

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION 2023

AGRICULTURE IN BLAND COUNTY



Photo Courtesy of BCHS Archives: LeRoy Umbarger plowing on the Barger farm, Ceres.

OUR PURPOSE

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 in our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

As stewards of our community's history, the BCHS BOD's is committed to connecting our friends and family to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message • P. 2

Heritage Home Remedies
Ask the Board • P. 3

Guest Speaker • P. 4

Calendar of Events • P. 5

Project Updates • P. 6

Crossword • P. 7

Final Thoughts • P. 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PANDORA SAUNDERS - SIMPSON

Dear Friends and Relatives,

I am honored to serve as President of the Bland Historical Society. It's only been a couple of months and we have been busy.

I contacted BCHS years ago, before moving back to the area to learn more about them as a whole.

Over the years, I've collected a lot of history on Rocky Gap, where I was raised but I know there's more. Due to BCHS hours of operation and my busy schedule, I was unable to stop by the office until I moved back.

Once I attended a meeting, I knew I wanted to be part of this organization. I take great pride in our county's rich history and making sure it gets preserved for the future generations.

The Board of Directors, which are volunteers, are dedicated and have kept the organization going as well as moving forward. We are interested in preserving and sharing our community heritage.

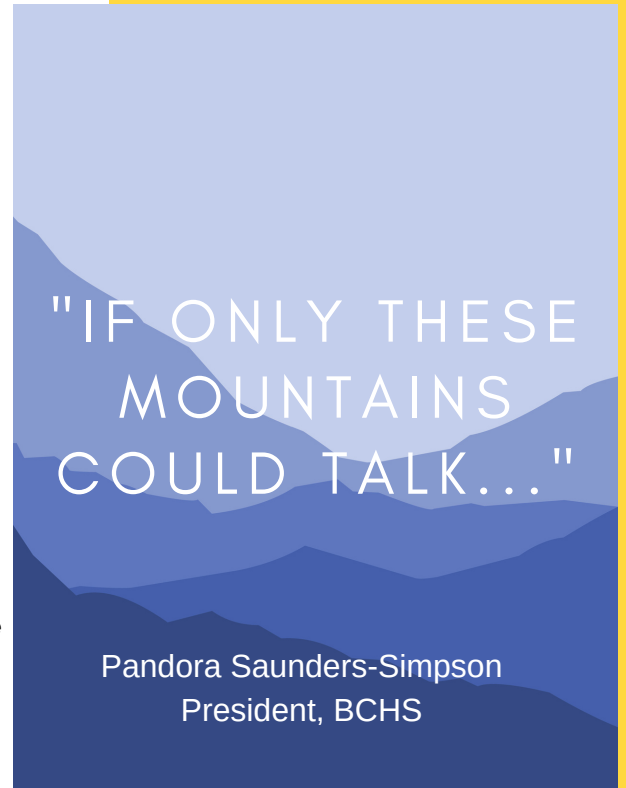
As all of you are aware, our world has changed tremendously over the years. However, we have used this time wisely by discussing and plan for our future. We plan to work more closely with the school to share our history and to raise money to preserve the historical "Old Jail" building.

Our goal is to collect and preserve historical and cultural material relevant to our community, and to display and interpret selected material from the collections for the education and enjoyment of the public.

We have a lot of exciting historical events that will be taking place over the next couple of years, which we hope to see you at. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements.

Best wishes,

Pandora Saunders-Simpson



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Pandora Saunders-Simpson
Vice President, Eisle Havens
Secretary, Rachel Havens
Treasurer, Kathy Sue Havens
Reporter, Brenda Thompson

BOARD MEMBERS

Virginia Gills, Johnny Goins, Richard Todd Ingram, Barbara Laban, Heather Love, Sue Ellen Tate, Molly Thompson, Cheyenne Wheeler, Skyler Wheeler

HOURS

BCHS is open to the public seasonally. BCHS is open every Friday from April to December.

BCHS is open from 9am to 3pm every Friday.

HERITAGE HOME REMEDIES

PUBLISHED BY MARION CABELL TYREE
LYNCHBURG, VA 1887

TOOTHACHE DROPS (Sure cure.)

Morphia, six grains; half one ounce each of aconite root, chloroform, laudanum, creosote, oil cloves, cajuput. Add as much gum camphor as the chloroform will dissolve. Saturate the above mixture with a piece of wool and put it in the hollow tooth, being certain that the cavity is cleaned out. - Dr. E.A.C

FOR CHILBLAINS

Take common furniture glue from the pot, spread it on a linen rag or piece of brown paper, and apply warm to the chilblain, letting it remain till the glue wears off.

Thank you, Barbara Laban for donating the 1879 book *Housekeeping in Old Virginia*.

Disclaimer: The above recipes are for historical use only. Always seek the advice of a medical professional.



ASK THE BOARD

All the information I need is online. Why should I research my family at the historical society?

"I like to imagine that I am researching a book about my family's history. I know when they were born, when they were drafted, when they died, when they gave birth, and all the major life events. Here, we get to explore and research the day-to-day lives of past generations. We get to learn about our ancestors at a personal level.

The collections at the historical society are items that our community has donated to share their families' personal histories. Within these records, we find community connections and we catch a glimmer of daily life. We get to "sip the tea" and it's extremely interesting to learn about the personalities of our ancestors.

And honestly, it's addicting and a ton of fun to realize that your great-great-great-great grandfather had a bit of a temper." - Heather

We would love to hear what questions you have for us concerning local research. Please submit all questions to info@blandcountyhistsoc.org.

THE HISTORY & EVOLUTION OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC JIM LLOYD

Our March membership meeting was held on March 11, 2023, and Mr. Jim Lloyd, a Rural Retreat resident, was the guest presenter.

Mr. Lloyd is an Appalachian barber, musician, presenter, music teacher, banjo historian, and radio host whose accomplishments go on and on in old-time, bluegrass, storytelling, and organizing. A multi-instrumentalist best known for his banjo and guitar work, Jim's musical roots extend back through at least four generations of fiddlers, guitar players, dancers, and singers from the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia.

Mr. Lloyd shared his vast knowledge of instruments and how they have influenced the day to day lives of every unique community. He shared how music has changed and evolved over the generations. Mr. Lloyd highlighted how different culture influences the very music we hear today.

Mr. Lloyd has dedicated his life to Appalachian history and music. He loves to share his music and his knowledge. He urged everyone to visit his barber shop in Rural Retreat. There he has priceless banjos, guitars, and various musical instruments on display for everyone to enjoy.

Refreshments were provided by BCHS. The menu featured recipes from the 1920s. Desserts included pineapple upside down cake, a "seven" layer gelatin mold, and a tomato soup spice cake. The unique grape jelly and mint punch recipe was definitely a cocktail that can easily be changed to a delicious cocktail with your liquor of choice.

If you have a depression era family recipe, please let us know. We hope to provide refreshments from the 1920s during our 2023 quarterly meetings.



PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

The BCHS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization run entirely by volunteers. We would love for you to join our dedicated team.

Right now, we are looking for help in achieves and gift shop. We need your unique talents to help us strengthen our organization.

If you are interested, please call 276.688.0088 or email info@blandcountyhistsoc.org.

GIFT SHOP

WHEW! We just finished our end of year inventory and ordered stock as we prepare to reopen in April. Our gift shop has everything from coffee mugs to trucker hats to back issues of the Bland Messenger.

Currently, we are highlighting the beautiful afghan throws designed by Karla Turner. The throw represents Bland's distinct seasons and communities.

We hope that everyone will plan a visit to the "old jail" this year and check out our extensive inventory AND check out our new webstore at bcohistoricalsociety.bigcartel.com/products.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Volunteer Clean Up Day, March 25
- Opening Day, April 7
- Ceres Day, May 6
- BCHS Quarterly Meeting, June 10
- BCHS Quarterly Meeting, September 9
- Festival of Leaves, October 14 & 15
- BCHS Quarterly Meeting, December 9

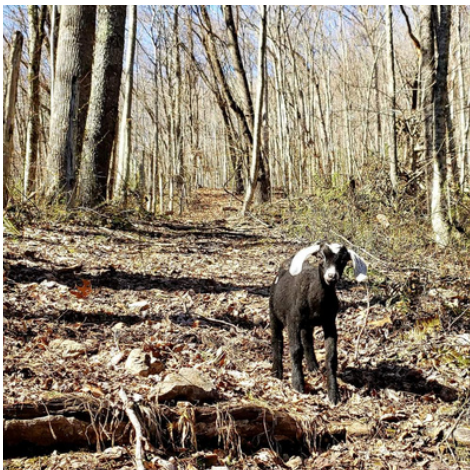


Photo provided by Kathy Moler Hubble, Ceres

Loretta is loving her hikes with her grandhumans.

MEMBERSHIP

The Bland County Historical Society is funded solely by membership dues, donations, and gift shop sales. Please consider joining (and volunteering) today. We have big goals and tiny budgets and limited hands.

- Individual: \$15
- Couple: \$25
- Students under 19: \$5
- Organizations: \$50
- Lifetime: \$150

Membership forms are located on blandcountyhistsoc.org. You can email us directly at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org or leave a message at 276.688.0088.

PROJECT UPDATES

BCHS has been extremely busy during our "off" season. Here's a quick update on our various projects.

Webstore: We were a bit surprised by the number of online sales we received immediately after launch. Be sure to follow us on social media for items coming soon.

Trucker Hats: We have ordered trucker hats for opening day.

Displays: This year, "Agriculture in Bland County" is the theme of our gift shop displays. The office will continue the Quilt of the Month display.

Educational Program: The BCBS started a new educational committee. This special committee is working on ways to partner with local schools in an effort to share our community's history.

We saved the best for last.

"Old Jail" Restoration: Last year, we started looking at grants. We are beyond pleased to announce that we are on the short list for a historical building restoration grant. Due to this new development, we have decided to patch the roof while we find a historical accurate contractor.

The outpouring of financial support from our members and community has drastically reduced the stress the BOD has been feeling these past few years.

We greatly appreciate your generosity.



From the archives, the axe head belonged to James Surat, a half Blackfoot Indian resident. The oil painting shows Mr. Surat in front of his house. Notice the axe leaning against the log cabin.

DONATED TO THE ARCHIVES

Thank you to the following individuals for donating items to be archived during January and February.

Brittany Allen: Festival of Leaves buttons for years 1996,1997,1999,2000 and 2001.

Anonymous: Bland Postcard

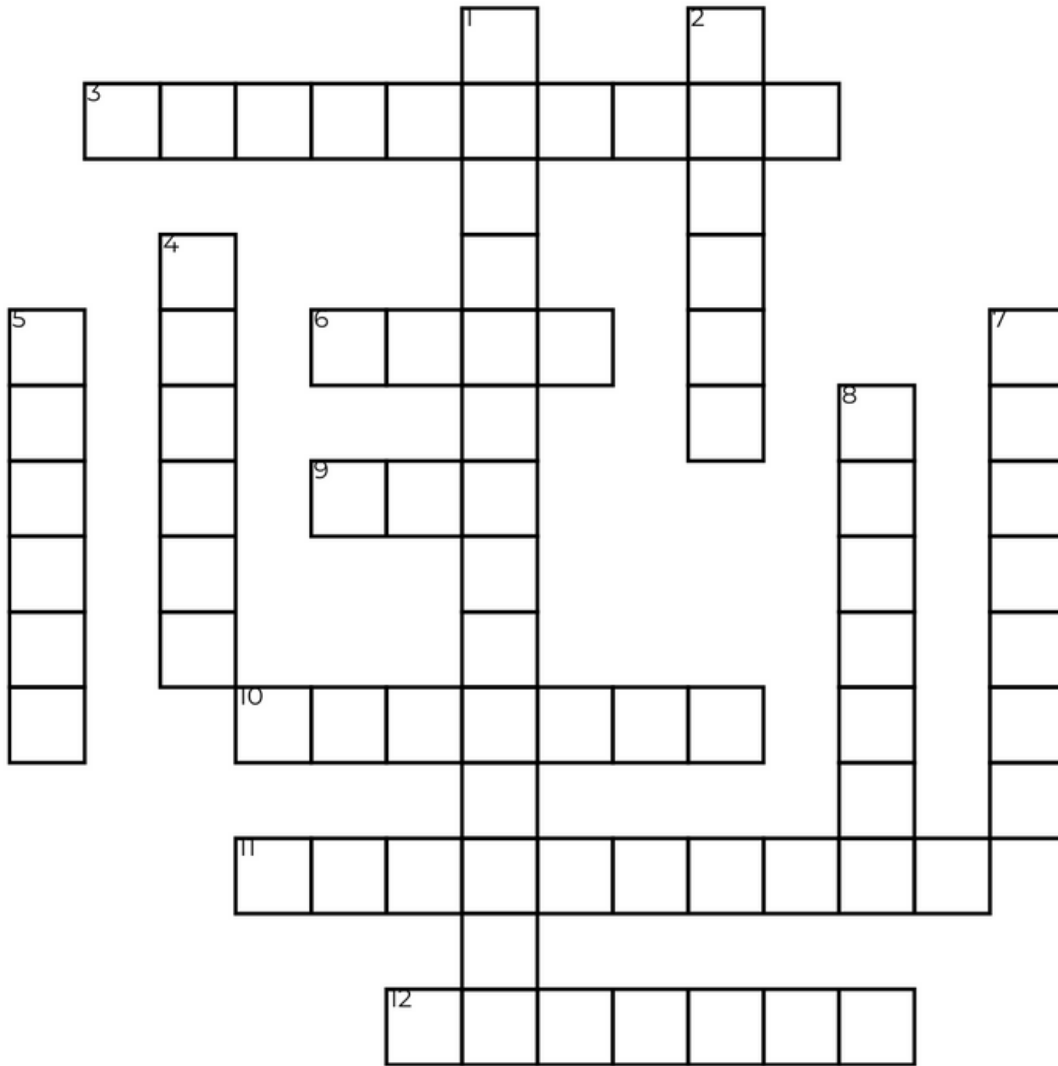
Anonymous: 1904 List of Colored Voters Register, Bland County, VA

Ramona Rowe: Bland County Cookbook v. 1971 and Country Cooking with Zion Church

Sarah Brackens: Extensive family collection that includes items from the 1920s.

We want to hear your stories. Please share. Archive donations are always welcomed.

Farm Equipment - Tools & Machinery used in Agriculture and Farming



Across

3. A hand-held agriculture device with a differently bent blade for harvesting grain crops or cutting juicy forage mainly used for nourishing animals.

6. This machine is used for breaking metal, wood, and other strong particles that are on the farm and segregated by the plough.

9. An antiquated and flexible agrarian hand device that is utilited to shape the soil, control weeds, clear soil, and harvest root crops.

10. A machine used to shower the crop with water from a tank.

11. An essential input for healthy growth of crops.

12. This piece of equipment tends to most of the agrarian needs.

Down

1. This piece of equipment sow seeds within the ground without any prior tillage.

2. This remarkable piece of agrarian apparatus, utilized for furrowing the soil for the planting season.

4. Unmanned vehicles used for farming purposes, such as spraying, planting, transportation of perishable products and crop fumigant to control insects and pests.

5. An instrument for burrowing, lifting, and moving bulk materials, such as soil, coal, rock, snow, sand, or mineral.

7. Basically, this can be a garden cutter but much bigger.

8. A hand apparatus with a difficult head connected perpendicular to the handle.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Opening day is just a few weeks away and we are busy working on the "Agriculture in Bland County" display.

If you are interested in sharing your stories and equipment, please contact the historical society at 276.688.0088.

We are looking for agriculture items. Examples could include farm hand tools, clothing, farm account journals, picture, and, especially, unique tools.

We have openings for the "Quilt of the Month" display. If you have a quilt more than 40 years old, please consider loaning it to BCHS for us to create a preservation record.



Bland County Historical Society
PO Box 416
Bland, VA 24315



Did you farm tobacco?

We are working on a Bland Tobacco Farmers collection, and we need your help. We are collecting stories, photos, and equipment. Please give us a call at 276.688.0088.