



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONTACT: Cherel Henderson
(865) 215-8823
cherel@eastTNhistory.org

East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Greene County Initiatives with Awards of Excellence in History

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 9, 2018 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 1, 2018, at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has annually recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming, and interpretation of the region’s history. Four Greene County initiatives were among the 28 awards presented.

- **Carolyn S. Gregg** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for her active leadership role in preserving the Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery, founded in 1811. As historian of the Blue Springs Historical Association, Carolyn compiled the book *The History of Blue Springs Church and Cemetery, 1811-2016*, including biographies and photos of its ministers. *Blue Springs Church, Community, and Colleges* expanded this history to the early education provided by ministers of the church. She also wrote the scripts for the “Whispers from the Grave” activity that detailed the lives of those who began the church.
- The **Greene County Genealogical Society** and **Stevie Hughes** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for the three volume series Vol. I: *Civil War Soldiers of Greene County*, Vol. II: *Faces of the Civil War*, and Vol. III: *Stories from the Civil War* features accounts from official records, diaries, journals, family letters, pension files, personal interviews, and articles from *The Civil War Veteran* magazine, making it a rich resource for research and historical preservation.
- The **Greeneville Greene County History Museum** received a ***Community History Award*** for the restoration of the Earl W. Fletcher, Jr. Memorial Veterans Gallery, which allowed the GGCHM to better highlight the stories of Greene County veterans and encourages visitors to reflect on the patriotism of local soldiers from Kings Mountain to recent deployments in the Middle East.
- **Steve Ricker** was the recipient of the ***Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement in Living History Interpretation***. “It is my dream to kindle a spark from the past into a flame for the future.” Steve Ricker bridges three centuries, bringing forth the stories, customs, crafts, history, and way of life of the Cherokee and pioneer settlers for the

enrichment of education of today's students and the public. He is widely acclaimed as a master craftsman of both pioneer and Cherokee items, a storyteller, teacher, and historian.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. The Society 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." 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. For more information on ETHS, exhibitions, or programs, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

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