



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Two McMinn County Initiatives with History Awards of Excellence

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 12, 2017 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 2, 2017 at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. 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. Two McMinn County initiatives were among the 27 awards presented.

- **McMinn County Archives (TN) & Walker County Historical Commission (Texas)** were both honored with an *Award of Excellence*. “GTT” (gone to Texas) was once again the motto of a group of East Tennesseans departing a Cradle of Texas Tour, representing the Volunteer State in celebrations marking Texas independence and the birthday of Sam Houston. Highlights were the unveiling of a Sam Houston statue, which was a replica of the one recently erected in Maryville, and Texans honoring the group with a rendition of *Rocky Top*.
- **Dennis Craig Stewart** received an *Award of Excellence* for his book *The “Suicide” of Lillian Hutsell: A True Story*. The town of Athens was shaken by the 1929 suicide death of Lillian Hutsell. Now, almost ninety years later, the sleuthing of Dennis Stewart casts doubt on the original verdict. His book follows Stewart’s extensive research journey through the turbulence of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression to sort fact from fiction and draw new conclusions.

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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