



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Making history personal

For Immediate Release

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“Write and Tell Mother...”: East Tennesseans in the Great War, 1917-1919 **A Lecture by Pat Gang**

PROGRAM: *“Write and Tell Mother...”: East Tennesseans in the Great War, 1917-1919*
A Lecture by Pat Gang

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

ADMISSION: FREE

(Knoxville, TN) There is a reason that Veterans Day Parades halt for a moment of silence at precisely 11 a.m. It was at 11 a.m. on the 11th of November 1918, that the deadliest and most destructive war in history, to that point, ended. More than 130,000 Tennesseans served in the Great War, some 40,000 of them from East Tennessee. Knoxville and Knox County contributed more than 5,000 men to the cause. Of these, 11 officers and 150 enlisted men died in service, a rate of just under 5%, which is considered heavy in that only about half the total number in service actually went to France. Of these 161 fatalities, 122 were killed in action. Colonel Cary Spence of the 177th Infantry, raised from the Tennessee National Guard, praised them for their "glorious record in all operations" and expressed an "appreciation of the courage, fortitude, and devotion displayed."

In a special lecture on Thursday, March 19, Pat Gang will share the stories of these brave East Tennessee soldiers. A Knoxville native, Gang is a student of military history and holds a BA in history from the University of Tennessee. He has served as editorial director for three books on local church history and is the founder of "Keeping Your Stories Alive," a local concern specializing in veteran histories.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

About East Tennessee Historical Society

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the Southeast, and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 181 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage -recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

The historical society pursues its education mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and the Civil War Families of Tennessee. The East Tennessee History Center houses the staff and programs of the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Museum of East Tennessee History, the Calvin M. McClung Collection, and the Knox County Archives. For more information visit the website at www.eastTNhistory.org.

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