Museum of East Tennessee History “Wish List”

ETHS collects artifacts in a wide range of categories. Below are areas in which ETHS wishes to strengthen collections:

- African American history
- Artifacts and photographs
- Appliances
- Cast-iron stoves made in East Tennessee; early stoves and refrigerators (such as Magic Chef from Cleveland)
- Cherokee, 1800 to 1838
- Children’s clothing and accessories from early 20th century and before
- Firearms, including rifles and pistols. Types made in East Tennessee; also those marketed in the region, with markings of the seller (such as C.M. McClung & Co.); 18th or 19th century gun-making tools are also desired.
- Folk art
- Furniture (with clear East Tennessee maker or provenance)
- Beds--cannonball, primitive chairs: Windsor, Wilder, mule-ear
- Cupboards and Chests--corner cupboard, chest of drawers from early to late 19th century
- Pie Safes, circa 1900
- Sideboards
- Tables--banquet, side, ordinary kitchen
- 20th-Century Manufactured East Tennessee Furniture--High Victorian parlor and decorative furniture
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Ku Klux Klan memorabilia and artifacts
- Medical artifacts
- Musical instruments
- Authentic instruments and artifacts of popular musicians, sound recordings
- Political memorabilia of notable East Tennessee political figures
- Pottery--a cross-section through time of typical examples of East Tennessee potters as well as more unusual pieces.
- Quilts and coverlets, 1780-1920. Each should be accompanied by identity of maker, place, date, pattern name, story behind the quilt, and photograph of the maker, if possible.
- Railroads, 1850s and after
- Small artifacts, photographs, maps, and ephemera, such as timetables
- Sewing machines, early
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Removal documentation (Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee Valley Authority, Manhattan Project): electrical objects, photographs, pottery, family items, memorabilia
- Tools
- Toys
- Wartime memorabilia--authentic uniforms, weapons, portraits, artifacts from each conflict--War of 1812 (1812-1815), Cherokee Removal (1838), Mexican War (1846-1848), Civil War (1861-1865), including Sultana artifacts and photographs, Spanish-American War (1898), World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and later conflicts