

# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### WINTER 2019 EDITION

Page 1

#### President's Message

As this message reaches you, we are preparing for Christmas gatherings, hot meals and the joyous laughter of children filling the air. Please take this time of year to preserve those precious memories before they are gone. This is the perfect time to write down or audio record the stories of elders and take as many pictures as you can.

Let us not forget that this time of year is not about presents and money. This is the best time of year to offer kindness and forgiveness, love and compassion. These cold months should alert us to check on the shut in and the elderly. Show them you care and offer the warmth of your heart. Those gifts are worth far more than money!

Thank you, each of you, for a very successful 2019! Our efforts would not be possible without your physical and financial contributions.

I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, surrounded by your precious family and loved ones. May 2020 bring you many blessings. May love, peace and prosperity follow you through the remainder of this year and Always!

*Eisle Havens – President*



#### September Membership meeting 2019

The September (Fall) Membership Meeting was held at the Mountain Home Center, located at Bland County High School in Rocky Gap, on September 14, 2019 at 1:30pm. Kara Wikle, the current Local History teacher at the High School, and Angel Leftwich gave a beautiful presentation about the Bland County History Archives (a student based oral history project) and their latest, and future, projects. This is an excellent organization to encourage the youth of today to appreciate and preserve the History of yesteryear.

Our efforts to continue to preserve the history of Bland County are solely funded by membership fees, donations and merchandise sales. If you have not sent in your membership renewal, wish to donate or wish to order merchandise, we encourage you to do so. Forms can be obtained on our website <http://blandcountyhistsoc.org/>. You may also email us at [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org) for information, or stop by the office on any Friday during our office hours.

Membership is \$15.00 yearly for individual, \$25.00 yearly for couples, \$5.00 yearly for students (public school age), \$50.00 yearly for organizations and \$150.00 each for a Lifetime membership.

Bland County Historical Society

PO Box 416

Bland, VA 24315

We also offer gift items such as calendars, afghans, ornaments, books, t-shirts, mugs, hats and other items for sale.

The **December (Winter) Membership Meeting** will be held at the Bland County Historical Office on **December 14, 2019** at **1:30pm**. We will hold an open house and induct New Board of Directors. Light refreshments will be available.  
**Everyone Welcome to Attend!**

#### 2019 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

Located at 19 Courthouse Road,  
Across from the Bland Court House.  
The Bland County Historical Society is a  
501(c)3 organization.

# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019 EDITION

Page 2

## **Festival of Leaves October 12 & 13, 2019**

We were honored to be invited back to the Festival of Leaves in 2019! We met many new faces and spoke with old friends! We debuted the 2020 Bland County Historical Society Calendar and offered many other merchandise items for sale, including t-shirts and books. Thank you to everyone who visited us during that weekend! We can't wait to see you in October 2020!



### COMING EVENTS

- December 7 – Christmas in Bland Parade at 10am, Santa at the Library at 11am - 1pm**
- December 14 – Open House/Winter Membership meeting**
- December 20 – Last Day open in 2019**

The Bland County Historical Society remains open every Friday from April through December, 9am to 3pm. However, if you need something and cannot come in during those hours we will gladly attempt to meet you at another time. You may contact us at 276-688-0088, 276-613-4626 and leave a message or email us at [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org).

## **Festival of Leaves 2019**



Do you have a story, Historical information or any other article that you'd like to include in a future newsletter? Feel free to submit a copy via email [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org) or mail us a copy to PO Box 416, Bland, VA 24315.

# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019 EDITION

## “Old Jail Restoration Project”

In the Spring of 2019, Mark Smith, a Bland County Bricksmith Masonry Contractor, along with the Bland County Historical Society Board of Directors, determined that many of the bricks and mortar on “The old jail” building were loose and in need of repair or replacement. Mark has restored many older buildings and has a good track record of matching and replacing bricks and mortar for the period in which a building was built. This is a very delicate and time consuming process. The estimated cost of these repairs was approximately \$9,000.

In an effort to preserve the current office of the Bland County Historical Society, we appealed to our members, friends and neighbors for donations to fund this project. We raised over \$8,500 through generous donations from our members and the community alone!

Update: We are pleased to announce that the “Old Jail Restoration” has been completed! Mark Smith, and his employees, finished the job around mid-September 2019. Please take the time to review the completed project. We, the Board of the Directors for the Bland County Historical Society, are very pleased with the completion! We want to thank everyone who made financial donations to help alleviate the cost of this project! We couldn’t have saved this piece of Bland County History without your contributions!



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

