

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

September, 2014

SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**PROGRAM: DNA AND
GENEALOGY: THE BASICS**

SPEAKER: BOB LOCKETT

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2014
1:30 PM**

**BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

For our Fall quarterly membership meeting on September 13, 2014 Bob Lockett, Past President of the Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Society, will be speaking to us about the basic concepts involved in testing DNA for determination of family relationships. He will describe the various techniques used for testing. In addition, he will tell us about the various companies that do DNA testing – their costs and what the results will tell us about family relationships.

The Fall Quarterly Membership will begin at 1:30 p. m on September 13, 2014 at meeting room of the Bland Public Library. A short meeting will follow the presentation. The Historical Society will be serving light refreshments. Please join us and bring your friends.



President's Message

I do hope the summer brought you lots of fun and recreation while you vacationed and attended the family reunions that were held in Bland County. I know my reunions were very enjoyable. We appreciate the many people from out of town who stopped by on the way to their reunion. While here many of them shopped with us for family information, browsed the Bogle Library for clues that helped them solve some of their genealogical “brick-walls,” and brought us photographs, family artifacts, and family trees to add to the BCHS collections.

We plan to devote this newsletter to telling you what we’ve been up to at BCHS as well our future plans. We would also like to enlist your help in some of the tasks that involve preserving the history of Bland County.

We had the jail cleaned by Service Master in early summer and it is now ready for use by the Society. Our plans for the jail include restoring the front cells to their original look, and putting up our “Sheriffs of Bland County Exhibit” on the corridor walls.

Some physical improvements have been made to the Jail over the course of the summer. We painted the bathroom and display room next to the kitchen. Soon we will be putting down carpet in the newly painted display room.

Work is ongoing in organizing our extensive obituary collection, our Bland Messenger collection, the Bogle Library, photographs, and many other donated artifacts. We have developed a BCHS Database that enables us to easily locate information for our patrons.

Voting is now underway on the Bland County homes for 2015 Bland County Historical Society Calendar. We received over 64 beautiful photographs. The Calendar will be available at the Festival of Leaves on October 11-12 at our booth. Please drop by and see us at the Festival.

And, we are open on Friday and Saturday from 9-4 at the BCHS Society Office. You are always welcome.

Ann Hardy Beardshall

Bland County Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter Announcements

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We ask that you read the next page for a description of our Special Projects at the Historical Society. Please consider volunteering to help out with these with the Special Projects and/or work in the BCHS Office. Please call us at BCHS 276-688-0088 to leave a message or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Molly Thompson, Goldie Kiser, and Ian Niday have worked in the office during this quarter. Dusty Kiser, James Stowers, Zach Harden and Lance Wilburn helped us out with moving furniture in and out of the jail and display rooms when we were cleaning and painting. Board Members Barbara Kemp, Barbara Laban, Jenny Gills, and Pat Turner have faithfully worked in the office and on projects.

UPCOMING ELECTION

In October, according to the by-laws, we will be forming a nominating committee to select a President and a Secretary for the Society. At that time, we will also be seeking directors for our Board. If you would like to serve in any of these capacities, call us at 276-688-0088 or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

DONATIONS

During the quarter, we have received donations from the following:

Memorial

- In Memory of her husband, Willard Finney and her parents, Paul and Calla Blessing by Betty Joyce Blessing Finney
- In Memory of Zareda Shufflebarger Earnest by her sister, Alma Shufflebarger

Research

- Marvin and Samme Templin
- Richard Muncy
- Sam Hardy and Wade Dickens (Wohlford Reunion)
- Zola T. Noble
- Dave and Pam Finley

YEARBOOKS FOR THE BOGLE LIBRARY

Over the past couple of years, we have made great headway in collecting the yearbooks for Bland High School and Rocky Gap High School. We appreciate the many people who have answered our call for yearbooks. With school consolidation about to become a reality, we are seeking the following missing yearbooks for the Bogle Library:

Bland High School:

1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1987, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

Ceres High School:

Any prior to 1949, 1950, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961

Rocky Gap High School:

1953 (1st year), 1954, 1961, 1973, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bland County Fair – August 27-30, 2014

Bland Horse Show – Sept 5, 2014

BCHS Fall Quarterly Meeting – Sept 13, 2014, 1:30 pm

Lord's Acre Sale – Oct 4, 2014

3rd Annual Tour de Bland – Oct 11, 2014

Festival of Leaves – Oct 11-12, 2014

Rocky Gap Holiday Parade – Nov 8, 2014

Bland Christmas Parade – Dec 13, 2014

BCHS Annual Membership Meeting – Dec 6, 2014, 1:30 pm at the Bland Library

BCHS Website and Facebook Page

For the latest information between newsletters, please refer to the following:

Website: www.blandcountyhistsoc.org and on Facebook (follow the link on the webpage).

What We've Been Up to at BCHS

Organizing Our Collections

Obituaries-Progress has been made in organizing our extensive obituary collection. Barbara Laban, Jenny Gills, and Barbara Kemp have worked many hours to organize the obituary collection. Goldie Kiser and Ann Beardshall have entered the names into the obituary index in our database. Elmer Beardshall has made this collection part of the BCHS Database so we can easily search and find a particular obituary. As many of you know, they serve as a wonderful source of genealogical information. Long range plans include putting the index online and making copies available by request for a donation

Newspapers-We are in the process of abstracting headlines, marriages, deaths, and pictures from Bland County that have appeared in primarily the Bland Messengers over the years. These abstracts will be entered into the database so we can easily locate articles requested. For example, we often get requests for Bland Flood or the Building of the Tunnels, or Beauty Pageants, or Military Service Information. At present we have to search each issue to find the information for the requestor.

Photographs-Very little has been done with the photographs with the exception of the ones that were previously filed with family files as part of the Bogle Collection. We will be working on getting additional ones preserved and entered into our database. This index will also be made available online and requests can be made for copies or scans.

Artifacts-We are in the process of boxing, cataloging, and assigning a location for the many artifacts in the Collections Room. For example, we have artifacts from the offices and practice of Drs. Kegley, Walker and Wagner. Among the artifacts to be cataloged are: documents, including college diplomas, medical licenses, teacher contracts; ledgers from stores, banks, and lumber companies; as well as school and jail records. In addition, other artifacts include articles of clothing, glassware, and miscellaneous items from old stores.

The Jail and the "Sheriffs of Bland County" Project

We had the jail cleaned by Service Master early in the summer. At some point, we plan to restore the front cells to their original state. Many of our visitors like to see the cells and have their pictures taken behind bars.

Now that we have the walls available to us for display, we plan to put up our "**Sheriffs of Bland County Exhibit.**" Goldie Kiser is working with high school and college students to collect the pictures of the **26 men** who have served as Sheriff of Bland County. We ask that you look at the list that is posted on our website and help us find their photographs. In addition, Goldie and her team will be investigating the events and crimes that happened during a particular sheriff's tenure, what kind of cars they drove, and who served with them as deputies and jailors. All of these historical findings will become part of a permanent display on the corridor walls of the jail.

The Bland County Historical Society is located in the "old jail building". Volunteers are at the jail each Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for research and shopping, and on other days by appointment. PHONE: (276) 688-0088.

Purpose of the Bland County Historical Society

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 to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area. It provides for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it. Through the Society's office, the Bogle Library and this website, assistance with historical and genealogical questions is offered.

Bland County Historical Society is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization.



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