

Indystar.com: The Indianapolis Star Newspaper
Published at <http://www.indystar.com>
December 6, 2004

Opal Mae Hendley Obituary
b. 14 October 1928, Albany, KY
d. 4 December 2004, Franklin, IN



John Hayden Hendley & his wife Opal
Mae (McWhorter) Hendley.

Opal Mae Hendley, 76, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004, at Franklin United Methodist Community. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was born Oct. 14, 1928, in Albany, Ky. Her parents were Arthur Lawrence and Winnie Dess McWhorter. She married John Hayden Hendley on July 17, 1950. He survives. Other survivors include two sons, William H. Hendley of Indianapolis and Freddie A. Hendley of Morgantown; three daughters, Patricia A. Botts of Franklin, Shelia K. Hendley of Brooksville, Fla., and Sharon E. Hagan of Indianapolis; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, four sisters and a brother.

She attended rural schools in Fairland, Ky.

She was a dietary worker for Franklin United Methodist Community. She was a homemaker and assisted her husband on the Lyman McClain farm.

She was a member of Franklin United Methodist Community and Kentucky Colonels. The Kentucky House of Representatives was adjourned in her honor in March 2004.

The Rev. Pat Cook will conduct a service at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Wright Memorial Chapel at Franklin United Methodist Community. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the chapel. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin. Vandivier-Tudor Funeral Home in Franklin is handling arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin United Methodist Community, Attention: Executive Director, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131.

1930 U.S. Census: Dist. #4, Neathery, Clinton, KY

Line: 15 Dwl: 62 Family: 63

McWhorter, Arthur L. Head Owns 47 Married (18 years 1st marriage) Farmer KY KY KY

McWhorter, Winnie Wife 39 (21 years old 1st marriage) KY KY KY

McWhorter, Elmer Son 5 2/12 Single KY KY KY

McWhorter, Bonnie M. Dau. 3 5/12 Single KY KY KY

McWhorter, Opal M. Dau. 1 4/12 Single KY KY KY

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

HOUSE RESOLUTION # BY: REP. JEFF HOOVER - The Hendley Family Association, Inc.

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring Mrs. Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley on the occasion of her 75th Birthday.

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter was born October 14, 1928 delivered by her grandmother Nettie Stearns McWhorter, midwife, at Osco, Kentucky, now under Lake Cumberland, in Clinton County. Daughter of Arthur Lawrence McWhorter of Russell County and Winnie Dess McWhorter of Clinton County, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter attended school and church at the community of Fairland, north of Albany, on the road to Grinder Hill Dock, surviving childhood but loosing two sisters to tuberculoses and another sister to a fire accident and her mother became impaired by a brain tumor at an early age, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter came to Franklin, Indiana, Johnson County to find work and met John H. Hendley, whom she married July 17, 1950, and of this union was born five children: William Haydon Hendley, Freddie Allan Hendley, Patricia Ann Hendley – Botts, Sheila K. Hendley, and Sharon Elizabeth Hendley – Hagan, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley was a house wife but did work several years at the United Methodist Home for the Aged at Franklin, Indiana before being retired disabled and was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel May 21, 1980 by Lieutenant Governor Martha L. Collins, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley is the last surviving sibling of another two sisters, Bonnie Marie Cunningham killed by a drunk driver, photo appears on the Indiana Victims' of Violence Memorial in the Rotunda of the Indiana State House in Indianapolis and Ruth Ollivine Pittman, and her only brother Elmer Lawrence McWhorter who have all passed away, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter - Hendley is a direct descendent of Lawrence Conner, American Revolutionary Soldier, who served with the 8th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army, and was awarded a land grant in Cumberland County, Kentucky (now Clinton County) on Indian Creek where Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley was born, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley is a descendent of the same line of the Henry McWhorter Family that was published as a family history by Minnie S. McWhorter in 1948 that on pages 18 through 20 entitled “AN INTERESTING BIT OF McWHORTER HISTORY” it summarizes that the McWHORTER FAMILY saved Kentucky for the Union during the Civil War, and in support of this statement Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley had two great great-grandfathers and a great great-uncle all of whom were brothers serve in the 13th Kentucky Cavalry (Sgt. John F. Jr., Cpl. Ephraim M. Sr. and Cpl.

Thomas F.), and

HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING OPAL MAE McWHORTER - HENDLEY page 2

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley became the matriarch of the John H. Hendley Tribe of the Francis Marion Hendley Clan of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. on its establishment July 1, 2002, and wife of the Chief Elder of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. on July 28, 2003, and

WHEREAS, Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley has served as a great ambassador for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, spreading good will, visiting her native state every year until she was unable, but returning one last time for her mother’s burial July 24, 1986 at Aaron chapel, near Fairland, Kentucky, Clinton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY THAT:

SECTION 1. That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky sends best wishes to Mrs. Opal Mae McWhorter - -Hendley, a native daughter on the occasion of her 75th birthday and commends her for her contributions to her family, The Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send copies of this Resolution to: Chief Elder and Mrs. John (Opal M.) H. Hendley; Mr. William H. Hendley, National President of The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mr. Freddie A. Hendley, Sr., National Board of Directors, The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; Mrs. Patricia A. Botts, President of the John H. Hendley Tribe; M’s. Sheila K. Hendley; M’s Sharon E. Hagan, Vice President of the John H. Hendley Tribe; and C. Sue Conner of Albany, Kentucky, Clinton County.

TO: Representative Jeff Hoover February 13, 2004

ATTN: BROOKLYN

Please find faxed a two-page draft of a House Resolution in honor of Mrs. Opal Mae McWhorter – Hendley’s 75th birthday.

FROM: William H. Hendley

National President

The Hendley Family Association, Inc.

1326 Bacon Street

Indianapolis, IN. 46227-3110

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