



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Two Morgan County Initiatives with Award 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. Two Morgan County initiatives were among the 44 awards presented.

- **Vera Scarbrough** was the recipient of a ***Community History Award***. A native of Oakdale, Vera Scarbrough has dedicated her life to preserving and sharing the history of her hometown, once a major stop on the CNO&TP/Southern Railroad. Through decades of teaching, she worked with her students to publish their first book, *Oakdale: 1880 to the Present*, followed by a companion volume, *The Legend Continues: Oakdale, Tennessee, Its Past and People: A Further Look into the Town that Cincinnati Built*. Vera also keeps the town’s history alive through tours, events, and community service.
- **Jean Pollard and Barbara Ellis Langley** received an **Award of Distinction** for their book *Gobey, A Place in Time*, which documents the history of the now-vanished community of Gobey in Morgan County, Tennessee. Jean Pollard and Barbara Ellis Langley spent two years collecting photographs and interviewing the last generation of family members who lived there to create this 400-page work, documenting an important, but lesser known community in East Tennessee.

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.

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