



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY  
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## For Immediate Release

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August 9, 2018

### **“To Transmit in Perfect Safety: The Cherokee Code Talkers in World War I” A Brown Bag Lecture with Pat Gang**

**PROGRAM:** *To Transmit in Perfect Safety: The Cherokee Code Talkers in World War I* /a  
Brown Bag Lecture with Pat Gang

**DATE:** Noon, Wednesday, August 22, 2018

**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) While the term "Code Talkers" is often associated with World War II, the story actually begins in WWI, when to avoid German deciphering of messages, the U.S. military employed Native Americans fluent in both their native language and English, to send secret messages in battle. The first known use of Native Americans in the American military to transmit messages under fire was a group of Cherokee troops under the American 30th Infantry Division serving alongside the British during the during the Second Battle of the Somme in the World War I in September 1918.

A student of military history, Pat Gang holds a BA in history and is the founder of "Keeping Your Stories Alive," a local concern specializing in veteran's histories, and the author of the book *It Was a Two Egg Mission*, recounting an incident during the 8th Air Force bombing campaign against Germany in WWII.

The lecture is sponsored by the Gentry Griffey Funeral Chapel and Crematory and is free and open to the public and 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](http://www.EastTNHistory.org).

**End Release**