



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Making history personal

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: ChereL Henderson, Director
865-215-8823 | 865-933-5232
chereL@eastTNhistory.org
www.eastTNhistory.org

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A HOME FOR OUR PAST

The Museum of East Tennessee History at 25



New feature exhibition opening at the Museum of East Tennessee History

WHAT: *A Home for Our Past: The Museum of East Tennessee History at 25* a new feature exhibition at the Museum of East Tennessee History

DATE: Open September 15, 2018—March 31, 2019
Special Public Opening: Friday, September 14, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: East Tennessee History Center
601 S. Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

(Knoxville, TN) When the Museum of East Tennessee History opened in 1993, it fulfilled a shared vision to preserve and interpret the region’s rich history for the benefit of all, a vision first articulated a century and a half earlier. On May 5, 1834, Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey addressed a group of a historically-minded citizens gathered for the first annual meeting of the East Tennessee Historical and Antiquarian Society. Concerned that many of the participants in Tennessee’s early history were passing away and with them their memories, Ramsey issued a call to action: “Let us hasten to redeem the time that is lost.”



Today, 184 years later, Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey’s plea to save Tennessee’s past continues to reverberate in the galleries of the East Tennessee Historical Society’s museum, a permanent

home for our region's cherished stories, traditions, and artifacts. The East Tennessee Historical Society actively began collecting artifacts and producing award-winning interpretive exhibits in 1993, which has now grown to more than 16,000 artifacts housed within the East Tennessee History Center. In this special exhibition, ETHS is excited to highlight East Tennessee's unique history through a variety of artifacts, with at least one exhibited item from each year of ETHS's active 25 years of collections, most of which are rarely or never on display.

The exhibition includes more than twenty-five artifacts and numerous photographs and illustrations representative of East Tennessee's unique history. Some of the items include an 1883 Springfield penny-farthing, the first apparatus to be called a "bicycle"; an 1822 artificial hand that belonged to a teacher from Union County; a silver



coffee and tea service from the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad presented to Superintendent James Baker Hoxsie upon his retirement in 1866; a coverlet woven by one of the famed Walker sisters of Greenbrier; a shirt stating "Healing in the name of Jesus. Take up serpents, Acts 2:38" worn during religious services practicing snake handling in Cocke County; an 1817 bead necklace belonging to Eliza Sevier, the wife of Templin Ross and the granddaughter of both John Sevier and Cherokee Chief Oconostota; a 1907 baseball uniform from a coal town's team in Marrion County; and the distinctive backdrop and wall clock from WBIR-TV variety program "The Cas Walker Farm & Home Show." The exhibit also features a brilliant display of East Tennessee furniture, textiles, folk art, instruments, and vintage toys.

Also on display are more than two dozen featured artifacts from the Tennessee State Museum. A new Tennessee State Museum will open on the grounds of the Bicentennial Capital Mall in Nashville on October 4. ETHS is honored to display select East Tennessee artifacts from their collection, highlighting the programmatic ties between the two institution as well as the museums' shared mission to preserve Tennessee's rich history. Selected items include a 1792 map of the State of Franklin, an 1831 copy of the *Cherokee Phoenix & Indians Advocate* newspaper, and a 19th century flintlock muzzle loading rifle made by Baxter Bean of Washington County.



The public opening of the exhibition begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 14, with light refreshments and ribbon cutting and remarks at 5:15.

The exhibition by the East Tennessee Historical Society is

made possible through a collaboration with the Tennessee State Museum and the Knox County Public Library, and is sponsored by [Home Federal Bank](#). The exhibit is on view at the Museum of East Tennessee History through March 31, 2019.

The Museum of East Tennessee History is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday; and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday. Museum admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, and FREE for children under 16. Each Sunday admission is FREE to all and ETHS members always receive FREE admission. The Museum is located in the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37901. For more information about the exhibition, scheduling a school tour, or visiting the museum, call (865) 215-8824, email eths@eastTNhistory.org, or visit www.easttnhistory.org.

About East Tennessee Historical Society

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged as one of the most active history organizations in the state 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.

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