

HENDLEY/WELLS HISTORICAL MARKER AT SMELLAGE CEMETERY HITCHING POST FOR HORSES

At 2:00 p.m. on the 25th of May 2008 the dedication for the sign that was commissioned



by Hendley Family Association was presented by William Haydon “Bill” Hendley (**pictured with his wife Julie (Tappan) Hendley**) of Indianapolis, Indiana. He told of the land that was sold to Smellage Cemetery for the purpose of a public hitching post area for horses to be used by visitors to hitch up their horses while they visited their loved ones in Smellage Cemetery. This land was sold to J. W. Anderson, A. L. Smellage and J. Y. Shanks, Smellage Cemetery Board

members on the 27th of October 1911, Putnam County, Tennessee.

A local woman named Connie (Lee) Gentry (**pictured right**) donated wood for the hitching post area. Locust wood was used to construct the hitching post. Connie (Lee) Gentry’s father was Winell Lee, founder and owner of Winell Lee Lumber Company.



Putnam County Executive Kim (Burks) Baylock read the Hendley Family Association Proclamation dedicating the marker (**pictured right, with Bill & Julie Hendley**).



William Haydon Hendley presented certificates to the Smellage Cemetery Board consisting of Fred Shanks Jr., Bethelda Bilbrey, Harold Ralph Maynard, James M. Maynard, Linda S. Collier, Freddy W. Shanks, Besty A. Walker and Ted Huddleston. Ted & Carolyn Huddleston were presented certificates for their steadfast effort over all the years to preserving Smellage Cemetery. (**pictured right**).

William Haydon Hendley presented



Audrey J. Lambert was presented a certificate for her website consisting of family and historical information of local families of Putnam County and surrounding areas. (pictured right), L to R: William “Bill” Hendley, his wife Julia (Tappan) Hendley & Audrey J. Lambert.



L to R: William “Bill” Haydon Hendley & his wife, Julie Tappan.
 Bill is a genealogist for The Hendley Family Association & a descendant of
 Francis Marion “Frank” Hendley & Savannah Josephine Glover =
 Willis Aden “Adie” Hendley & Mary Daisy Lancaster =
 John Hayden “Aden” Hendley & Opal Mae McWhorter =
 William “Bill” Haydon Hendley md Julie Tappan
 They are standing by the tombstones of Aden Hendley ,(in front of tree) & (to
 the far left) the tombstone of Elizabeth Gentry, w/o Aden Hendley. Aiden &
 Elizabeth are the parents of Francis Marion Hendley.

HENDLEY FAMILY HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATED RECENTLY

Herald – Citizen, Cookeville, TN,

Sunday, 8 June 2008, pg. C-6



PUTNAM COUNTY: The Hendley Family Association Inc. dedicated its historical marker May 25 at the Smellage Cemetery on Hopewell Road near Boma.

The historical marker honors the family of Adin Smith Hendley and his wife Elizabeth Jane Gentry and their 12 children. The couple were married June 18, 1835, at the Twelve Corners church in Jackson County and settled on the Smellage farm as share croppers. (*Hebron United Baptist Church of Christ later known as Spring Creek and Twelve Corners on June 18, 1835*).

The site of their settlement, which was donated as a cemetery by the Smellage family, is being marked to honor the founding of the Hendley family of Tennessee. The two

brothers of the family, William Meredith Hendley, born 1847, and Francis Marion Hendley, born 1851, raised their families in two different places after the Civil War – William Meredith Hendley’s family in Monroe County, KY, and Francis Marion Hendley’s family in Putnam County.

Their offspring migrated north to find work in the early 1920s; William Meredith Hendley’s son Berlin to Indianapolis, IN, and son Seay to Louisville, KY; Francis Marion Hendley’s daughter Sarah to Hammond, IL; and son William Byrd Hendley to Bowling Green, KY.

Francis Marion Hendley’s other son, Willis Aden Hendley moved to Clay County in 1900 and took his parents and sister with him.. There he got married and had three sons, Wilbur J. Hendley, George Omnie Hendley (died at 16 day old) and John Aden Hendley, and one daughter, Jewell Catherine Hendley, of which all the children eventually left for Johnson County, IN, in the 1940s.

In Franklin, IN, Johnson County, John Hendley got married in 1950 and had five children, the oldest being William Haydon Hendley, who eventually became interested in genealogy. He found the other side of the Hendley family, William Meredith Hendley's descendants, living all around him. His first contact was with a William Kenneth Hendley Sr. of Carmel, IN, Hamilton County. And thus began the gathering together of the Hendley's of the two sons of Adin that led to The Hendley Family Association Inc. of Tennessee being founded at a family reunion on Memorial Day weekend at Providence, IN, Johnson County, in 1975.

William Haydon Hendley was elected the fourth president in 1981 and has held the office every since. Hendley found his family's legacy through his work with the Tennessee Monument Commission Inc. from 1974-1982, which culminated in Tennessee's memorial at Gettysburg, PA, being dedicated. Because of this, the late Tommy Burks of Putnam County made a Senate Joint Resolution honoring Hendley in 1992, and a picture on the Senate floor was published in the Putnam County newspaper. Some family history was included in the article, and Carolyn Shanks Huddleston of Silver Point contacted Hendley through Sen. Burk's office in Nashville to let him know where his ancestors lived and were buried.



THE HENDLEY HOMESTEAD

Site of the founding of the Great
Hendley Family of Tennessee
Senate Joint Resolution No. 128 –
March 20, 1989 By:
Sen. Tommy Burks

Adin Smith Hendley (b. July 14, 1812 Georgia) and Elizabeth Jane Gentry (b. December 14, 1817 Tennessee) were married on June 18, 1935 in Jackson County: of this union were born 12 children: Nancy C. (1836), Julia A. (1837), Lucrecia M. (1839), Mary J. (1841), America F. (1844), William M. (1847), Martha L. (1849), Francis M. (1851), Sarah

A. (1855), Paralee E. (1856), Matilda E. (1858), and Margaret E. (1861). During the War Between The States, Margaret Elizabeth Hendley died (July 3, 1864), and was buried in what was the front yard of their home. Later Adin (d. October 6, 1890) and his wife Elizabeth (d. January 29, 1897) passed away and were buried with their daughter. In later years, daughter Lucrecia M. Hendley – Wells (d. June 7, 1915) was buried with her husband William Byrd Wells (**they had sold land across Hopewell Road to Smellage Cemetery for a “public hitching ground for horses”, October 27, 1911**), along with descendants of Nancy C. Hendley – Shanks in the Smellage Cemetery. Elizabeth Jane Gentry – Hendley was honored by SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 337 on February 26, 1996 on the occasion of her 175th birthday, as the ‘MOTHER of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee, her epitaph reads ‘SHE WAS A KIND AND AFFECTIONATE WIFE, A FOND MOTHER AND A FRIEND TO ALL.’

SPONSORED BY: THE HENDLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC
(*CHARTERED IN TENNESSEE*)

Dedicated: May 26, 2008
(continue on reverse side)

THE HENDLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED
HONORED FOR 25 YEARS – HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 612
January 28, 2002 By: Rep. Jere Hargrove

John Aden Hendley
Chief Elder

William Haydon Hendley
National President
Terri Lynn Webb
National Secretary

Ronald Adrew Hendley
Vice President
Linda Bess Havens-Hendley
Genealogist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Kenneth Hendley Sr.
WMH-C Seat 1
Carol Ann Eubank
MH-C Seat 2

Billy Frank Hendley
FMH-C Seat 1
Timothy Howard Hendley
FMH-C Seat 2

COMMISSION MEMBERS

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: John Aden Hendley; Chairman: William H. Hendley; Vice Chairman: Ronald A. Hendley; Terri L. Hendley-Webb; Billy F. Hendley; Carol A. hendley – Eubank; Timothy H. Hendley; William K. hendley, (Sr.); Donald E. Hendley; Lilly M. Hendley – Eisenmenger; Julie J. Tappan-Hendley; Carolyn Shanks Huddleston; Ted Huddleston; Harold Ralph Maynard; Kathy J. Ross; Robert D. Kinser; Audrey J. Lamber; Sheila K. Hendley – O’Steen.

OFFICIAL MOTTO: “It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from and what we have been taught.” Governor of Tennessee, January 17, 1987.

W. B. WELLS & WIFE DEED TO GRAVEYARD

To whom it may concern.

For the consideration of twenty dollars (\$20) cash in hand we, W. B. Wells and wife Lucretia M. Wells, have this day bargained and sold a certain parcel or lot of land to the trustees of Smellage Graveyard for the purpose of making a public hitching ground for horses.

The present trustees are J. W. Anderson chairman, A. L. Smellage clerk and J. Y. Shanks treasurer.

The parcel or lot is described as follows. Beginning on a black oak on the South side of the road opposite the South West corner of the part of the land bought off George Kinard in 1911 as an addition to the Smellage Graveyard; thence south with the hollow to a hollow to a small hiccory (sic) in George Kinard's line. Thence up the hollow and with George Kinard's line to a rock in the public road. Thence with the road to the beginning corner. The same to be one acre more or less. We agree to warrant and defend the title against all lawful claims. This October 27, 1911.

Signed: W. B. Wells (William Byrd Wells)
LouCresia M. Wells (her mark)

STATE OF TENNESSEE, Putnam COUNTY.

Personally appeared before me J. W. Barks, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named W. B. Wells with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged that he executed the within Deed instrument for the purpose therein contained. And Lou Cresia M. Wells, wife of the said W.

B. Wells, having personally appeared before me, privately and apart for her husband, the said Lou Cresia M. Wells acknowledged the execution of said Deed to have been done by her freely, voluntarily, and understandingly, without compulsion or constraint from her said husband, and for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and official seal, at Boma Tennessee, this 27 day of October, 1911.

J. W. Barks, Notary Public - - my commission expires July 6, 1912.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, PUTNAM COUNTY

The foregoing instrument and certificate were noted in Note Book H, Page 206 At 10:41 O'Clock AM 4-Sept. 1973 and recorded in W. D. Book 154, Series____ Page 505 State Tax Paid \$____ Fee ____Recording Fee 4.00 Total \$4.00. Witness My hand. Receipt No. 25189 James W. Breeding, Register.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>