



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Two Cocke Countians With History Awards of Excellence

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., June 18, 2015 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on June 4, 2015 at the Foundry on the Fair Site. Since 1982, the Society has been annually recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming and interpretation of the region’s history. Two Cocke County individuals were among the 27 awards recipients.

- **The Newport Plain Talk** was honored with a ***History in the Media Award*** from the East Tennessee historical Society for generating public interest in history through the research and writing of “Moonshine: Yes, they made it here!” a two-part series on the history of moonshine in Cocke County. Realizing that the Hollywood image is vastly different from those who actually plied the trade, the newspaper set out to trace and present the true history of this part of their heritage. The articles look at all facets of the subject through interviews, research and photos, economic impact, humor, and violence. “The excellent research and interviews with local folks make this a valuable and lasting contribution to the preservation of the region’s history,” says Cherel Henderson, ETHS executive director.
- **Hillery Griffin**, a teacher at Cosby High School, was honored with a ***Teaching Excellence Award*** from the East Tennessee Historical Society. Ms. Griffin and student Caley Williamson were one of only 15 teacher-student pairs to be Normandy Scholars. Ms. Griffin assisted Caley with her required research on a WWII soldier who was at Normandy, a synopsis of which was presented at the White House. They visited Normandy and toured the battlefield. Ms. Griffin is also very involved and supportive of the National History Day competition in her school.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. Its active publications program includes the biannual genealogy magazine *Tennessee Ancestors*; the annual *Journal of East Tennessee History*; and *Newslines*, as well as other books pertaining to the region’s history. The Society also sponsors the Museum of East Tennessee History, East Tennessee National History Day, and the family heritage programs “First Families of Tennessee” and “Civil War Families of Tennessee.”

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