

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-014

SPONSORED BY: Commissioners Steve Mikels, Jeff Jopling, Nick Bright, David Wells, Mike Akard, Rick Carver, Jessica Hannah, and Jared Anderson

A RESOLUTION OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A BLOUNT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the East Tn Valley, which includes Blount County, Tennessee, is rich in history. Blount County was originally a large part of the Cherokee Nation. Their capital being Chota, and having a village at Chilhowee. As one of the oldest counties in the state, Blount County, TN was established in 1795 before statehood took place. Settlement in this area began as early as the 1780’s mainly by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians; and

WHEREAS, in 1795, Blount County was formed from Knox County by a Territorial Assembly. The name “Blount” is derived from William Blount, governor of the territory south of the Ohio River. The city of “Maryville” or the County Seat was named after Mary Blount, wife of Governor William Blount. Later Loudon County was cut from the boundaries of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill to establish and acquire land for the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Cades Cove, which still remains a community of Blount County, was settled in the 1820’s. Some of this area has been preserved, to show how families lived in those times. Along with Cades Cove, other portions of South Eastern Blount County were deemed part of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park which was finally opened in 1940 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, according to the 1800 U.S. census, the population of Blount County was 5,587. In 2024, the estimated population of Blount County, TN was 141,211. Names such as, Nichol, Lowry, Waugh, King, Montgomery, James, and Wilson. Samuel Love, Sam Houston, Alexander McGhee, Jesse Wallace, and the name Blackburn. Several Forts were established in the early days to serve settlers, McTeer, Henry, Martin, and Fort Black. From Quakers in Friendsville, to settlers in Cades Cove, many of these family’s ancestors still call Blount County home today. William Blount, Sam Houston, John Sevier, Sidney Lanier all hold notoriety and public influence for being Blount Countians and serving in other capacities within our beloved country. As did many more; and

WHEREAS, with so much history of our beloved country’s beginnings right here in Blount County. Being one of the few gateways to the undiscovered wild West in the 1780’s, we have so much to protect. To still learn, to preserve. History must not be forgotten. We must do all we can to protect the beginnings of some of our own ancestors.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Blount County Commission recognizes the basic historical facts that our county is a treasure chest of history. From being a rich, fertile land that was abundant with wildlife and natural resources that served the Native Americans first and many of our own ancestors for centuries before us. Many homes, barns, schools, and lands that still remain. So much documentation, preservation and protection of these places still remains to be done so it is not lost forever.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Blount County Commission also recognizes that there are several institutions within our county that have given lots of time and money to collect, preserve, protect, and recognize these facts. To note a few of these institutions, Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center, The Blount County Historical Museum, The Cades Cove Preservation Association & Cades Cove Museum, The Little River Railroad Museum. Along with many individuals who have dedicated their lives to obtaining and maintaining personal collections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Blount County Commission acknowledges the need for a commission of individuals to be formed to focus on the collection, preservation, protection and acknowledgment of these persons, places and things known and unknown to fellow Blount Countians. The formation of the Blount County Historical Commission would consist of members whose commitment would be to the betterment of Blount County and its historical background and story. Preserving and Protecting its history for the generations to come. This resolution establishes the desire of the Blount County Historical Commission to be appointed and formed. A subsequent resolution will follow to establish how this Commission is comprised.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION	ATTEST
<div>Commission Chairman</div>	<div>County Clerk</div>
<div>County Mayor</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Approved</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Vetoed</div>	<div>Date</div>