



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### **East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Four Blount County Initiatives With History Awards of Excellence**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., June 19, 2015 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on June 4, 2015 at the Foundry on the Fair Site. 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. Four Blount County initiatives were among the 27 awards presented.

- Two Blount County teachers, Elithe Carnes and Suzanne Costner, were recipients of the ***Teaching Excellence Awards*** from the East Tennessee Historical Society. **Elithe Carnes** strives to engage her students in extracurricular learning, creating and offering summer camps that cover various historical conflicts, including the French & Indian War, the French Revolution, WWI and WWII, and many more. The hands-on activities featured during the camps, from mock battles to candle making and cloth dying, create memorable learning lessons that continually inspire students.
- **Suzanne Costner** is a dedicated educator who works to support the learning of both her students and colleagues. In 2014, Ms. Costner served as Educator-in-Residence for the MTSU Teaching with Primary Sources program, developing materials and lesson plans that would aid her colleagues in the classroom. She excels at engaging her students in active, cross-curricular learning, earning her the 2015 ACE Educator of the Year Award from the Civil Air Patrol.
- **Mark Bennett** and **C. Lynn Gibson** received an ***Award of Distinction*** from the East Tennessee Historical Society for *The Official Record Book of Grandview Cemetery: 1922-2014, Volume I*. Compiled by Bennett and edited by Gibson, the book is a very valuable genealogical reference volume as it contains an astounding amount of information for the 11,677 entries, such as birth and death dates and location, family and spouse information, funeral home name, and often obituaries.
- **Missy Tipton Green** and **Paulette Ledbetter** were the recipients of an ***Award of Distinction*** from the East Tennessee Historical Society for their book *Images of America: Townsend*, which includes 127 pages of photographs and historical narrative summarizing the history of Tuckaleechee Cove (Townsend) and its role in the

formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The book is a treasure trove of memories for residents and provides visitors a wonderful glimpse of the area's history.

**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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