



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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“The Trail of Tears (1838-2013): From Tragedy to Triumph in 175 Years” will be presented by Dr. Susan M. Abram for ETHE Annual Meeting

Knoxville, Tenn., April 15, 2013 - “The Trail of Tears (1838-2013): From Tragedy to Triumph in 175 Years” will be the topic of Dr. Susan M. Abram’s address at the annual dinner of the East Tennessee Historical Society on Tuesday, May 7. The event begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the dinner, lecture, and awards presentations which begin at 6:30 p.m.

This year marks 175 years since the forced removal of the Cherokee from their homeland to Indian Territory out west, which took the lives of at least one-quarter of the Cherokee population. Dr. Abram’s presentation will examine the entire tragedy of removal. In addition, it will consider the remnant of Cherokee who remained in the east, including the group that became the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Through a horrible and devastating time, the Cherokee, both in the east and west, have continued to persevere and even thrive after 175 years. Susan M. Abram, Ph.D. is an associate professor of history at Western Carolina University and the secretary of the North Carolina Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

The occasion will also feature the presentation of Awards of Excellence to organizations and individuals for special projects to preserve and promote the region’s history. These include the Teaching Excellence Award, History in the Media, Award of Distinction, and the Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement. Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education.

The event will be held at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville and is open to the public. Tickets are \$35 per person and include both the lecture and dinner. To make reservations or for additional information call 865-215-8824 or visit our website at www.eastTNhistory.org.

Guests are invited to arrive early to tour the exhibitions, “Voices of the Land: The People of East Tennessee” and “Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812.”

About the East Tennessee History Center and the East Tennessee Historical Society

Since 1834 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 educational mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and the 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.