



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Greene County Initiatives with Awards of Excellence in History

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 24, 2019 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 14, 2019, at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has annually recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming, and interpretation of the region’s history. Four Greene County initiatives were among the 44 awards presented.

- **Greeneville Greene County History Museum (GGCHM)**, was the recipient of two awards, their first being a *Community History Award* for being the first history museum in Tennessee to complete and earn Gold-certification in the American Association for State and Local History’s StEPs program. GGCHM started the program in 2014. StEPs leads small- to mid-sized history organizations in a review of their policies and practices, benchmarking themselves against national museum standards. Only six other institutions in the nation have earned this level of certification. The **Greeneville Greene County History Museum** also received a *History in the Media Award* for “My Favorite Things,” a video campaign launched in 2018, that has been well received by the community. Board members and museum patrons were asked to talk about their favorite items in the museum and why. Posted on YouTube, Facebook, and the museum’s website, the videos generated museum foot traffic and online interaction. The public is also invited to view a time-lapse video of the relocation and reconstruction of the 1787 “Seth Babb Homestead” from its original site to museum property.
- **Greene County Genealogical Society (GCGS)** received a *History in the Media Award* for their recently-launched genealogical research website for those seeking information on their Greene County relatives. The site is accessible to the public free of charge with much archival data available, as well as the option to contact the GCGS for assistance in research. The archives section contains files relating to the Revolutionary War through the present.
- **Jan Maddux, Carolyn Gregg, & Madge Walker** received an *Award of Distinction* for *Greene County Power of Attorney Books—1806-1904*, a massive contribution to research in this early county (1783). The trio of Maddux, Gregg, and Walker have copied, transcribed, and indexed the records, which provide names of citizens and children in

power of attorney cases. Especially important are the names of women and children who otherwise would not appear in records. Proceeds from the books benefit the Nolachuckey Chapter, DAR.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. The Society 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.” 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. For more information on ETHS, exhibitions, or programs, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

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