

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - JUNE 2017

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

Phone: 276-688-0088

Website: www.blandcountyhistsoc.org

Location: 19 Courthouse Square (next to Bland CH)

President's Message

Happy Spring! As I write this I am seeing the sun for the first time in over a week. I am hoping today will turn the weather maker to a little drier time. (But I never want to fuss about rain) I hope you are having a wonderful season and are looking forward to a relaxing happy summer with your friends and family.

As you go about your summer, please look around you and think what you can do to make those around you better. I have attended 3 funerals in the last 10 days and I have realized we only have one chance to get this life right. **YOU** are an amazing person and **YOU** have something to give to make this world a better place. I am sure we have all heard this many times from those around us and it is so true. Give of your time. Give of your heart. Find a person or an organization that needs some help and make it your purpose to improve that situation. You will be amazed how your life will seem fuller.

With that said, I am so please with the new board members that have joined us this year and of course, for those that have served for many years. Through their efforts the history of our area is being preserved and available to you and your families. Are you interested in helping us? If not, find an organization or family and give of yourself. You will be a much happier person and our community will be a better place.

Have a wonderful summer.

Molly P. Thompson



BLAND COUNTY JAIL
ESTABLISHED 1866

BCHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2017 – Dec 2017 – BCHS Office is open every Friday from 9 am until 4 pm. Should you need to come to the office at another time, please call 276-688-0088 or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org and we will meet you there.

June 17, 2017, 1:30pm. Summer Quarterly Membership Meeting. Program: Remembering Bland County's Fallen Heroes: World War I.

October 14-15, 2017. Festival of Leaves, Exhibit Building, Bland Fairgrounds. Continuous slide show presentation of Bland County's Fallen Heroes (WWI through Vietnam)

November, 2017, Joint Meeting with the American Legion. Date and Time to be Announced. Program: Remembering Bland County's Fallen Heroes: World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 16, 2017, 7:30pm at Bland Fair Grounds, Crooked Road Concert: Cox & Company, Country Boys; Admission charge.

July 15, 2017, 12 noon until everyone leaves - The Annual Buddy Reunion for former Bland County high school buddies will be held at the Bastian Union Church Picnic Shelter on North Scenic Hwy (Old 21/52) in Bastian. For more information, please call Bob Colley at 304-388-0499.

**BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
“FALLEN HEROES OF BLAND COUNTY, WWI THROUGH VIETNAM”**

Bland County’s Fallen Heroes include men who died while wearing our nation’s uniform during the conflicts from World War I through the Gulf Wars. We have collected the names from several lists: the Library of Virginia, *The History of Bland County*, and the National Archives. Members have compiled research and photographs of these brave men. We plan to honor their memory with the following programs:

Part 1: Fallen Heroes of Bland County During World War I (1917-1918) at our summer quarterly membership meeting on June 17, 2017, 1:30pm at the Bland Public Library;

Part 2: Fallen Heroes of Bland County during World War II (1941-1945), Korea, Cold War, and Vietnam at a joint meeting with the American Legion at their annual dinner around Veterans Day in November. The date and time is to be announced.

We also plan to have a continuous showing of our slideshow in the Exhibit Building on the Bland Fairgrounds during the **Festival of Leaves on October 14-15, 2017**. We will also have a static display at the Society Office in the old jail and where possible at the presentations.

The results of our research will be submitted to the **War Memorial Museum in Richmond** (<http://vawarmemorial.org/>). At their request we have found information and photographs that will be included in exhibits and online database at the War Memorial Museum of these Bland County men who died in wars from WWI through Vietnam.

**Please join us for Part 1: “Fallen Heroes of Bland County,
World War I (1917-1918)” at the Bland Library
June 17, 2017 at 1:30 pm.**

FALLEN HEROES OF BLAND COUNTY – WORLD WAR I

Name	Hometown	Details of Death
Early Scott Billings	Ceres	Died of Disease in San Antonio, TX
Stuart Nathaniel Brown	Little Creek	Died of Pneumonia at Camp Lee, VA
Miller T. Burton	Bland	Killed in Action, France
Hugh Chaffin Collins	Longspur	Died of Disease during occupation in Luxembourg
Charles Otto Fanning	Mechanicsburg	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne, France
Albert Randolph Hull	Rocky Gap	Died while a prisoner of war in Germany
Clownie W. Lilly	Hicksville	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne, France
Henry Trollinger McNutt	Ceres	Died of influenza, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Norfolk
Herbert Wayne Morris	NoBusiness	Killed in action Lorraine, France
Addison Davis Pendleton	Mechanicsburg	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne France
Joseph Dudley Pulliam	Round Bottom	Killed in Action, Chateau Thierry, France
Walker Poage Richardson	Bland	Died of Disease contracted at Camp Lee, died in Bland
William Albert Sublett	Mechanicsburg	Died of Wounds in France, buried at Arlington
John Nye Tickle	Longspur	Died in Germany of disease, buried in Bland
Walter Peery Umbarger	Ceres	Died of disease at Camp Lee, VA

WINNING THE WAR AT HOME (BY SUE ELLEN TATE)



The *Bland Messenger's* headline in 1942 read "**6,792 Register in County for Sugar.**" Just 5 months after Pearl Harbor, the people of this nation were being faced with many changes in their lives, including rationing. The May 4 1942 story reported that 5,773 people were issued Ration Books while 2,029 did not receive books due to having excess sugar. A month later the front page headline read "**Registering Sites for Canning Sugar Named.**" Those places named were the Bland Courthouse, Ceres School, Mechanicsburg School, Bastian N&W Station Waiting Room, Rocky Gap School and the Davis School. One adult could apply for everyone in the family, but they needed to furnish information for the local boards to determine the amount of sugar each "family unit" needed. Among the required information was the names and serial #s of all the War Ration Books, the number of quarts of fruit packed last year, the number of quarts in their possession and the number of quarts they intend to can during the coming season. Rationing had become a new factor of life.

An open letter included in this paper from Senator Harry S. Byrd and addressed to the Office of Price Administration cited numerous complaints due to rationing of sugar and reminds the office that the canning of fruits and making of jellies are "very major items in the diet of most farmers in Virginia." He continues by saying the current allotment of 1 pound of sugar per person for the season is inadequate, which may cause loss of the crop and it is important to save and not waste any valuable food.

Not surprisingly a month later the headline is "**Ways to Save Sugar When You Put Up Fruit.**" The article makes many suggestions, such as sweetening slightly, using honey or corn syrup. It also refers readers to a specific Farmers Bulletin for precise instructions.

In February of 1943 War Book Two was distributed. Once again a family member could represent all but they were reminded they should have information to declare all cans of food over 8oz they have (excluding home canned) and the amount of coffee on hand. The War Book One had to be handed in as well.

A month later, "**Meat, Butter, Fat Rationing Goes Into Effect March 29th**" is the March 25th headline. Different stamps were to be used for these items and many others. Farm families were asked not to use stamps if they were producing the items and they were to collect stamps if they sold such items even if they were relatives! "**Canning Center to Be Located at Bland and Ceres,**" reads the headline for July 28, 1943 in the *Bland Messenger*. The story is excitement over 2 canneries that will be available to people whose gardens are full of produce and nothing should be allowed to go to waste. The canneries will have equipment to use and gardeners are urged to set dates to use equipment which they hope to have in place by fall.

This is just a sample from our *Bland Messengers*. The change in the news headlines in 1942 and 1943 were not just food rationing but scrap metal drives, tin can drives, repair and refurbishing of old tires. There was even farm machinery rationing which again drew the ire of Senator Harry Byrd. The government reminded the population in numerous articles about the importance of saving electricity and other commodities to help the war effort. There were messages everywhere of the important part each American could make to the nation's war effort and our soldiers, including this quote from a November 11, 1943 article that urged farmers in particular to "Save food by stopping waste," use plentiful foods instead of those that are scarce. "We need more food with every victory".

The end of the war brought an end to the rationing of goods, but it had followed close on the heels of the Great Depression which had already taught a generation to be aware of the importance of the few goods that we had. The generations that followed have never been subject to the kind of oversight that was prompted by the sacrifices of this World War. Reading the newspapers is a reminder that these sacrifices seemed small to the families and neighbors who saw their young men going off to fight. It was the least they could do to help in any way their country asked.



(World War II on the Home Front. Courtesy of UNC School of Education)

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR 2017

Several years ago, we began our membership campaign for each calendar year in March. Your membership runs from March 1 through February 28 of the next year. This year when we sent out our letters, we had a very good response. Our membership now includes:

Membership Type	Number
Honorary Lifetime	3
Lifetime	61
Couples	16
Individual	43
Students	5

Along with our membership campaign, we also solicit funds for general use, in memory of loved ones and for our new scholarship fund in memory of Zareda Shufflebarger Earnest and Nancy Clark Tate. The following made donations since October, 2016:

General Use Donations (\$825)

Betty K and Bob Munsey	Sandra Kidd	Amy Wetterau
Nancy Compton Huskins	John and Pat Edwards	Linda S Brogden
Cathy Corte Payne	Sarah St. Clair Peery	William and Mary Stafford
Jerry and Molly Thompson	Loree Waddle	James S Allen
Linsley and Ryan Michael	Sam Hardy	Elizabeth Hardy Hubble
James B (Jimbo) Muncy, JR		

Memorial Donations (\$285)

Ann and Elmer Beardshall	In memory of Helen and Sam Hardy
Dee Dillow	In memory of Pvt Samuel Dillow, CSA
Mary and Scott Sigurdson	In memory of Edgar Bruce
Martha and Ned Umberger	In memory of Margaret and Buddy Penley
Joanne and Vincent Groseclose	In memory of Claude and Josephine Stowers
Rosewood Village Assisted Living	In memory of Edgar Bruce

Earnest/Tate Scholarship Fund (\$3,495)

Wade Hall	Betty Joyce B. Finney	Brenda K. Mosrie
Barbara and Bruce Justice	John R Stafford	Susan Hollis
Doris and James Sink	Betty K and Bob Munsey	Molly and Jerry Thompson
Martha and Ned Umberger	Joan and John Gregory	Sue Ellen and Jack Tate
Elizabeth and Robert Hetherington		

Thanks to Everyone Who Supports the Bland County Historical Society

CERES, BLAND, ROCKY GAP & BLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ONLINE

By now you have probably visited our website to view the more than 150 yearbooks now online from the Bland County High Schools. We put these yearbooks online on a Thursday and by the following Sunday, some 3,000+ interested parties had clicked on the links to view them. Our scanned yearbooks include:

- Ceres High School** (1939-1942; 1946-1962)
- Bland High School** (1936,1946,1948; 1950-2014)
- Rocky Gap High School** (1953-2014)
- Bland County High School** (2015, 2016)

We are offering to make a DVD for any yearbook that you may want to have digitally. The cost will be \$15 for the DVD and mailing. Several people who have lost their yearbooks, had them destroyed by fire, etc. have already requested a DVD. Just send us an email message (info@blandcountyhistsoc.org) with your request and mailing address and we will prepare your requested DVD. If you do not have a computer, we can prepare a DVD suitable for play on your TV.

2016-2017 Officers and Board of Directors Officers

President	Molly Thompson
Vice President	Virginia Gills
Secretary	Barbara Kemp
Treasurer	Jean Owens

Members of the Board of Directors

Johnny Goins (new)
Brenda Kidd (new)
Eisle Havens (new)
Louise Aliff
Barbara Justice
Virginia Gills
Barbara Kemp
Barbara Laban
Harold Ramsey
Jean Owens
Vicky Rycroft
Sue Ellen Tate
Pat Turner
Molly Thompson

DON'T FORGET THE
BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
BLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
JUNE 17, 2017 – 1:30 PM

Program:

Fallen Heroes of Bland County
World War I (1917-1918)