



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

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Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

### Creation of the County

#### Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 34

**SECTION 1.** That a new county be, and the same is hereby established, between the county of McMinn and the Tennessee river, to be known by the name of Meigs county, in honor of Colonel Return Johnathan Meigs, deceased, a patriot and soldier of the revolution of 1776; to be composed of that part of Rhea county lying south of Tennessee river, and bounded as follows: beginning at a point below William Blythe's on the Tennessee river, where the line divides the counties of Rhea and Hamilton; thence running a south east course, with said line, dividing the counties of Rhea and Hamilton to Wilson Novius, where the Rhea county line intersects the McMinn county line; thence a north east course with said McMinn line, to a large ridge above the mouth of Price's creek; thence with said dividing line between the counties of Rhea and McMinn, to the eight mile tree or stake, near Bottom's mills, on Sugar Creek; thence a north west course with the line dividing the counties of Rhea and Roane, at or near the mouth of White's creek, on the Tennessee river; thence down the main channel of said river to the beginning.

**SECTION 2.** That for the due administration of justice, the county court and the circuit court in said county shall be held at the house of John Stewart, until otherwise provided for, under the same regulations and restrictions, and shall exercise and possess the same power and jurisdiction as possessed by said courts in other counties in this State.

**SECTION 3.** That all officers, civil and military in said county of Meigs, shall continue to hold their offices, and exercise all the powers thereof, until others are elected under the provisions of the amended constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof; and the said county of Meigs shall elect for others, civil and military, under the amended constitution, at the same time, and under the same rules and restrictions, and in the same manner that may be provided for the electing of officers in other counties in this State; and the said county of Meigs shall be placed upon an equal footing, possess equal powers and privileges, in all respects, as other counties in this State; Provided, nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to deprive the county of Rhea from having, holding and exercising jurisdiction over the territory composing said county of Meigs, and the citizens thereof, in as full and ample a manner as they now have, until the election of county officers, under the amended constitution; Provided, also, nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the county of Rhea from entering up judgments, or the sheriff of said county from selling, under such judgments, any lands within the bounds of said county of Meigs, for taxes, costs and charges, for the present or any preceding year, not to prevent the sheriff of said Rhea county, from collecting from the citizens of said county of Meigs, any taxes due for the present or any preceding year.

**SECTION 4.** That the citizens of the county of Meigs, in all elections for governor, members of congress and for members of the general assembly shall vote as heretofore, with the county of Rhea, until the next apportionment of members of the general assembly, agreeable to the provisions of the fifth section of the tenth article of the amended constitution.

**SECTION 5.** That James Blevins, James Lillard, William Keer, Andrew Kineamon, John Randals and Elisha Sharp, all with the county of Meigs, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, a majority of whom can act, who shall, on or before the first Monday in May next proceed to fix on a place, as near the center of said county as an eligible site can be procured, at least within three miles of the center of said county; at which site the said commissioners shall procure, by purchase or otherwise, at least fifty acres of land; for which they shall cause a deed or deeds to be made to themselves and successors in office, by general warranty; and the said commissioners shall report and return all their proceedings relative to and concerning said county, to the county court of said county; and it shall be the duty of the clerk of said county to record the same.

**SECTION 6.** That it shall be the duty of the county court of said county to appoint five commissioners, to whom the commissioners appointed by this act, shall convey the land acquired for the use of said county, on which it shall be the duty of the commissioners, appointed by the county court, to cause a town to be laid off, with as many streets and of such width as they may deem necessary, reserving at least three acres for a public square and a lot sufficient for building a court house and jail, and said town, where so laid off, shall be known as Decatur, in honor of the late Commodore Stephen Decatur of the United States navy.

**SECTION 7.** That the commissioner of said county, shall sell the lots in said town on a credit of at least twelve months; first giving due notice thereof, in one or more newspapers printed in this State; and shall

take bond with sufficient securities, from the purchasers of said lots, payable to themselves and successors in office; and shall make title, in fee simple, as commissioners, to the respective purchasers.

**SECTION 8.** That the proceeds of the sales of the lots aforesaid, shall be a fund in the hands of said commissioners, for defraying the expenses incurred in the purchase of the said tract of land, on which the said county seat is located; and also, for defraying the expenses of erecting public buildings.

**SECTION 9.** That the said commissioners shall superintend the building the court house and jail, and other necessary public buildings; and shall let out such buildings as the county court in said county shall order to be built, upon such terms and conditions as the said court shall direct; and shall take bond, with sufficient security, from the person or persons to whom the same is let payable to themselves and successors in office, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or their contracts.

**SECTION 10.** That the said commissioners, before they enter upon the duties of their offices assigned them by this act, shall take an oath as affirmation that they will truly and faithfully execute and perform the different duties by this act enjoined upon them, according to the best of their judgment; and moreover, shall enter into bond with approved security, payable to the chairman of the county court of Meigs county, and his successors in office, in the sum of five thousand dollars conditioned for the due and faithful performance of the duties enjoined upon him by this act; which bond shall be deposited in the clerk's office in said county; and shall not be so construed as to make one of the commissioners security for another.

**SECTION 11.** That said commissioner shall keep a fair and regular statement of all money by them received and expended; which statement, when required, shall, from time to time, be laid before the county court; but said commissioner shall not be elected no oftener than once a year; and when all the necessary public buildings are completed, the said commissioners shall, by order of the county court pay over all surplus money to the county trustee, for county purposes; and they shall be allowed by the county court a reasonable compensation for their services.

**SECTION 12.** That the first six commissioners mentioned in this act, shall be entitled to receive, as compensation for their services, the sum of two dollars for each day they may be absent from home and necessarily employed in performing the duties required of them by this act, to be paid by the said county court of Meigs, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SECTION 13.** That should the county court of Meigs not be organized in time to appoint the commissioners to lay off the town and sell the lots that it shall and may be lawful for the county court of Rhea to take the bond and security of said commissioners, payable to the chairman of the county court of Meigs, and his successors in office; and do and perform any other act or acts required by this act, until the organization of said county court of Meigs; and it shall be as good and binding as if done by the county court of said county of Meigs.

Passed: January 20th, 1836.

## Change of Boundary Lines

### Acts of 1883.Chapter 89

**SECTION 1.** That the line between the counties of Roane and Meigs be so changed as to include the lands of E.M. Ewing's home farm, the heirs of Henderson Deatherage, Wm. D. Browder, A. J. Hagler's home farm, Elizabeth Clower, Jeremiah Gepson, and the Misses Sarah and Chrissie Woolsey, in Meigs county, the line running as follows: Beginning at E.M. Ewing's corner, on the Meigs county line, at the northeast corner of McPherson's heirs, Foshee land, and running with John Johnson's and E. M. Ewing's line to the Deatherage heirs' land, thence with said Johnson and Deatherage's line to W. D. Browder's land, thence with said Browder and Johnson's line to A. J. Hagler's land, thence with Hagler and Johnson's line to Robert Martin's, thence with said Hagler and Martin's line to C.C. Durham's land, thence with said Hagler and Durham's line to W.D Browder's land, thence with said Durham and Browder's line to Wm. Marney's land, thence with said Browder and Marney to Wm. Ellis', thence with Wm. Ellis' line (leaving Ellis in Roane county) to Mrs. Clower and James Edgeman's line, thence with said line to Hurricane Creek, thence down said creek with its meanders to said line of Meigs county.

**SECTION 2.** That this act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 16, 1883.

## Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 188

**SECTION 1.** That the line between the Counties of Bradley and Meigs be so changed as to make the line read as follows between said Counties: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of the W. T. Francisco farm where it corners on the Bradley and Meigs County line, running thence west with the line of W. T. Francisco and A. A. Marler line to line of T. A. Marler farm, thence Southwest with the T. A. Marler and A. A. Marler line to the James County line, thence North to A. A. Marler's north line.

**SECTION 2.** That the line between the Counties of Bradley and James be so changed as to make the line read as follows: Beginning at a point on the Southwest side of the Georgetown road on A. A. Marler's north line on the Meigs County line: running thence southwest with the said north line of the A. A. Marler farm to a corner of A. A. Marler's farm, thence south with the line of said A. A. Marler farm to the top of the White Oak Mountain.

**SECTION 3.** That all the real estate added to Bradley County by this Act shall be added to and become a part of the Second Civil District of Bradley County for all civil, school and other purposes.

**SECTION 4.** That all laws in conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5.** That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 14, 1917.

## Private Acts of 1931 Chapter 812

**SECTION 1.** That the line between the Counties of Meigs and Bradley in the State of Tennessee, be so changed as to detach the lands of T.A. Marler, A. A. Marler, John Russ, and a part of the Callie Hunter farm, from the First Civil District of Meigs County and attach the same to the Second Civil District of Bradley County. Said lands are bounded as follows:

Beginning at the present corner of Meigs and Bradley County on the Georgetown- Cleveland Pike Road, and running with the present Bradley and Meigs County line in a northeasterly direction to Lon Wrinkle's land; thence in a westerly direction with the south lines of the Lon Wrinkle, Elder and L. A. Carter lands to the section line of old State Highway No. 58; thence in a southwesterly direction, with said section line to the present corner between Hamilton and Bradley Counties; containing three hundred (300) acres, more or less.

**SECTION 2.** That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: July 2, 1931.

## Private Acts of 1949 Chapter 791

**SECTION 1.** That the following territory lying in and comprising a part of the east side of Meigs County, and described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the northeast corner of lands owned by Roy Kincannon on the Bradley County section line in the center of Highway No. 60 and running north with the section line, which is the Old Bradley County line approximately three hundred (300) yards to a point which marks a corner of the Kincannon land and land of Muncy; thence southwest with the Gertrude Hunter line approximately two hundred fifty (250) yards to the center of Highway No. 60; thence southeast with the center line of Highway No. 60 to the beginning point, said tract of land contains approximately five (5) acres, and being property owned by John Russ, Frank Wooten an the Georgetown Baptist Church, which said tract of land shall be and the same is hereby attached to and constituted a part of Bradley County.

**SECTION 2.** That the territorial fraction taken from Meigs County and added to Bradley County by this Act shall continue liable for its pro rate of all debts contracted by Meigs County before the passage of this Act, and the said fraction shall be entitled to its proportion of any stocks or credits belonging to Meigs County.

**SECTION 3.** That the State and County Taxes of said fraction for the year 1949 shall be collected by the Trustee of Meigs County, and when collected in said fraction, the County tax shall be paid to said County Trustee of Meigs County, and shall constitute a part of the County revenues of Meigs County.

**SECTION 4.** That this Act shall take effect from and after tis [sic] passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 13, 1949.

## Boundaries - Historical Notes

The following is a summary of acts which authorized boundary changes for Meigs County.

1. Acts of 1837, Chapter 79, authorized the county courts of Monroe, M'Minn and Meigs, to elect county surveyors.

2. Acts of 1866-67, Chapter 76, Section 3, changed the boundary lines with Bradley County so as to include the farm now known as the W. Beard and S. Beard farm, formerly Alexander Roger's farm located in the 9th Civil District of Bradley County and the 1st Civil District of Meigs County wholly within Bradley County.
3. Acts of 1872, Chapter 19, Section 3, moved all the tracts of land belonging to Elijah McPherson and David Webb from Monroe County into Meigs County.
4. Acts of 1885, Chapter 102, changed the lines between Meigs and James Counties so as to include all of James Hoyal's farm on the Tennessee River in Meigs County.
5. Acts of 1887, Chapter 202, transferred all the lands of \_\_\_\_\_Carroll (sic) and Nelsey Stanton from McMinn county into the 6th Civil District of Meigs County.
6. Acts of 1891, Chapter 33, detached all the properties belonging to Jasper Redmond, Theodoric Grant, and S. B. Keylon, all of which were located in the northeast corner of McMinn County into the confines of Meigs County.
7. Acts of 1891, Chapter 244, moved the residence and farm of J. J. Winton from Roane County into Meigs County.

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