



BLAND COUNTY JAIL
ESTABLISHED 1866

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BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2015

JUNE, 2015

BCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jun 20, 2015 1:30 pm

BCHS Summer Quarterly Meeting at the Bland Public Library. Speaker: Rose Lester from the Stuart -Wilderness Road DAR.

June 1-July 15, 2015 *Accepting digital photographs for the 2015 BCHS 2015 Landmarks of Bland County Historical Society Calendar.*

July 15 -Aug 15, 2015 *Voting for the 2016 Landmarks of Bland County Calendar Contest.*

Sept 29, 2015, 1:30 pm

*Fall Quarterly Meeting of BCHS at the Bland Library. Dr. Terry Mullins will speak on **The Melungeons**.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 20 - 27, 2015

Wytheville Chautauqua Festival

August 25-29, 2015

Bland County Fair and Horse Show

October 10-11, 2015

Festival of Leaves, Bland Fairgrounds

Update from the Bland County Jail

We opened up the Historical Society Office as planned in April and have been open every Friday since, answering questions, chatting with some old and new friends and continuing to work on the ongoing work of keeping up with the obituary files. We have also changed up some exhibits (including an exhibit from the collection of Dr. Kegley with photos of several local physicians) and have hopes of doing some more. Molly Thompson and Louise Aliff recently returned to the Board of Directors and spent one Friday morning planting flowers in our planters to brighten the appearance of the old Jail. The roses out in front are in full bloom and the flowers certainly bring a smile to my face as I come in.

Our membership drive was led again by Ann Beardshall and we were pleased to have well over 120 members join again. The memberships are the meat and potatoes for a nonprofit as small as ours and we are very appreciative of the continuing support we receive from all of you. There were also a number of donations in honor of and in memoriam to many Bland people and they are listed in their own section.

As many of you know we have most copies of the Bland Messenger going back to the 1950's and they are available for research. Recently, we had a request for a specific article but the person had no idea when it was published but thought it might have been 20 or 30 years ago. Unfortunately, we do not have an index and no one was aware of the article referenced. We are certainly willing to make the papers available here at the office for such a search. One of our considered projects has been to undertake the job of creating such an index but the volunteers needed for such a task have not been available. Anyone interested give us a call or come by the office.

We had some hikers come by a few weeks ago off the Appalachian Trail and they were excited to see the jail and to have their pictures taken in the old jail cells. We wondered if this might be our next money maker - charging for jail cells photos! Several local people have been by asking to "revisit" the old cells. One of our planned projects is setting up some jail and sheriff's historical pictures and information in that area.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Membership Meeting on June 20th at 1:30 pm at the Bland Library's community room. Rose Lester will present a program on her work with the Children of the DAR. If you are unable to attend the meeting please drop in any Friday and let us know if we can help with any questions you might have.

Sue Ellen Tate, Vice President

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Summer Quarterly Meeting – June 20, 2015 1:30 pm @ Bland Library

Speaker: Rose Lester, Wilderness Road-Stuart DAR



Our speaker for the Summer Quarterly Meeting of the Bland County Historical Society will be **Rose Lester from the Stuart-Wilderness Road Daughters of the American Revolution**. Rose will be speaking to us about the organization affiliated with the DAR known as the **Children of the American Revolution**. C. A. R. provides an opportunity for area youth to learn about their roots to the patriots of the American Revolution. She will tell us about the goals of the national organization as well as the activities of the local organization. Rose will have applications and inform as to how our youth can join and participate in this patriotic organization.

The following is a description of the organization as it appears on the website of C. A. R.: “The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution, founded in 1895, is the oldest patriotic youth organization in our country. Membership is open to descendants of patriots of the American Revolution. Members gain invaluable leadership experience in conducting meetings, following parliamentary procedures and standard protocol, serving as delegates and speaking before groups at local, state and national conferences. The responsibility and privilege of selecting officers helps members gain an understanding of the democratic process.”

A short quarterly membership meeting will follow. Light refreshments will be served. **Please join us for this informative meeting.**



Upcoming Alert – Back by Popular Demand

Dr. Terry Mullins, History Professor at Concord University

will present a program on The Melungeons at our Fall Quarterly

Meeting – September 29, 2015 1:30pm - Bland Public Library

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Donations to Bland County Historical Society in 2015

Through the generosity of our members and other supporters, we acknowledge the donations to the Bland County Historical Society during the current year:

Donations in Memoriam

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
James F. Wilson	Betty Wilson
Buddy and Loree Waddle	Brian Townley
Cathy Corte Payne	Betty Corte
Dale Reynolds	Katherine (Kitty) Reynolds
Angela Stanfill	Charles and Elizabeth Flick Thomas
Vincent and Joanne Groseclose	Claude and Josephine Stowers
David and Leah Miller, III	Lizzie Alexander
Dan G. and Gerry L. Lambert	McKinley Lambert
Laura D. Chandler	Michael S. Chandler
Caroll Young	Alan Dean Compton
Harry and Lois Shupe	Brian Townley
Alma Shufflebarger	Zareda Earnest
Melinda Compton Belcher	Joe Compton
Erin K. Thompson	Gene Byrd Harman
Betty Joyce Blessing Finney	Willard Finney, Paul and Calla Blessing

Other Donations to BCHS

John R. Stafford	Sandra Kidd	Ann Beardshall	John and Bonnie Dodson
Brenda K. Mosrie	Jimbo Muncy	Richard Blagg	Molly and Jerry Thompson
William and Mary K. Stafford with a matching donation from Old Dominion Resources			



2016 BCHS Calendar Contest - Theme: Landmarks of Bland County

We are currently accepting photographs for our 2016 BCHS Calendar with the theme, Landmarks of Bland County. The rules for photographs and submission are:

- Photographs should be of landmarks in Bland County. They must be recognizable as located in Bland County. For example, do not stand atop Big Walker Lookout and take the view of Wythe County!
- Since this is a historical calendar, please try to write a short description of the landmark and why it is so considered by Bland residents. We will try to include more historical background in our 2016 calendar.
- The photographs must have been taken during the past five years (2011-2015).
- This year we will only be accepting digital images. No prints, please. Send to info@blandcountyhistsoc.org
- We request that you submit pictures as they were taken. No "photoshopping," no filters or other enhancements.
- We began accepting pictures on or after March 1, 2015. No pictures accepted after July 15, 2015.
- Voting will take place from July 16 – August 15, 2015. The Calendars will be ready for the Festival of Leaves in Oct.

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Gardening Items from the Past

Gardener's Job Speeds Up This Month

The home gardener's annual battle against weeds, insects, and diseases, hits high gear in June. L. B. Wilkins, VPI gardening specialist, offers several suggestions for June garden care.

He says there are several important rules for successful chemical control of diseases and insects. Start applications early. Use recommended materials. Cover the entire plant, including both bottom and top of leaves. Spray or dust often enough to insure control. Use rotenone or malathion to control most garden insects. DDT also can be used successfully for some insects.

During June, weeds which have been giving some trouble all spring usually develop into the biggest garden trouble. Frequent, shallow cultivation will help control weeds successfully. Destroy them when they are young. Always use a cultivator rather than a turning plow in the garden. Chemical weed control is not very practical for the home garden, although it has meant much to the commercial grower. The home gardener has so many different kinds of vegetables in a small area that it is hard to apply chemicals efficiently for weed control.

Staking tomatoes is another June job in the garden. Wilkins says to set out plants 18 inches apart and train to stakes. Tie each plant to a stake about five feet high. Begin tying the plants to the stake when they are about one foot tall. Remove the suckers each week and tie the plant to the stake again. After the plant reaches the top of the five-foot stake, no further pruning is needed. Apply five to seven pounds of 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 feet of row when the first tomatoes are set on the plants.



Sheriff Bill Compton demonstrates the first riding lawn mower in Bland County during the 1961 Centennial Parade.

The flower boxes and flagpole garden shown in all their glory in front of the Bland County Historical Society. These beautiful floral displays have been the work of our Master Gardener, Barbara Laban, and her volunteer assistants.

