



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**“After they’ve Seen Paree: Tennesseans and the First World War”  
to be presented by Michael E. Birdwell, Ph.D. for ETHS Annual Meeting**

**(Knoxville, Tenn., May 18, 2015)** “After They’ve Seen Paree: Tennesseans and the First World War” will be the topic of Dr. Michael E. Birdwell’s address at the annual meeting of the East Tennessee Historical Society on Thursday, June 4, at the Foundry World’s Fair Park. The event begins with a reception, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed at 6:30 p.m. by a dinner, a lecture, and awards presentations. Both members and the general public are welcome.

Michael E. Birdwell, Ph.D. is a professor of history at Tennessee Technological University at Cookeville and chair of the Tennessee Great War Commission, whose mission it is to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of World War I. “The war has long been overshadowed by the Civil War and World War II,” explains Dr. Birdwell, yet it “mobilized men and women and transformed the culture and politics of the state and nation in profound ways.” The role of Tennessee’s native son Alvin C. York will also be a topic of discussion.

The occasion will also feature the presentation of Awards of Excellence to organizations and individuals across the region for special projects to preserve and promote the history of East Tennessee. These include the Teaching Excellence Award, History in the Media, Award of Distinction, and the Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement. Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education.

The event will be held at the Foundry on World’s Fair Park, 747 World’s Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, and is open to the public. Tickets are \$40 per person and include both the lecture and dinner. For reservations or for additional information call 865-215-8883 or visit our website at [www.eastTNhistory.org](http://www.eastTNhistory.org).

**About the East Tennessee Historical Society**

Established in 1834, 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. The historical society pursues its education mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and Civil War Families of Tennessee. The East Tennessee History Center houses the staff and programs of the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Museum of East Tennessee History, the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, and the Knox County Archives.