



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making history personal

— since 1834 —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cherel Henderson
(865) 215-8823
cherel@eastTNhistory.org

**East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Blount County Initiative
with History Awards of Excellence**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 12, 2017 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 2, 2017 at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. 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. One Blount County initiative was among the 27 awards presented.

- **Joe Emert, Ed Harmon, and the City of Maryville** were honored with an *Award of Distinction* for their leadership to install a beautiful bronze statue of Sam Houston on the grounds of the Maryville Municipal Center. Meticulous study was done to determine Houston’s facial structure as a young man and period clothing. The statue was by noted sculptor Wayne Hyde of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with historical painter David Wright of Gallatin, Tennessee. Tennesseans, Texans, and Cherokee came together for the unveiling celebration.

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.”

###