



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making history personal

— since 1834 —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 10, 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. Three Washington County initiatives were among the 28 awards presented.

- **Elaine Scott Cantrell** received ETHS’s highest honor, the ***Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement***. Ms. Cantrell has shown outstanding contributions to history, genealogy, preservation, and documentation of Washington County and regional history and at age 89 continues to contribute in new ways. Too numerous to enumerate, Elaine’s endeavors include board and committee service, cemetery documentation, a three-year historic survey of the county, an obituary project, newsletter co-editor, director of the Jonesborough Genealogical Society, and acting as the driving force behind the creation of the Washington County Archives. She has been the recipient of numerous awards in the past.
- The **Chester Inn State Historic Site & Museum** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for the monthly program “History Happy Hour,” which features a variety of researchers and guest speakers with a goal to offer free history education with a local emphasis and to build collaborative relationships across the community.
- The **Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee & Southwest Virginia** received an ***Award of Distinction*** for presenting its first murder mystery, *Legs in a Barrel*, inspired by an actual murder in Bridgeport, Tennessee. Characters were based on actual suspects, with dialogue from newspaper accounts. As “honorary detectives,” guests interviewed suspects in the audience, with the crowd voting on the guilty party. The play raised \$4,000 for the Heritage Alliance’s education programs.

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.

###