



BLAND COUNTY JAIL  
ESTABLISHED 1866

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# BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Quarterly Newsletter

### March 2016

JANUARY-MARCH, 2016

#### **BCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**March 12, 2016 (Saturday)**  
Bland County Historical Society **Membership Meeting**, 1:30pm at the Bland County Library

**March 12, 2016 (Saturday)**  
Ceres Ruritan Club **Bean Supper** at the Ceres Community Center, 4-7pm

**April, 2016** - BCHS Office will re-open on Fridays. Look in the Bland Messenger, on [www.blandcountyhistsoc.org](http://www.blandcountyhistsoc.org) or FB for exact date.

**April 2, 2016 (Saturday)**  
**Family History Institute of SW VA**, one day seminar from 8am to 4:45 pm at the Wytheville Meeting Center.  
<https://wcgha.org/conference>

**April 9, 2016 (Saturday)**  
Ceres Ruritan Club **Fish Fry** at the Ceres Community Center, 3-7pm

**May 7, 2016 (Saturday)**  
**CERES Day**, Former Ceres School Campus  
Breakfast - 8am  
Crafters - 10am until ??  
Lunch. Flea Market, Farm Equipment, Heritage Demos.  
[www.ceresva.org](http://www.ceresva.org)

## **New President's Letter to Members**

I am not very good at writing letters or being President of this very important organization, but I will give both the best I have! As most of you know, this is not the first time I have been President. In last few years that I was employed, I did not have the energy to do all of the things I wanted to do. That was when I resigned from this Board. I promised after I retired, I would give back to my church and other organizations to the best of my abilities. That is why I am now here serving YOU and the BCHS. I hope during my time on the Board (in whatever capacity) we can create an active organization that can serve Bland County in many ways. I want each member to feel free to submit ideas. Those of you that know me know that I am not afraid to pick up the phone and ask for help. I also want to encourage our younger citizens to please step forward and involve themselves in this organization.

Plan to come visit our office in the Old Jail and see what is happening. The gift shop is filled with good gift ideas and information on your history. Take your time while visiting and perhaps you can help us with ideas and suggestions.

We have several things in the planning stage for this up-coming year. We have had several requests for a **new Christmas ornament** and hope to have a new one ready this fall. At the March Membership Meeting, we plan to vote on the best ornament design to add to our already popular grouping. Also, we are working on the **2017 Calendar**. The 2017 Theme will be "**Bland County Events**" so please be working on your entries. We are in the early stages of planning a '**Cruizin**' and a **BCHS Memorial Scholarship**. We continue working on our collections and questions that involved our genealogy. We are very fortunate to have Ann Beardshall leading this effort.

April will be here before we know it and we will be opening on Fridays as we have for the last several years. We need volunteers for all kinds of jobs. Everyone has something to offer, so give us a call and let us know how you want to help!! Or we can just assign you to a project!!

I look forward to working with each of you in some capacity over the next few years. Please contact me at the office or call me at home. My home number is 276-688-4630. You can always contact us by email listed on the front of the newsletter. I hope I can be a positive influence for this organization while I am here.

***Molly Penley Thompson, President***

**BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Spring 2016 Quarterly Newsletter**

**Bland County Historical Society 2016 Spring Membership Meeting**  
**March 12, 2016, 1:30pm**

**Bland County Public Library**

**Speaker: Office of Rebecca Ingram Johnson, Bland County Clerk of Court**



The Spring 2016 Membership Meeting will be held on March 12th at 1:30pm in the community room of the Bland Library on Main Street. The speaker will be from the office of **Becky Johnson, Clerk of the Court**. The program topic will be “**Researching Genealogy and Historical Documents in the Bland County Clerk’s Office.**” There will also be a short business meeting followed by refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Bland County Historical Society Memorial Scholarship**



In January **Nancy Tate** one of our longtime and hardest working members died after an extended illness. Her passing prompted a suggestion for a memorial scholarship in her name as well as that of **Zareda Earnest**, a founding member and longtime president. These two women worked diligently to organize and maintain the Bland County Historical Society from its inception in 1988. The purpose of the Historical Society is to help educate the community about our Bland History and so acting upon this suggestion the Board of Directors voted at their January meeting to pursue setting up a scholarship for a graduating senior at Bland County High School with an interest and demonstrated ability in history. We will be seeking donations for this scholarship from our members as well as the community at large. Details of the scholarship are currently being developed with input from the Bland County High School.

**Nancy Tate & Zareda Earnest**

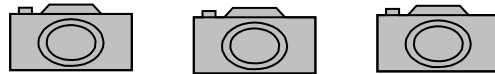
## 2016 BCHS Membership Renewals/Fundraising

As a member of the Bland County Historical Society, you will be receiving a request for membership renewal for 2016 within the next few weeks. To renew, you may complete the form and mail to us in the self-addressed envelope that will be enclosed with the application. Whether you are a renewal or lifetime member, you will be asked to participate in the Fundraising Campaign. You may designate your donation to be used to either endow our new Bland County Historical Memorial Scholarship to be named in honor of Zareda Shufflebarger Earnest and Nancy Clark Tate or to be used for our many needs in honor of some of your Bland County relatives.

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## New Christmas Ornament Design

The Bland County Historical Society Board of Directors voted to solicit suggestions for a new Christmas Ornament Design. We currently have four ornaments available for sale at the Society Gift Shop. They are (1) the Bland County Courthouse; (2) the Old Jail; (4) the Wolf Creek Bridge, and (4) Sharon College. Designs that feature a landmark that represents county-wide interests will sell better. If you have ideas and/or would like to submit a design, please contact one of the Board Members at 276-688-0088 or email them to [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org)



## 2017 BCHS Calendar Contest - Theme: Events of Bland County

We will soon be accepting photographs for our 2017 BCHS Calendar with the theme, **Events of Bland County**. The rules for photographs and submission are:

- Photographs should be of events taking place in Bland County. They must be recognizable as located in Bland County. Events include, but are not limited to the Bland County Fair, the Festival of Leaves, Bland County School Athletic Events, Community Events such as Ceres Day or the Rocky Gap Christmas Parade, Class Reunions, Family Reunions, Church Homecomings, etc.
- Since this is a historical calendar, please try to write a short description of the event and the history of the event. As we did in the 2016 calendar, we will try the historical background of the events included in the 2017 calendar.
- The photographs must have been taken during the past five years (2012-2016).
- This year we will only be accepting digital images. No prints, please. Send to [info@blandcountyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@blandcountyhistsoc.org)
- We request that you submit pictures as they were taken. No “photoshopping,” no filters or other enhancements.
- We will begin accepting pictures on or after March 1, 2016. No pictures accepted after July 15, 2016.
- If we have enough entries, voting will take place from July 16 – August 15, 2016. The Calendars will be ready at the 2016 Festival of Leaves in October.