



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### **East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Seven Blount County Initiatives with Awards of Excellence in History**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 9, 2018 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 1, 2018, 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 28 awards presented.

- **Missy Tipton Green & Paulette Ledbetter** received an *Award of Distinction* for their books *Cades Cove* and *Walland*, two welcome additions to the growing body of work by this duo to preserve the history and stories of these mountain communities. The books, published in 2011 and 2017, respectively, are part of Arcadia Publishing’s “Images of America” series.
- **Betty Boone Best** received a **Community History Award** for the book *Happy Valley in Blount County, Tennessee, Friends and Family*, which captures the memories, photos, and stories of the families who inhabited, and whose descendants still live in, this lovely, narrow, seven-mile valley between the Chilhowee Mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- **Cades Cove Preservation Association** received a *Community History Award* for their efforts to preserve the history and memories of this special place through projects, publications, and clearing, cleaning, painting, decorating, and maintaining graveyards and roadways. The group was founded in 2001 by former residents of Cades Cove and their descendants.
- **Shirley Carr Clowney** received a *Community History Award* for her book *Our Place in Time: Blacks in Blount County*. The book employs images, stories, and information to tell the story of the African American community, described by the author as small in number, yet making “significant contributions locally, nationally, and internationally.” Shirley is the executive director of African Americans of Appalachia and Blount County.

- **Judge David R. Duggan** received a *Community History Award* for his preservation efforts in Blount County. Duggan is the Alcoa City Historian and chair of the Alcoa Centennial Committee. He has researched and co-authored books on the history of Alcoa, Maryville, and Alcoa basketball, and he was director of the Blount County Historical Museum and Blount County Historical Trust.
- **The Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** received a *Community History Award*. The Major William A. McTeer Camp continuously showcases excellence in leadership by preserving local and regional history and heritage through locating, marking, and holding dedications for unmarked graves or damaged headstones of Union veterans. The camp participates in a wide variety of events and memorials and works with Boy Scout and ROTC groups.
- **Jeff Wallace of the Maryville Monument Company** was the recipient of a *Community History Award*. Having purchased the Maryville Monument Company five years ago, Jeff Wallace works with families and organizations to preserve the region's history, especially through the repair of family gravestones, such as that of William Finley, whose daughter Polly married David Crockett, as well as family stones in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**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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