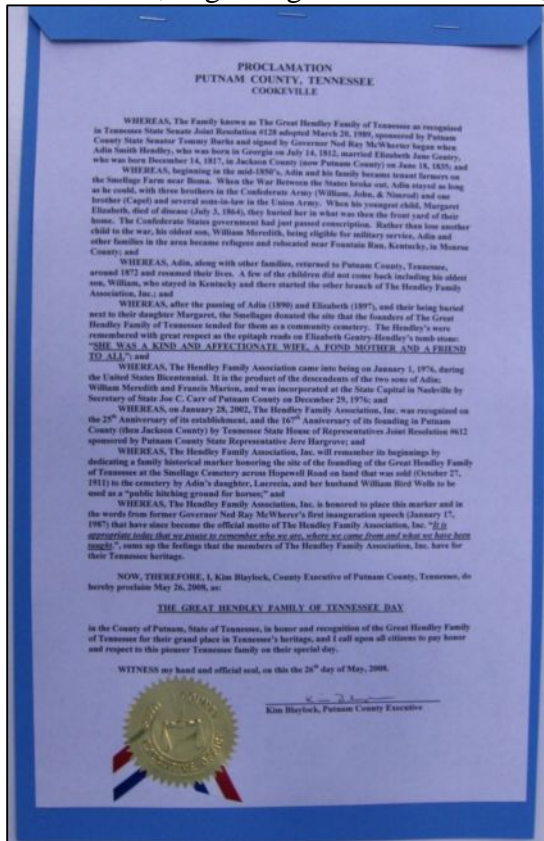


**PROCLAMATION
COOKEVILLE, PUTNAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

WHEREAS, The Family known as The Great Hendley Family of Tennessee as recognized in Tennessee State Senate Joint Resolution #128 adopted March 20, 1989, sponsored by Putnam County State Senator Tommy Burks and signed by Governor Ned Ray McWhorter began when Adin Smith Hendley, who was born in Georgia on July 14, 1812, married Elizabeth Jane Gentry, who was born December 14, 1817, in Jackson County (now Putnam County) on June 18, 1835; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the mid-1850's, Adin and his family became tenant farmers on



the Smellage Farm near Boma. When the War Between the States broke out, Adin stayed on long as he could, with three brothers in the Confederate Army (William, John & Nimrod) and one brother (Capel) and several sons-in-law in the Union Army. When his youngest child, Margaret Elizabeth, died of disease (July 3, 1864), they buried her in what was then the front yard of their home. The Confederate States government had just passed conscription. Rather than lose another child to the war, his oldest son, William Meredith, being eligible for military service, Adin and other families in the area became refugees and relocated near Fountain Run, Kentucky, in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, Adin, along with other families, returned to Putnam County, Tennessee, around 1872 and resumed their lives. A few of the children did not come back including his oldest son, William, who stayed in

Kentucky and there started the other branch of The Hendley Family Association, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of Adin (1890) and Elizabeth (1897), and their being buried next to their daughter Margaret, the Smellages donated the site that the founders of The Great Hendley of Tennessee tended for them as a community cemetery. The Hendley's were remembered with great respect as the epitaph reads on Elizabeth Gentry-Hendley's tombstone "She was a kind and affectionate wife, a fond mother and a friend to all" and

WHEREAS, The Hendley Family Association came into being on January 1, 1976, during the United States Bicentennial. It is the product of the descendents of the two

sons of Adin; William Meredith and Francis Marion, and was incorporated at the State Capital in Nashville by Secretary of State Joe C. Carr of Putnam County on December 29, 1976; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2002, The Hendley Family Association, Inc. was recognized on the 25th Anniversary of its establishment, and the 167th Anniversary of its founding in Putnam County (then Jackson County) by Tennessee State House of Representatives Joint Resolution #612 sponsored by Putnam County State Representative Jere Hargrove; and

WHEREAS, The Hendley Family Association Inc. will remember its beginnings by dedicating a family historical marker honoring the site of the founding of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee at the Smelage Cemetery across Hopewell Road on land that was sold (October 27, 1911) to the cemetery by Adin's daughter, Lucrecia, and her husband William Byrd Wells to be used as a "public hitching ground for horse;" and

WHEREAS, The Hendley Family Association Inc. is honored to place this marker and in the words from former Governor Ned Ray McWhorter's first inauguration speech (January 17, 1987) that have since become the official motto of The Hendley Family Association, Inc. "*It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from and what we have been taught.*", sums up the feelings that the members of The Hendley Family Association Inc. have for their Tennessee heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kim Blaylock, County Executive of Putnam County, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 26, 2008 as:

THE GREAT HENDLEY FAMILY OF TENNESSEE DAY

in the County of Putnam, State of Tennessee, in honor and recognition of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee for their grand place in Tennessee's heritage, and I call upon all citizens to pay honor and respect to this pioneer Tennessee family on their special day.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, on this the 26th day of May, 2008.

Signed: Kim Blaylock Putnam County Executive

<http://www.ajlambert.com>