We can also open up by special appointment if need be. Thus far, we have had old friends stop by to chat and have made several new acquaintances. I, personally, wish to offer my gratitude to those who have stopped. We are adding new merchandise to our Gift Shop! Come by and find that hard to find gift for someone, or for yourself!

Please do not forget to submit your photography entries for the 2019 calendar contest. The deadline for submitting is July 1, with voting taking place during the first couple weeks of August. "Country Life" has so many meanings to different people. Let us see what "Country Life" means to you! Encourage your children and grandchildren to submit entries as well. The more we can involve and inspire the youth of today, the better all of our futures will be.

Our yearly membership drive is still underway, as well as our Fallen Hero Memorial Brick drive. We still have 10 bricks that are unfunded. If you have not sent in your membership renewal or would like to help sponsor a brick, please do so. Being a small organization, we count on our members to help keep us up and running. We are also seeking volunteers. If, during this summer, you can stop by and help us catalog, organize, clean, etc., we would be very thankful. I was approached recently by 3 teenagers who wish to help with volunteer work with various organizations. My heart skipped a beat. To see children who understand the importance of volunteering in their community warms my heart and shows that love and compassion are real! Being involved with several organizations in Bland, County, I'm sure I will be able to get them the volunteer hours they seek.

I've been seeing a lot of garden preparations in the county. Now is the time to plant! I'm old school and tend to go with my Grandfather's saying of, "Can't plant 'til after the 10th of May cold spell"! I do hope these recent rains help to make our gardens flourish and thrive! I praise those who still grow and tend a garden, for it is not easy work but is a very healthy and gratifying choice. Something about the smell and feel of garden soil helps to ease my stress and worries. It is very therapeutic! Again, involve your children and grandchildren when you can. That "togetherness time" means more to them than you truly think.

Our June membership meeting is fast approaching. We will be meeting on June 2nd at the Bland County Library at 1:30pm. Tiffany Carter, a Bland County teacher and the coach for the award winning Bland County Theater Team, will be our guest speaker. Tiffany has been a very positive role model for many youth who have passed through the halls of Bland County Schools. She brings teenagers out of their shells and into the spotlight. Many parents in this county agree with me that Tiffany brings so much positive feedback to our little county and there are none quite like her! Please try to attend this presentation and see the many faces of Tiffany Carter!

As summer approaches, I want to wish everyone safe travels. It seems like Interstate 77, just north of East River Tunnel, will be having detours and delays for the beginning of summer. I pray that everyone abides by the road signs, has patience and stays safe.

**Eisle Havens
President BCHS**

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

June, 2018

Calendar Contest for 2019

Theme: Country Life

Deadline: July 1, 2018

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

To date we have received over 80 pictures for the calendar. Keep them coming. The deadline is July 1, 2018. We have a few rules. They must be submitted electronically to info@blandcountyhistsoc.org, taken in the last 5 years, be of recognizable scenes in Bland County, have not been "doctored" with Photoshop. Deadline for submission, 7/31/2018. Voting will take place at BCHS during August. Calendar available at the Festival of Leaves in October.

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAYS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST from 9am to 3pm

Donations 2018

Memorial:

- Ann/Elmer Beardshall-in memory of Stewart Stafford
- Joanne/Vincent Groseclose-in memory of Josephine and Claude Stowers
- Denise Herring –Arlie Elizabeth Roope Lundy
- Sarah St. Clair Perry- Frances Stafford St. Clair
- Dee Dillow –Addison Dillow
- Betty Joyce Blessing Finney – in memory of Paul & Calla Blessing; Willard Finney
- Lori Waddle-in memory of Buddie Waddle

General Fund: Martha/Ned Umberger, Robert Garst, Sarah Brackens, Judith Byrd Wolcott

General Brick Fund: Doris/Joe Carr, Jacqueline C Cahoon, Wade Hall, George Kegley, Catherine Morgan, Karen/Danny Bird, Sue Ellen/Jack Tate

Memorial Bricks:

- Ann Beardshall-in memory of Roland Porterfield
- Doris/James Sink-in memory of Robert Oren Repass
- Lorena F Kidd-in memory of Leroy Thomas Farmer
- Patricia Edwards-in memory of Willard Fanning
- Dimple/Jerry Faulkner-in memory of Jack Faulkner

Earnest/Tate Memorial Awarded Scholarship to Allison Hull

This May, the Bland County Historical Society awarded its \$500 **Zareda Earnest/Nancy Tate Memorial Scholarship** to Bland County High School senior, **Allison Hull**, daughter of Dale and Sherrie Hull of Bastian. Allison will be attending Wytheville Community College in the fall where she plans to work towards a degree in education. Thanks to all of you who support the scholarship with your gifts.

2018 Membership Drive

Membership Drives are an essential part for any volunteer organization especially small ones like us with no endowments! A big thank you to all of you who sent in those renewals that keep our organization alive. **Our numbers are down this year so please use the form on the last page of this newsletter to renew if you have not done so.** Also, please pass the word to your Bland friends about the work we do and come see for yourself. Again, thank you! Let's keep our history alive and available to all.

Father's Day – June 17

Gifts for Father's Day on your mind yet? Another shirt, new golf balls, maybe a book? Just a reminder that we have a large variety of books about Bland County, as well as other gifts. If you can't come in to browse, check out our website www.blandcountyhistsoc.org for a full listing of the books available and the price. Suggested books from that list are, of course, the "Bland County History Book" for the full story of Bland County's beginnings. Perhaps, one of Ann Hardy Beardshall's series called "Bland Counties Historical Glimpses" which includes books on "The Mysterious Wesendoncks", "Sharon College", "The Lynching of Ivy Jackson", and "Three Hots and a Cot", the wonderful story of the CCC Camp in Bastian during the Great Depression. Our latest book is "Fallen Heroes of Bland County" memorializing those men who gave their lives on active duty from World War 1 to the present. A favorite for almost everyone is the Bill Archer book of photographs titled "Images of America – Bland County".

If books are not the thing we have mugs, drawings, and many other items, all of which can be seen and ordered from our website. Hope you find something great for that special man in your life.

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
Virginia Gills- -Barbara Laban
Sue Ellen Tate

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

June, 2018

The “Big Four” Marker

The Virginia State Historical Marker on Route 52, at the base of Big Walker Mountain is a frequent source of questions from both local and out-of-state travelers. It stands in front of a remarkable old home and farm site known locally as “Eagle Oak” or the “Samuel Newberry Home”.

The Historical Marker states:

“One of the “Big Four”

Here is the home of S.H. Newberry, who, with three others, composed the Big Four” in the Virginia Senate. These four men united to defeat objectionable measures of the Readjuster Movement.



Samuel Taylor Newberry, Sr. (born 6-19-1830) built this house which he first called “Mountain Home” but later renamed “Eagle Oak”. The home was built on a large section of land which he farmed. Following his service to the Confederacy he returned to Bland County where he was known as Captain Newberry and was elected Sheriff in 1866. He then served in the Virginia Senate beginning in 1874. This marker recognizes his leadership role in a walk-out with 3 other Senators in opposition to changes proposed in the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. In the following years he lost in a run for US Congress but published a book of poetry titled “Eagle Oak”. The property has remained in the Newberry Family and is currently owned by M. H. Bowen, a direct descendant.

Last year Billy Litton, also a descendant, presented his findings on “The Big Four” to the Bland County Historical Society at one of our Membership Meetings. You will also find much of this information, plus a photo of the painting of the four men celebrated, which hangs in the capitol at Richmond in the “History of Bland County” book.

The Virginia Historical Markers were begun in 1927 with the first markers being placed between Richmond and Mount Vernon. The Department of Historic Resources became the overseer of markers in 1966 with VDOT retaining primary responsibilities for installing and maintaining new markers. Virginia now has more than 2500 historical markers.

Sue Ellen Tate
Newsletter Editor

**Bland County Historical Society
PO Box 416
Bland VA 2431**

2018 Membership Application

DATE: _____ RENEWAL _____ YES _____ NO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

(Please be sure to include your email address since we now email the newsletters. Email instead of snail mail saves much needed funds.)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

| Category | Check One | Amount |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Individual | | \$15.00 yearly |
| Couples | | \$25.00 yearly |
| Students (public school age) | | \$ 5.00 yearly |
| Organizations | | \$50.00 yearly |
| Lifetime | | \$150.00 (each) |

I am enclosing \$ _____ to fund bricks at the Bland County Veterans Memorial in Rocky Gap for the Fallen Heroes of Bland County. There is a list of these heroes in this letter if you wish to specify one for your contribution.

I am enclosing \$ _____ in memory of _____.

I am enclosing \$ _____ donation for general use.

Please mail your check to: Bland County Historical Society
PO BOX 416
Bland, VA 24315

THANK YOU!