



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Three Sullivan County Initiatives with History Awards of Excellence

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 15, 2017 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 2, 2017 at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has been annually recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming and interpretation of the region’s history. Three Sullivan County initiatives were among the 27 awards presented.

- **Brianne Wright** was honored with a ***Community History Award*** for going above and beyond her duties as City of Kingsport Archivist to engage the community in celebrating the City of Kingsport’s Centennial. Ms. Wright provided photos and information to news outlets, published a book, writes a weekly newspaper column, “Out of the Archives,” and organized photo exhibits. She is currently partnering with the city school system and ETSU to produce an exhibit on the history of education in Kingsport. Brianne also received an ***Award of Distinction*** for her book *On This Day in Kingsport History*, which captures the life of the city through selected stories, one for each day of the year, from its 1822 founding to 2015. The entries were recorded and aired each day on local radio.
- **Shane S. Simmons** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for his book *Legends and Lore of East Tennessee*. In East Tennessee, as in the Appalachians in general, the lore of the past lives on, passed down through generations. In his book, Simmons discusses his research into the history of local legends and folk tales, as well as including lists of superstitions popular in the mountains.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. 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. The Society also 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.”

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