



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**East Tennessee Historical Society Honors James Allen Bryant, Jr.  
with the McClung Award**

(KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 30, 2018) – James Allen Bryant, Jr. has been selected by the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) as the recipient of the 89<sup>th</sup> McClung Award for his article, “A Kind of Pious Davey Crockett’: The Reverend Gideon Blackburn and Cherokee Education,” which appeared in the 2017 *Journal of East Tennessee History*.



Named in honor of Knox County Public Library benefactors Calvin and Barbara McClung, the prestigious award is presented annually for the best article published in the East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) *Journal of East Tennessee History*. The award is determined by a panel of professionally qualified judges who make their decision based on the article’s originality, scholarship, historical significance, and literary merit.

Bryant’s article examines Gideon Blackburn (1772-1838), a Presbyterian minister and missionary from Maryville, Tennessee, who worked with the Cherokee and established one of the first Native American boarding schools within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. The American Board of Foreign Missions later established a national system of schools to educate Native Americans, largely based on Blackburn’s successes. Unfortunately, this boarding school approach to Native American Education, viewed as an assault on Cherokee culture, institutions, and society, lasted well into the twentieth century.

James Allen Bryant, Jr., is an Associate Professor of Elementary Education, Gadugi Partnership Director in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Appalachian State University. He holds a B.A., from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.A., from the College of William and Mary, and his Ph.D., from the University of North Dakota.

**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 annual *Journal of East Tennessee History*, published annually since 1929, *Tennessee Ancestors*, 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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