

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Message from the President

As President of the Bland County Historical Society, I am committed to preserving our local history and promoting awareness of its significance. Our county's rich heritage spans nearly 163 years, featuring railroads of the past, creations of love, family jokes, and unsolved mysteries that whisper stories of days gone by.

Let us celebrate the rich history of Bland County together! Share your family stories and pictures with us to preserve our legacy for future generations. We eagerly await your contributions, as each tale is a thread woven into the intricate tapestry that tells the story of who we once were, and where we come from. Together, we can preserve yesterday's past for tomorrow's future.

As I write this, I cannot help but look outside and watch the robins as they diligently hunt for bugs and worms, while the snowdrops are slowly peeking through the leaves with their delicate white caps. As we observe these changes in nature, one cannot help but wonder: is winter finally coming to an end? Or are we merely experiencing a fleeting false spring? Whatever tomorrow brings, may it bring you comfort, good health, and a peaceful heart.

Until next time...

Eisle Havens
President

INVOLVEMENT

Do you have an article or story you wish to submit to be published in our quarterly newsletter? Is there something you wish us to research? Do you want to volunteer your time to help preserve the History of Bland County? Does your student need volunteer hours for school?

We are always accepting new ideas and suggestions!

The Bland County Historical Society is OPEN every Friday from April through December; 9am to 3pm. However, if you need assistance and cannot visit during regular business hours we will gladly attempt to meet you by appointment. You may contact us at 276-688-0088, please leave a message or email us at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org.

Located at 19 Courthouse Street (across from the Bland Court House)
PO Box 416
Bland, Virginia 24315
The Bland County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

This issue:

PAGE 02

In memory of Our Friend,
Johnny Goins

PAGE 03

What's happening in 2024?
Current/Future Projects
Membership Information
Webstore Information

PAGE 04

Calendar of Events

2024 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT - EISLE HAVENS
VICE PRESIDENTS -
MOLLY THOMPSON
& SUE ELLEN TATE
SECRETARY - RACHEL HAVENS
TREASURER - KATHY SUE HAVENS

BOARD MEMBERS:

KALI ARCHER, VIRGINIA GILLS,
RICHARD TODD INGRAM, BARBARA
LABAN, NORMA NEWBERRY,
PANDORA SAUNDER-SIMPSON,
BRENDA THOMPSON, LORRAINE
WADDLE, SKYLER WHEELER

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*"Honoring those who have
Paved the Way"*

We are seeking all current, or former, Bland County Residents who are 90 years of age or older to our Membership Meeting at the Lutheran-Presbyterian Fellowship Hall at 685 Main Street in Bland, on March 16, 2024 beginning at 1:30pm. Refreshments will be served.

Contact Eisle Havens at 276-613-4626!

We cordially invite everyone to help us honor our Mentors! Help us celebrate their memories and hear their secrets about health, wealth and happiness!

JOHN "JOHNNY" FRANKLIN GOINS



“And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me.

Shinin' until tomorrow, let it be”

John “Johnny” Franklin Goins, passed away at home on September 11, 2023. He was born December 8, 1950 in Bland, VA to Victor and Glada Goins. He was 7th out of 9 brothers and sisters. He was known to be adventurous during his younger years - just ask his siblings. Johnny never truly “grew up,” and could always be expected to crack a joke, no matter the circumstance. We expected nothing less.

He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He was married to Kim for 30 years on July 17th, 2023.

He was father to Ashley (Matt), Ariel (Kody), and Jonathan. Johnny held the title of World’s Best Papa/PopPop to Jocelyn, Calan, and Jemma. Johnny was steadfast in his faith, attending the same church for his entire life.

Johnny graduated from Bland High School in 1969 and Wytheville Community College. After graduating he worked at AMSCO Textron Factory in Wytheville in customer service for over 35 years. In 2008, he was elected and served the county as Treasurer for almost 16 years, retiring only in August of 2023.

He was a pillar of the community and always willing to lend a hand. Johnny was known for volunteering as coach for many little league teams and DJing many dances and proms. Johnny kept the clock at football and basketball games for over 50 years. He was also a volunteer for many organizations throughout the county. He was also the caretaker of the Bland Cemetery for numerous years.

Johnny collected wood from 1972 on and knew exactly where it was around his property. He knew that “one day” that lumber would be needed. Any kind of hardware you needed...he had it – he just had to find it first. Johnny’s 1972 Ford Mustang was his pride and joy, until his grandkids came along, and then everyone else was chopped liver. He was a lover of the Beatles and the “oldies,” which he passed on to his granddaughter Jocelyn. His love of racing was passed on to his grandson Calan, who loves to work on race cars. Johnny loved the beach and being outside. It wouldn’t be unusual to drive by and see him outside sharing his love for the outdoors with Jemma. He loved to mow and took great care to make sure his yard was always looking the best.

Johnny made many friends in this life – he was just the kind of person who drew people in. He never lost his childlike spirit and love for life. Anyone who knew him knew that he was the most loving husband, father, and grandfather a family could ask for, as well as the friend you could always count on. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The family would like to thank the hospice nurses who took such great care of him, as well as his special friends Timmy Dillow and Kathy Harner who visited often up until the very end.

A Memorial Service was held at Bland Funeral Chapel in Bland, VA on Friday September 15, 2023, In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Bland Lutheran-Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. Donations can be sent to 40 Main Street Bland, VA 24315. Bland Funeral Chapel served the Goins family.

“Johnny touched the lives of more people as a friend and mentor than he ever knew. His warm smile and approachable nature lit up every room he entered. His absence will be deeply felt by all of us. We will continue to hold his dear family close to our hearts as they navigate life without him.

*Thank you, Johnny, for your unwavering commitment and hard work for the Bland County Historical Society, and for your contributions to numerous organizations and events in and around Bland County.
Rest in Peace, Dear Friend.”*

- BCBS Board of Directors -

**Bland County Historical Society
2025 Calendar Contest:
"Wilds" of Bland County**

- What is your perception of "wild"?
- Wildlife? Wildflowers? Trees? Children playing? Pets or livestock playing? Men being men? Women taking charge?
- Submit your photographs of whatever you feel as "wild"
- Please include description/caption of "wild" picture(s), along with person(s), location, date taken, etc.
- Color or Black & White photos welcome.
- Limit 5 (FIVE) entries per person.
- NO COPYRIGHT IMAGES.
- NO PAST WINNING ENTRIES.
- Pictures must be submitted by June 30, 2024.
- Email to: info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

All submissions become the property of Bland County Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP

The Bland County Historical Society is funded solely by membership dues, donations, and gift shop sales. Please consider joining today.

Yearly Membership Dues

Individual: \$15

Couple: \$25

Students under 19: \$5

Organizations: \$50

Lifetime: \$150

Membership forms are located on our website blandcountyhistsoc.org. For assistance, email us directly at info@blandcountyhistsoc.org or leave a message at 276-688-0088.

What's happening in 2024?

We are working with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources to help further the preservation and restoration of the old jail. This year, we plan to continue seeking a roofer who will replace the existing roof on the two-story section of the building. There are also electrical and other maintenance projects that we wish to complete.

Last year, we purchased a desktop, freestanding document scanner. We will begin the process of digitizing and cataloging our newspaper archives, as well as other larger documents and photos. Our newspaper archives date back to before 1940. Many researchers depend on our well-preserved newspapers for their genealogy and personal research.

There are dozens of boxes of artifacts and donations in our archives room that need to be sorted, organized, and properly documented. Our volunteers are eager to go through these artifacts to find those special Bland County Treasures! These artifacts are priceless and irreplaceable. We are honored that our donors have entrusted us with these special pieces of Bland County History.

We are in the process of reissuing the "Big Walker Tunnel" ornament from 2001. When the weather warms up, our Board of Director volunteers will be inventorying our current merchandise stock in our Gift Shop and refilling our shelves.

We have already started planning for the future! NEXT YEAR'S Calendar, Ornament, and Gift Shop Theme will be "100 Years of the Bland County Fair"! Start looking for your old ribbons, outfits, pictures, exhibit entries, etc. to be displayed in our Gift Shop cases. We are excited to work alongside the Bland County Fair Association to complete these projects. 2026 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Bland County Fair! The best way to celebrate is to start from the beginning!

WEBSTORE

Have you visited our webstore? We have over 20 items listed from our gift shop! From books to afghans, ornaments to hats, we have a nice selection to shop, from the comforts of your home. We will be adding more items as time allows. More items coming soon.

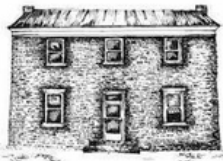
<https://bcohistoricalsociety.bigcartel.com/products>

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bland County Historical Society needs Presenters for our Quarterly Membership meetings in March, June and September.

Do you, or someone you know, have an interesting topic to present? Is there something specific you want to learn about?

Contact us at 276-613-4626 or info@blandcountyhistsoc.org



Bland County Historical Society
 PO Box 416
 Bland, VA 24315
 276-688-0088
info@blandcountyhistsoc.org
www.blandcountyhistsoc.org

Calendar of Community Events 2024

MARCH 16:
 QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 SUBJECT: "HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE PAVED THE WAY"
 LUTHERAN-PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP HALL
 1:30PM

APRIL 5 THROUGH DECEMBER 20:
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN
 FRIDAYS - 9AM-3PM

MAY 4:
 CERES DAY
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH
 CERES SCHOOL/GYM
 8AM - 3PM

MAY 11 THROUGH OCTOBER 26:
 BLAND COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET OPEN
 SATURDAYS - 9AM-12PM

JUNE 8:
 QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 SUBJECT: TBD
 LUTHERAN-PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP HALL
 1:30PM

AUGUST 29, 30, 31:
 98TH ANNUAL BLAND COUNTY FAIR

SEPTEMBER 14:
 QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 SUBJECT: TBD
 LUTHERAN-PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP HALL
 1:30PM

OCTOBER 12 & 13:
 BLAND COUNTY FESTIVAL OF LEAVES
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH
 BLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 9AM-4PM

DECEMBER 7:
 BLAND TOWN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
 OPEN HOUSE
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 11AM-2PM

DECEMBER 14:
 WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 1:30PM

DECEMBER 20:
 SEASONAL CLOSING
 BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 9AM-3PM



BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 416
BLAND, VA 24315

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: _____ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: _____ NEW MEMBER: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

(Please include your email address if you wish to receive your newsletters electronically.)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	CHECK ONE	AMOUNT
INDIVIDUAL		\$15.00 YEARLY
COUPLES		\$25.00 YEARLY
STUDENTS (UNDER 19)		\$5.00 YEARLY
ORGANIZATION		\$50.00 YEARLY
LIFETIME		\$150.00 (EACH)

I AM ALSO ENCLOSING \$ _____ DONATION
AND/OR \$ _____ IN MEMORY OF _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:
BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 416
BLAND, VA 24315

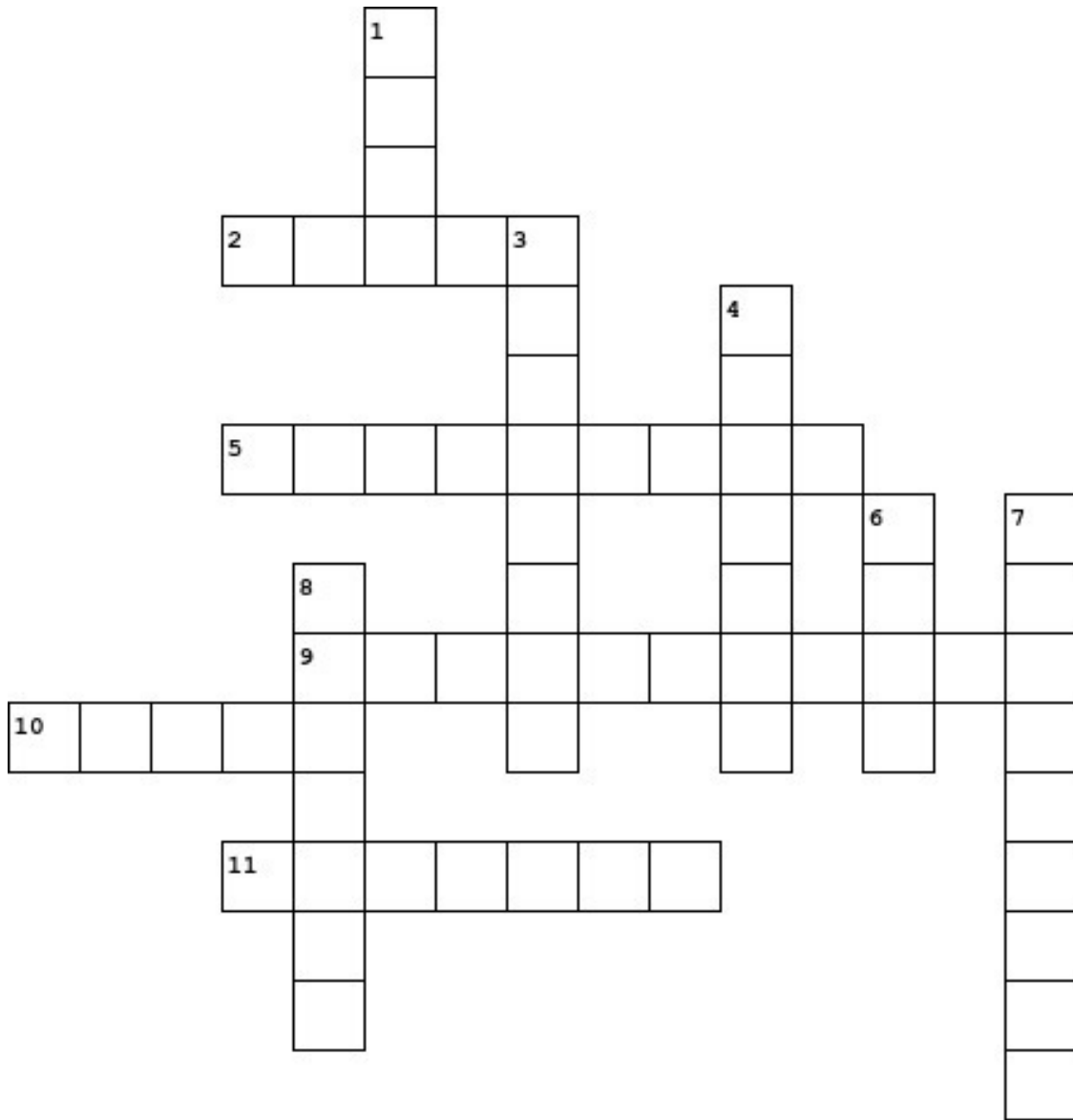
THANK YOU!

Located at 19 Courthouse Street, across from the Bland Court House.
The Bland County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Bland County History



Across

- 2. Community near Ceres
- 5. Ceres and Mechanicsburg are the locations of the two public (blank)
- 9. There are 56 miles of this Trail winding through the Beautiful Mountains of Bland County
- 10. Henry C. Groseclose was a native of what community in Bland County
- 11. Bland County is named for (blank) Bland

Down

- 1. The (Blank) Creek Bridge in Rocky Gap is Registered as a National Historic Landmark
- 3. Hollybrook is home to what type of well
- 4. Henry C. Groseclose was a founding father of Future Farmers of (Blank)
- 6. This was built in 1866
- 7. What type of mineral was mined in Hollybrook and other parts of Bland County
- 8. What Community was originally named Parkersburg?

Please complete this puzzle and bring/mail it to the Bland County Historical Society before November 15, 2024. Be sure to write your name and phone number at the top. All correctly answered puzzles will be entered to win a prize! The answer key will be published in our December Newsletter!