



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY  
Making history personal

## For Immediate Release

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### ***Become A Master Local Historian!***

**The East Tennessee Historical Society, American Association for State and Local History, and Humanities Tennessee offer a new three-part pilot program to become a Master Local Historian**

**PROGRAM:** Three-week Master Local Historian pilot program offered by the East Tennessee Historical Society in collaboration with the American Association of State and Local History and Humanities Tennessee

**DATE:** 5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 9, 16, & 23, 2018

**LOCATION:** East Tennessee History Center  
601 South Gay Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**ADMISSION:** FREE | Registration is required and limited to 30 participants

(Knoxville, TN) The East Tennessee Historical Society, in collaboration with the American Association for State and Local History and Humanities Tennessee, invites you to participate in a new pilot program called MASTER LOCAL HISTORIANS. If you enjoy learning, thinking, discussing, reading, and writing about history then this program is for you!

Master Local Historians provides an opportunity to learn about the craft of the historian. What is historical thinking, and why does it matter? What sources are available to help advance your research? How do you care for artifacts and photographs in your own personal collection? With guidance from history professionals, Master Local Historians teaches how historians approach questions about the past and provides the tools to pursue a personally meaningful history project, such as community, buildings, church, or family history.

The East Tennessee Historical Society is the first in the nation to pilot the Master Local Historians program. Individuals who register for the course will participate in three, 3-hour sessions beginning April 9, 2018. Each session will take on a different topic with the goal of preparing you to begin your investigation of local history:

- **5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 9: “The Power of Historical Thinking”**
  - Understand historical thinking
  - Understand the relevance of good local history

- Learn how to evaluate interpretive products of local history
  - Grasp the vocabulary, skills, and process of structuring a local history project
  - Share information about local history projects on which you already may be working
- **5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 16: “Source and Resources”**
    - Learn about the research assets at online and brick-and-mortar libraries and archives, and meet key staff at each
    - Learn how to search for secondary and primary sources at those sites
    - Learn how to get started with genealogy and family history research
    - Match a research strategy to a research question
    - Differentiate secondary from primary sources
    - Identify evidence in sources
    - Evaluate conflicts among evidence, in primary resources
- **5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 23: “Collections: Their Care and Meaning”**
    - Understand a public, curated collection
    - Identify personal collections
    - Gain an introductory understanding of collections care
    - Understand that artifacts, costumes, correspondence, books, etc., are primary sources with meaning

Sessions are interactive and discussion-based and provide a chance to not only learn from experts but float ideas, grapple with tricky questions, and learn the historian’s craft by doing.

If you are interested in participating in the Master Local Historians pilot, please contact the East Tennessee Historical Society. The pilot program is free, but registration is required by calling (865) 215-8825 or emailing [isbell@eastTNhistory.org](mailto:isbell@eastTNhistory.org). Participation limited to 30 individuals. Participants may bring their own dinner/snacks or order a boxed dinner (for a fee) when registering.

**Master Local Historians** is a new program from the [American Association for State and Local History](#), supported by grant funding from [Humanities Tennessee](#) and operated in partnership with the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Knox County Public Library.

**About East Tennessee Historical Society:**

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the Southeast, and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 184 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage -recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

The historical society pursues its education mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and Civil War Families of Tennessee. The East Tennessee History Center houses the staff and programs of the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Museum of East Tennessee History, the Calvin M. McClung Collection and the Knox County Archives. For more information visit the website at [www.eastTNhistory.org](http://www.eastTNhistory.org)



**End Release**