



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making history personal

— since 1834 —

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### **East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Seven Blount 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. Seven Blount County initiatives were among the 44 awards presented.

- **Eden Carnes** was the recipient of ETHS’s first ***Junior Historian Award***. 14-year-old Eden Carnes believes the best way to instill a love for history in students is to start at a young age, especially in preschool and kindergarten. Challenged to transform the perspective of history as a “dusty, boring” subject, Eden has designed a course for children, ages 3 to 6 years, incorporating songs with hand motions to assist students with remembering facts and curriculum-correlated art projects.
- The **Off the Map App Team** was the recipient of a ***Community History Award***. This community-based project brought together Alcoa and Maryville high school students, history and language arts teachers, public librarians, Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society volunteers, and members of Maryville’s mayoral office in a collaborative effort to develop a digital walking tour of Maryville and Alcoa. The research and conversation linked students together in a common interest in the connections of yesterday and today in the history of their towns and county.
- **Linda Albert** received a ***History in the Media Award***. Linda touches thousands each week through her very popular column, “Where I Come From,” published in *The Daily Times*, Maryville, and in the *Blount County Horizon* magazine, of which she is editor. Through her endeavors, she encourages the preservation of history and fosters a public interest in history and assists historical groups, such as the Blount County Historical and Genealogical Society, in sharing stories and promoting events.
- **Nathan Weinbaum** was the recipient of a ***History in the Media Award***. As Blount County’s Director of Veteran Affairs, Nathan Weinbaum performs numerous deeds benefitting regional military veterans. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the

development of an active Facebook page specifically for Blount County veterans. The site features photographs and stories of area veterans, preserving the history of not only East Tennessee but also the nation. The page allows for posts by groups who contribute much needed information, such as details about the veteran's food pantry, and encourages children to participate in patriotic activities through the VFW, DAR, and American Legion.

- **Dr. Gail Palmer** was awarded an ***Award of Distinction*** for *Hidden in Plain Sight: Cemeteries of the Smoky Mountains, Vol. 1 – TN*, a book that describes all 85 cemeteries on the Tennessee side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Information about each cemetery includes who owned the property, when it was sold to the state of Tennessee for use in the national park, background sketches of people who lived in the area, inscriptions from each of the markers, and directions.
- **Tim Walker** was the recipient of an ***Award of Distinction***. With the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I, Tim Walker and the Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society began a registry of WWI soldiers with ties to Blount County. The registry includes the soldier's name, birthdate and place, death date and location, place of burial, race, and military record. The data will be turned into a book and donated to several local libraries and veterans groups.
- The **Stephen Holston Chapter, Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution** was the recipient of a ***Community History Award***. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, a 6-1/2 foot monument now preserves the memories and sacrifices of the 19 known Revolutionary War veterans buried in Eusebia Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Chapter members conducted extensive research to verify the service and burials and raised money through donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses. The monument was dedicated March 20, 2019, with a large crowd in attendance.

**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](http://www.EastTNHistory.org).

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