



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY
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October 10, 2014

Snakebit: Poisonous Serpents and Religious Expression in Tennessee
A Brown Bag Lecture by Joe Jarrett

PROGRAM: *Snakebit: Poisonous Serpents and Religious Expression in Tennessee*, a Brown Bag Lecture by Joe Jarrett

DATE: Noon, Wednesday, October 22, 2014

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

ADMISSION: FREE | Attendees are encouraged to bring a “brown bag” lunch



(Knoxville, TN) Primarily rooted in Southern Appalachia nearly a century ago, the practice of “taking up the serpent” is most often found in fiercely independent churches in the more mountainous areas. Though the practice has long been hotly debated, it wasn’t until 1947, spurred by the death of five East Tennesseans, that the state of Tennessee first outlawed the practice. In a Brown Bag Lecture on October 22, Joe Jarrett will detail the legal history and cases involving the state’s right to ban the dangerous means of worship versus an individual’s rights of religious freedom. Mr. Jarrett is a Tennessee attorney, mediator, and Army and Air Force veteran who lectures full-time for the University of Tennessee, Department of Political Science, in Knoxville. He is a graduate of Stetson University College of Law.

The program is sponsored by 21st Mortgage and is free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a “Brown Bag” lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

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