



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Two Grainger County Initiatives 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 Grainger County initiatives were among the 27 awards presented.

- Grainger County Historian **Ken Coffey** received an ***Award of Distinction*** from the East Tennessee Historical Society for his many projects promoting the history of Grainger County. Coffey has helped produce the book *The Wilderness Road*, two documentaries, numerous newspaper articles chronicling the history of the county, and has assisted multiple history organizations and members of the community in their family history search and preservation efforts.
- **Harry and Jean Underwood Fox** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for the restoration of the Lea House, also known as “*Richland*” (c. 1796). Thanks to the Fox’s efforts, the home has been preserved and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The lovely brick house is the birthplace of Albert Miller Lea, “Grainger County’s most famous citizen” and a man with accomplishments too numerous to list.

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 *Newsline*, 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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