



BLAND COUNTY JAIL
ESTABLISHED 1866

Mailing Address:
PO Box 416
Bland, VA 24315
Email:
info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

Phone: 276-688-0088

Website:
www.blandcountyhistsoc.org

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, 2016

SEPTEMBER 2016

BCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept. 24, 2016, 1:30 pm

BCHS Fall Quarterly Meeting at the Bland Public Library. Program: "The Mysterious Wesendoncks", Preview of New Book by Dr. Ann Hardy Beardshall.

October 8, 2016 – 2-4pm

1st BCHS Cruis-in' First Day of the Festival of Leaves Location: BCHS Office at the Jail. Enjoy the cars, music, food, shopping, and have your picture taken in jail for a donation. Office open during entire FOL: 10-4 Sat; 12-4 Sun.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17, 2016

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Wolf Creek Indian Village

October 1, 2016

Bland Lord's Acre Sale, 8:30-1, at Bland County Fairgrounds

October 8-9, 2016

Festival of Leaves, Bland Fairgrounds. 2 Locations for BCHS: 1) Jail and 2) Booth in Exhibit Building

October 15, 2016

16th Annual Ceres Alumni Association Homecoming, Registration 10am, Lunch 12 noon. Reservations required for meal, call 276-682-3989 or email info@ceresva.org

President's Message

Happy Fall to everyone! I hope you have had a wonderful summer. Can you believe we are entering the Fall season! It must be Fall because all the news on TV is football. With every season we are blessed with wonderful experiences and Fall in Southwest Virginia is no exception. Bland County is going to have a lot going on and I hope you will be supportive to all that is going on around you.

Please note the schedule of events listed on the side of the newsletter. The first thing to note is that the membership meeting date was moved from our usual 2nd Saturday to Sept. 24th at 1:30 due to several conflicts. It will be at the Bland County Library.

Several new ideas will be tried during the Fall Festival of the Leaves. First, we will be keeping the Jail (office) opened during the Festival. This was prompted by the weather and transporting of our inventory during very wet times. Be sure to come by the Jail to purchase your 2017 calendar, the new 2016 Christmas ornament and the new book "The Mysterious Wesendoncks" written by Dr. Ann H. Beardshall. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit the jail and have a cup of refreshment. Our volunteers will be there to greet you and answer questions or listen to suggestions you may have to help with our endeavors. Ann Beardshall has also volunteered to set up a booth inside the Exhibit Building on the Fairgrounds at the Festival, so you will have two opportunities to shop for your Historical Society items. Plan to make your purchase either way!!

The first BCHS Cruis-in' will be held on Saturday of the Festival of Leaves, October 8th. It will be from 2:00 until 4:00 or until everyone wants to go home. The cars will gather at Bland County Elementary School and then cruise downtown and park in front of the Jail. Everyone is invited to come view the cars and talk with the owners. There will be music and food for sale. This should be a good afternoon to go down memory lane with the cars, the music, BUT hopefully not the jail!! However, you can come in and for a donation have your picture taken "behind bars". We hope this will be a fun afternoon for all. Come and help make this a wonderful afternoon!!

I encourage you to read the article on the BCHS War Memorial Project. It speaks for itself. Please call if you would like to help. These are stories that need remembering and preserving. Without these sacrifices we would not be here to enjoy the freedoms we have.

I want to thank the volunteers who have been so faithful this year. As we all know, no organization can be successful without a lot of good people who help do whatever needs to be done.

On a trial basis, we are opening on Sundays from 2-4 PM. The plan is to do this through September at which time we will decide if it is needed.

I hope I will see YOU at all of the scheduled events. Have a wonderful Fall!!!

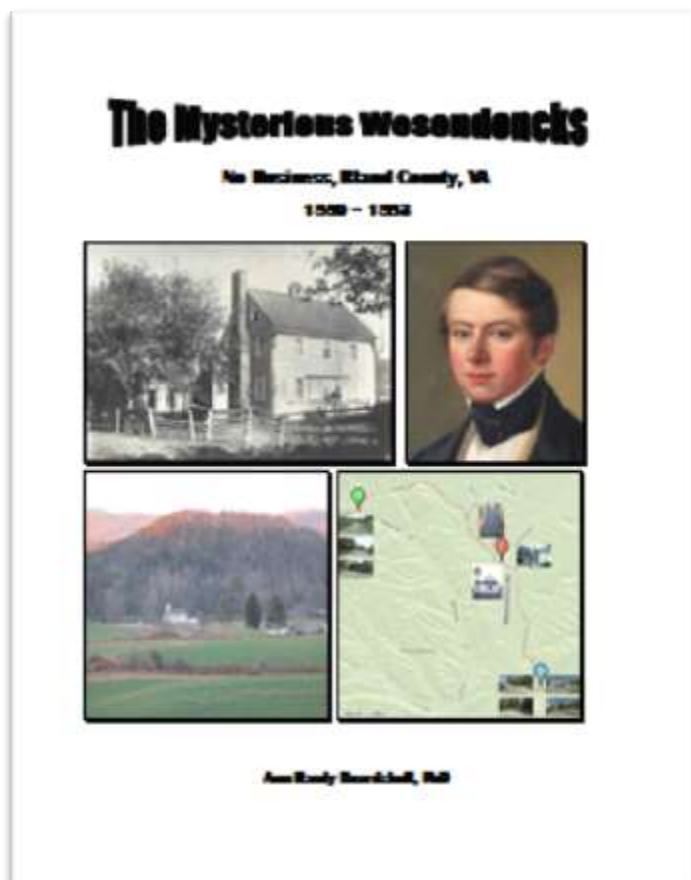
Molly P. Thompson

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Fall Quarterly Meeting, September 24, 2016 1:30 pm

Bland County Public Library

Book Preview and Book Signing



At the Fall Quarterly Meeting of the Bland County Historical Society on September 24, 2016 at 1:30 pm Ann Hardy Beardshall will be presenting her new book, the 4th Historical Glimpse of Bland County, *The Mysterious Wesendoncks of No Business, Bland County, VA (1850-1883)*. After the presentation, a business meeting will be held. Light refreshments will follow the business meeting.

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Bland County War Memorial Project
CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Bland County Historical Society was contacted recently by Mr. Bill Wheeler, a volunteer at the Virginia War Memorial, in Richmond, VA. Mr. Wheeler asked us to participate as **Bland Countians** by helping him obtain more specific information for our **fallen heroes from Bland County**. He is compiling a database of these men. He was specifically interested in historical items that local historical societies might have for the fallen heroes such as:

- *Individual photos (high school, college, or picture in uniform)
- *Brief Bio (what they liked to do, information about their military unit and death)

We have compiled **a list of about 40 military personnel from Bland County** who died during military conflicts in World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Gulf States Wars I and II.

The BCHS Board of Directors voted to begin work on this project by seeking volunteers to find information for the Virginia War Memorial, to build a database at BCHS of the War Dead, and to ultimately establish an exhibit of our findings at the Bland County Historical Society. We have set a goal of next Memorial Day, May 30, 2017 to have our exhibit ready.

We held our first workday on July 27, 2016 at 1:00pm at the BCHS Office located in the Old Jail beside the Courthouse. Each volunteer present selected at least two of our fallen heroes to begin collecting information on for our archives, the WAR Memorial Database in Richmond, and our upcoming War Memorial Exhibit.

In addition to working on this worthwhile project, members became acquainted with our BCHS holdings in the Bogle Library, our BCHS Database, our Obituary Collection, our Marriage Certificate Collection, and our extensive Bland Messenger Collection. In addition, we showed them how to search for information about these men online through Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, the Library of Virginia, the National Archives, etc..

We need more help so we invite anyone in the community including, but not limited to, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the VFW, the Bland County Veterans Memorial, family members of the war dead, students, or anyone just interested in the project and the collections at the Bland County Historical Society to join on Next Workday. We will announce the next work day on the website and on Facebook.

If you cannot come to the Historical Society, but would like to work from home, please contact Ann Beardshall at 276-688-0088 or online at aebearshall@comcast.net

We have obtained a database of persons who died during WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold, and Gulf Wars from many sources. We realize, however, that we may not have a complete list. We are including our list on the next page of this newsletter. If you find that we have left someone out who died during these conflicts, please give us a call at 276-688-0088 or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org.

Also, if you have any information on any of these military personnel listed that you would like to share with us, we welcome your input. Photographs, newspaper articles, family stories, are particularly appreciated.

Bland County Military Deaths

WWI (copied from Plaque on Veterans Memorial Bridge in Bland)

SUBLETT, W. A.
MCNUTT, H. T.
FANNING, C. O.
BILLINGS, E. F.
BROWN, S. N.
BURTON, Miller T.
COLLINS, A. G.
HULL, A. R.
PULLIAM, J. D.
RICHARDSON, W. P.

WWII

ALIFF, MELVIN P.
BOGLE, WILLIAM WALLACE
BURKE, JAMES LESLIE
BURTON, WILLIAM ARTIE
DILLARD, JAMES EDWARD
FARMER, LEROY THOMAS
GOBER, WILBUR F.
HALL, EVERETT ST. CLAIR
HANCOCK, ANDREW GILBERT
KITTS, FRANK FORREST, JR.
LONG, WILLIE C., Pfc.
MANNING, EDWARD D.
MILLER, ROBERT T.
MOREHEAD, JEFF TROY
MORRIS, FINLEY BROWN
PAULEY, EARL GEORGE
PORTERFIELD, ARTHUR ROLAND
RAMSEY, JAMES OREN
REED, ROBERT M.
REPASS, ROBERT OREN
SADLER, SHERMAN TARTER
SADLER, WILLIAM HOWE
STONE, WILLIAM LARRY
STROCK, ZACHARIAH W., JR
WALKER, JAMES M.
WILLIS, CLIFFORD ANDREW
WILSON, OWEN THOMAS

Korean War

WRIGHT ROBERT J JR

Vietnam War

ROYAL, LEE COUNCIL

Cold War

Hickman, Nathan Karl
Payne, Warren Leslie

New Items for Sale at the 2016 Festival of Leaves

These new items for sale will be available in 2 locations this year: **(1) Bland County Historical Society Office at the Old Jail and (2) in the Exhibit Building on the Fairgrounds.** There will be a sign on the outside of the building indicating our location. Please come by and see us at either location and view our new items for sale.

- **Bland County Historical Society 2017 Events Calendar**
- **Bland County Historical Society Ornament (new this year)**
- **The Mysterious Wesendoncks (4th Historical Glimpse of Bland County)**

In addition to these items, we will also have our usual items that are listed on our website. To view items for sale at the Bland County Historical Society:

<http://blandcountyhistsoc.org/Store/SaleMain.html>

Categories of items include:

- **Afghan**
- **Prints of the Bland County Afghan, Bland County Communities (Bastian, Ceres, Mechanicsburg, Rocky Gap and Bland) by Sharon Puckett; Downtown Bland in 1940s by Randy Newberry.**
- **Books, including The History of Bland County and Family Histories of Bland County; and many others**
- **Cookbooks**
- **Calendars**
- **Hats**
- **Notecards**
- **Marble Courthouse**

2016 REUNION CORNER

Bland High School Class of 1956 60th Reunion – Friday, October 7, 2016 – 4pm until - Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. Call Nancy Hoge at 276-229-8190 for more information and reservations.

Ceres Alumni Association Homecoming – October 15, 2016, Ceres Gymnasium. Registration begins at 10 A. M. Reservations required for the meal that begins at 12 Noon.

1st BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CRUIS-IN



Saturday - October 8, 2016 - 2 to 4pm

Bland County Historical Society Office in the Old Jail

Cruis-in: The cars will gather at Bland County Elementary School, cruise downtown, and park in front of the Jail. Everyone is invited to come view the cars and talk with the owners. This should be a good afternoon to go down memory lane with the cars, the music, BUT hopefully not the jail!!

Activities:

- ❖ Old Cars
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Jail Tour (Picture Taken Behind Bars for a donation)
- ❖ BCHS Items for Sale