



## EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making history personal  
— since 1834 —

For Immediate Release

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### Monroe County Student Wins Medal at 17th Annual East Tennessee History Day

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 12, 2017 – Coker Creek’s Eli Thompson was awarded first place in the Senior Individual Website category at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual East Tennessee History Day Regional Competition (ETHD), held March 2 in Knoxville. While Eli lives in Coker Creek, he studies through Knoxville’s Berean Christian School Home School and Independent Study Program. The title of his documentary is *We Ain’t Here to Argue: The Conflict That Became the Coal Creek War*. Eli’s teacher is Sharron Thompson.

Eli advances to [Tennessee History Day](#), the state competition held April 7, 2017 in Nashville. From there, state winners will advance to nationals in College Park, Maryland, June 10-14. Regional competition co-sponsors, the [East Tennessee Historical Society](#) and the [University of Tennessee’s Department of History](#), congratulate and commend these students and their teachers on their hard work and success.

“East Tennessee students consistently do well in this competition,” according to Lisa Oakley, ETHS curator of education and ETHD regional coordinator. “Three ETHD winners have placed first in the nation, plus several placing second and third and many more finishing in the national top 12 for their category.”

In the East Tennessee Region some 3,500 students competed at the basic school level. An estimated 750,000 students compete nationally at the basic level.

#### About National History Day:

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[National History Day](#) is the leading program for history education. This year’s broad theme was “Conflict and Compromise in History.” Students select a topic related to the annual theme and then choose to present their research through a website, documentary, paper, exhibit or performance. Through research and interpreting their findings into a sound argument, these middle and high school students learn the priceless skills of an historian—critical thinking, research, and the value of primary sources.

#### About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

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Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged as one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 184 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.

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