



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY
Making history personal

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Cherel Henderson, Director
865-215-8823 | 865-933-5232
cherel@eastTNhistory.org
www.eastTNhistory.org

March 6, 2017

William Francis Yardley: Knoxville Trailblazer
A Brown Bag Lecture by Joe Jarrett

PROGRAM: *William Francis Yardley: Knoxville Trailblazer*, a Brown Bag Lecture by Joe Jarrett

DATE: Noon, Wednesday, March 15

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) A lawyer, politician, civil rights advocate, and gubernatorial candidate, William Yardley achieved a number of “firsts” at a time when it was unacceptable for an African American to do so. He was born in Knoxville to an Irish mother and an African American father and was befriended and mentored by the Yardleys, a prominent white family from whom he likely took his name. The famed statesman and abolitionist Frederick Douglas referred to Yardley as “one of the most remarkable men that I have met.” In a Brown Bag Lecture on Wednesday, March 15, Joe Jarrett will discuss Yardley and his impact as an African American trailblazer. Mr. Jarrett is a Tennessee attorney, mediator, and Army and Air Force veteran who lectures full-time for the University of Tennessee, Department of Political Science, in Knoxville. He is a graduate of Stetson University College of Law.

The program is part of the Bud and Harriet Z. Albers Memorial Brown Bag Lecture Series and is free and open to the public. The lecture 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.

End Release