

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020 EDITION

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President's Message

When 2020 began, we did not foresee a health pandemic to put a halt on our 2020 plans. Family reunions, canceled; Businesses closing, either temporary or permanently; Organizations canceling or postponing events; Children being homeschooled for the last 2 months of the educational year, school sports canceled; Families and Friends isolating away from one another to protect loved ones; anxieties have been high but so has our Faith in Humanity! With compassion and caring, we will get through this together.

I've missed my friends, family and loved ones. I've missed handshakes and hugs. I've worried about the safety and health of others. We have stayed safe during these uncertain times. I do hope these words find our loyal readers in good health and spirits. We have not made a decision as to when we will open the Historical Society to the public. I've carefully and cautiously met several people during the past couple months to accept donated items or to assist them with their purchases of merchandise. I will continue to do so until we feel it is safe to open our doors. Please reach out to me if you need anything, whether to just talk or if you have a need or request pertaining to the Historical Society. I would love to hear from you! Until we see you again, please be safe.

Sincerely Yours,
~Eisle Havens, President
276-613-4626
Eahavens1982@gmail.com



Photo Contest:

Bland County Historical Society 2021 Calendar: Title: Favorite Pictures of Bland County, Virginia

We are seeking Your Favorite picture that YOU have taken in Bland County!

- Limit 1 submission per person
- Picture has to be taken in Bland County
- No date limits
- Picture can be Color OR Black & White
- No copyright on picture
- No subject limitation (animals, buildings, landscapes, people, objects, etc.)
- Description of picture should include:

(if known)

Person(s) in picture, location, date picture was taken

Please email submissions to:

info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

Or arrange to bring them by our office for us to scan into our computer.

Picture submission deadline: July 3, 2020.

Please contact Eisle Havens with questions.

Email: eahavens1982@gmail.com

Cell: 276-613-4626

Alone we can do so little; together
we can do so much.

— Helen Keller —

Due to the uncertainties of Covid-19, we decided to cancel the Spring (March) and Summer (June) Quarterly Membership Meetings.

We still have the September Meeting on Schedule. We will make a definite decision about the September meeting at a later time.

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This is an entry from one of our Board of Directors:

Having been born in 1950, I only have stories passed down to me by my parents. For them the Polio Epidemic surely compares, somewhat, to the Covid-19 quarantine. Family reunion documents prove I did not attend, there were no studio photos taken until I was nearly 3 and Mom says she didn't take me anywhere until it was proven safe to be out among people, including church.

Who would have thought, as we rolled into a new year what 2020 would bring? By March all resolutions had been forgotten and we were scrambling for toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes (to name a few), due to shortage and in an effort to protect us from the corona virus. Then it was face masks. Many being home produced to meet the demand. When the cases escalated we were confined to our homes, no church, schools closed, social distancing became a household word and shopping became nothing short of a burden.

For me, I claimed Psalm 91 daily for protection over me, my family and my community. I read more, watched TV more, helped the neighbors more and prepared more meals from scratch than I have since my children were at home. I definitely washed my hands more, and better, as I sang Happy Birthday twice! I tried not to fear and carried on business as usual and certainly enjoyed being at home with my family.

But I will admit there were days I sat staring into space, wasted a lot of time just unbelieving what was going on and where it would all end.

Work was different when only one person could be in the office at a time and most were closed to the public as we transacted business by mail, online or through a drive through. Grocery shopping was different when online ordering and pickup and home delivery became the way to avoid crowds. Eating a meal away from home was forbidden. Doctor and dental appointments were cancelled and rescheduled, or completed through video or telephone calls. The hardest part for me was when it became necessary to stop visits at the nursing home, where my Mom presently resides. Warmer weather at least gave us opportunities to get outside and plant gardens, mow yards and see people from a distance!

We, as a county, have been blessed, as we are among the very few counties in Virginia who have no confirmed cases of corona virus, so far. This certainly falls into Historical events and I am thankful that, together, we will get through it.

“Old Jail” Restoration

In 2019, our main goal was to restore and preserve the bricks of the “Old Jail”, in which we now hold our office, gift shop, library and archives. Due to the tremendously generous donations from our members, family and friends, we were able to successfully complete this task in September 2019!

Our objective for 2020 will be to continue to restore the external appearance and integrity of the “Old Jail”. There are a few repairs needed to the roof and eaves and we hope to develop a Memorial Wall on the exterior of the building, where we can display Historical plaques. Any and all donations will be fully appreciated!

We are still accepting donations. The construction, however, has been delayed.

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Our efforts to continue to preserve the history of Bland County are solely funded by membership fees, donations and merchandise sales. If you have not sent in your membership renewal for 2020, we encourage you to do so. Forms can be obtained on our website <http://blandcountyhistsoc.org/>. You may also email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org for a copy or stop by the office. Membership is \$15.00 yearly for individual, \$25.00 yearly for couples, \$5.00 yearly for students (public school age), \$50.00 yearly for organizations and \$150.00 each for a Lifetime membership.

We also offer gift items such as afghans, ornaments, books, t-shirts, hats, mugs and other items for sale in our gift shop.

2020 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Eisle Havens
V. President	Molly Thompson
Secretary	Sue Ellen Tate
Treasurer	Kathy Sue Havens
Reporter	Brenda Thompson

Other Board Members

Johnny Goins - Virginia Gills -
 Barbara Justice - Barbara Laban -
 Brenda King- Brittany Allen -
 Diane Lund - Amy Roberts -
 Pandora Saunders Simpson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

March 14	Spring Quarterly Membership Meeting – At Bland Library – 1pm - Jenny Wiley Presentation by Betty K. Munsey – (CANCELED)
April 3	Bland County Historical Society 2020 Opening Day (POSTPONED)
May 2	Ceres Day (BCHS will have a sales booth) – (CANCELED)
June 20	Summer Quarterly Membership Meeting – (CANCELED)
Sept. 12	Fall Quarterly Membership Meeting – At Bland Library – 1pm - 100th Anniversary of Women Voting and Voters Registration Through Time by Stacy Grady
Oct. 10 - 11	Bland County Festival of Leaves (BCHS will have a sales booth inside the small building)
Dec. 12	Winter Quarterly Membership Meeting & Open House at BCHS Office – 1pm

The Bland County Historical Society remains open every Friday from April through December 9am to 3pm. However, if you need something and cannot come in during those hours we will gladly attempt to meet you at another time. You may contact us at 276-688-0088 or 276-613-4626, please leave a message or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org.

Due to Covid-19, we have not opened to the public, except by appointment only