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Chapter IV - Boundaries

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

Sincerely,

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1796 (1st Session) Chapter 28

SECTION 1. That the said counties of Hawkins and Knox, be divided by the following lines: Beginning on the main road leading from Bull's Gap to Haines Iron Works, on Mossy Creek, at the house of Felps Reed, leaving said house in the new county, running a direct course to the Kentucky road, on the north side of Holston River, a quarter of a mile above the house of Thomas Henderson; thence north fifty degrees west, to the line that divides this state from the state of Virginia; thence west with said line to a point, northwest of the end of Clinch mountain; thence in a direct course to the end of Clinch mountain; thence with the ridge that divides the waters of Richland and Flat Creeks to Holston River, at the upper end of the first bluff above Boyle's old place; thence up the meanders of said river to the mouth of Panther Creek; thence up said creek to the head spring thereof, near the house of John Evans; thence along the main wagon road to the beginning; and all that part of the aforesaid counties of Hawkins and Knox, contained within the lines before described, be erected into a separate and distinct county by the name of Grainger.

SECTION 2. That David Hayley, Major Lee, Benjamin M'Carty, Bartley Marshall, and James Blair, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, and they are authorized to purchase and lay off a place, the most central and convenient in said county of Grainger, for the purpose of erecting a court house, prison, and stocks.

SECTION 3. That the aforesaid commissioners are hereby authorized and required, as soon as may be, after agreeing on the place whereon the court house, prison, and stocks, are to be erected in said county of Grainger, to contract and agree with suitable workmen for erecting and building, at the place aforesaid, a court house, prison, and stocks, for the use and benefit of said county. - And the better to enable the commissioners aforesaid, to carry this act into effect.

SECTION 4. That a tax not exceeding twelve and a half cents, on each hundred acres of land - a tax, not exceeding twelve and a half cents, on each town lot - a tax, not exceeding twenty-five cents, on each slave, between the age of ten and fifty years - a tax, not exceeding one dollar, on each slave house - and a tax, not exceeding twelve and a half cents, on each free male, between the age of twenty-one and fifty years, shall be collected in the said county of Grainger every year, not exceeding three years, by the sheriff or collector of the same, and accounted for and paid to the said commissioners, at the same time and in the same manner, and under the like penalties and restrictions, as is, or may be directed for collecting, accounting for, and paying public taxes.

SECTION 5. That before the said commissioners shall take unto their hands, any of the monies directed to be collected by this act, they shall enter into bond, in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars payable to the governor, for the time being, and his successors in office, for the use of the said county of Grainger, conditioned, for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them.

SECTION 6. That the first court of the said county of Grainger shall be held, by the justices of the same, on the second Mondays in June, September, December, and March, every year; and the justices thereof are hereby authorized and empowered to hold the first court, for the same, at the house of Benjamin M'Carty; and all subsequent courts for said county, on the days above mentioned for holding courts therein, at any place to which the said justices shall from court to court adjourn themselves, until a court house shall be built for the said county of Grainger; and then all causes, matters, and things, depending in the said court, and all manner of process returnable to the same, shall be adjourned to such court house; And all courts held in and for the said county of Grainger, shall be held by commission to the said justices, in the same manner and under the same rules and restrictions; and shall have and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction as are, or shall be prescribed for the courts for the several counties in this state.

SECTION 7. That the aforesaid county of Grainger shall be, and is hereby declared to compose a part of the district of Hamilton, in the same manner, and for all purposes, civil and military, as other counties in the said district doth: Provided, Nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriffs or collectors of the said counties of Hawkins and Knox from collecting all arrearages of public and county tax, within the limits of the said county of Grainger, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed: And the said county of Grainger shall, from and after the passing of this act, furnish four jurors to the superior court of law and equity, for the district of Hamilton aforesaid.

SECTION 8. That John Cocke and William Payne, be, and are hereby appointed commissioners, who are authorized to run the dividing lines between the aforesaid counties, that is, where they are not already

run, or particularly pointed out by natural boundaries; for which services, each of the commissioners shall be allowed two dollars per day, and the marker one dollar per day; the expenses to be paid by the aforesaid county of Grainger.

SECTION 9. That all proceedings now pending in the county courts of Hawkins and Knox, shall be proceeded on and determined in the same manner as if this law had not been passed: Provided, Nothing herein contained shall be construed, so as to give said county of Grainger separate election for governor and members of the general assembly; but the inhabitants of said county, shall be entitled to suffrage in the county from which they were taken, until the first enumeration shall be made.

Passed: July, 1796.

Establish County Seat

Acts of 1797 Chapter 13

SECTION 1. That John Owens, senior, John Brister, Isaac Lane, George Bean, senior, William Stone, Robert Boyd, Henry Howell, James Fears, Jacob Vanhoozer, William Millikin, and Michael Massingill, be, and they or a majority of them, are hereby appointed commissioners in the room of those appointed in the above recited second section, and are hereby vested with similar power, and under the same restrictions in all respects whatever.

SECTION 2. That the said commissioners or a majority of them, are hereby authorized to lay out a town on said land, to consist of forty lots, with proper streets and allies, numbered from one to forty inclusive, to be known by the name of Rutledge, in honor to George Rutledge, esquire, of Sullivan county.

SECTION 3. That the said commissioners are hereby required to complete the duties enjoined on them by this act, between the second Monday of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, and the second Monday of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight.

SECTION 4. That the line dividing the aforesaid counties, shall be extended as follows, viz. Beginning at a marked tree, near the dwelling house of James Blair, senior, on the line from Felps Reed's to Thomas Henderson's, thence to the said Henderson's and Joel Dyer's south west corner, thence a north course with said Henderson and Dyers line, so as to leave the house of Robert Patterson ten poles in Grainger county, thence a direct line to the upper end of the first island below the mouth of Big War creek, thence to the Black Lick, leaving the house of William Hord in Hawkins county, thence with the last mentioned course to the top of Powell's Mountain, thence north, thirty west to the Virginia line.

SECTION 5. That William Payne, be appointed surveyor, who, with two markers shall run and mark the said amended line as early as practicable, and shall be allowed as follows, viz. The surveyor for each day he shall necessarily attend, the sum of two dollars per day, the markers each one dollar per day, to be paid by the county of Grainger.

SECTION 6. That the second section of an act, entitled, "An act for erecting part of the county of Hawkins, and part of the county of Knox, into a separate and distinct county," passed at Knoxville, one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Passed: October 28, 1797.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1798 Chapter 21

SECTION 1. That the bounds of Grainger county shall be ascertained and known by the following lines, viz. Beginning on the main road leading from Bulls Gap to Haine's Iron Works on Mossey Creek, at the house of Phelps Reed, leaving said house in Grainger county, thence to a marked tree near the dwelling-house of James Blair, senior, on the line from Phelps Reed's to Thomas Henderson's, thence to the said Henderson's and Dyer's south west corner, thence a north course with said Henderson's and Dyer's line, so as to leave the house of Robert Patterson ten poles in Grainger county, thence a direct line to Clinch river a quarter of a mile below the mouth of Big War Creek, thence to the Black Lick, leaving the house of William Hord in Hawkins county, thence with the last mentioned course to the top of Powell's mountain, thence the same course to the Virginia line, thence with said line to the Indian boundary line at Cumberland mountain, thence with said boundary line to where the present Knox line intersects the same, thence with Knox line to the top of the Cross Mountain, thence with said Mountain to Clinch river, thence up said river to a point, that a south east line will strike the end of Clinch mountain, thence with the ridge that divides the waters of Richland creek from those of Flat creek, to the first Bluff below Boyles's old

place on Holston river, thence up Holston river to the mouth of Panther creek, thence up said creek to the road leading from Bulls Gap to Haines's Iron works, thence up said road to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That the county of Jefferson shall send five jurors to the superior courts, and the county of Grainger seven jurors to each superior court for the district of Hamilton.

SECTION 3. That this act shall be in force and use from and after the passing the same.

Passed: January 5, 1799.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 45

SECTION 1. That from and after the passing of this act, Knox county shall be bounded by the following lines, (viz) Beginning on the south bank of Holston, at the mouth of Little river, and running with the lines as described by an act, entitled, "an act describing and extending the bounds of Knox county," passed at Knoxville, January the fifth, one thousand seven hundred & ninety nine, to the upper end of the first bluff above Boyle's old place, thence along the lines as described by "An act to annex part of Grainger county to the county of Knox," thence along the former line of Knox county, to a ridge between Clinch mountain and Clinch river, known by the named of the Chestnut ridge, thence along said ridge to the lower line of Henderson and company's survey; thence along said line to the top of the Copper ridge, thence along the extreme height of said ridge opposite the first bluff below the mouth of Bull Run, thence to the north bank of Clinch river opposite said bluff, thence along the said north bank to a point, from which south, forty five degrees east, will strike the south bank of Holston river, so as to leave Knox a constitutional county, thence up the several meanders of said river on the south side to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That all that tract of country lying within the following described bounds, shall be, and is hereby made and constituted a new and distinct county by the names of Anderson, (viz) Beginning on the Chestnut ridge where the Knox and Grainger line crosses it, thence north, forty five degrees west, to the northern boundary of this state, thence south forty five degrees west, to a point from whence, south, forty five degrees east, will strike Wallen's ridge one quarter of a mile above the gap of the Indian fork of Poplar creek, thence to the double springs on the east fork of said creek, thence a direct course to Clinch river opposite the mouth of Hickory creek, thence up the lines of Knox county to the beginning.

SECTION 3. That all that tract of country lying within the following described bounds, shall be, and is hereby made and constituted a new and distinct county by the name of Roane, (viz) Beginning at the corner of Knox county on the south bank of Holston river, running along said line to Clinch river on the north bank, thence up or down said north bank, as the case may be, to the corner of Anderson county, thence along said line, north forty five degrees west, to the north west corner thereof, thence south, forty five degrees west, to the southern boundary of this state; thence east, along said southern boundary to the river Tennessee, on the south side, thence up the several meanders of said river on the south side, to a point opposite the south bank of Holston river, thence to the said south bank, thence up the several meanders on the south side to the beginning.

SECTION 4. That Knox County shall not extend further down, than to a direct line from the salt petre cave, below the Chota ford on Holston, to the mouth of Hickory creek, on Clinch river, until the constitutional limits of Knox county shall be ascertained by actual survey, which shall be done by disinterested commissioners appointed by the county court of Knox: Provided also, That if on accurate survey it shall be found, that there are not constitutional bounds for Knox county above the line described in this section, that then and in that case, the deficiency shall be made up, by taking one half thereof from the county of Anderson on the south side, between the Grainger line, and the lower line of Henderson and company's survey; the other half thereof from Roane county, between the rivers Clinch and Holston, which lines when run, shall be the bounds of Knox county, anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 did not apply to Grainger County, therefore, they have not been included herein.

SECTION 13. That nothing herein contained, shall be so construed as to prevent the collector of public taxes of Knox and Grainger counties to collect the tax for the year one thousand eight hundred and one, and all arrearages of taxes.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remainder of this act did not apply to Grainger County and therefore, is not included herein.

Passed: October 29, 1801.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 46

SECTION 1. That Hawkins and Grainger counties be divided by the following lines, (to wit.) Beginning on the north bank of Clinch river where the Hawkins and Grainger line crosses the same, thence down the north bank of said river Clinch, to a point opposite where the Knox and Grainger line strikes the said river, thence north, forty five degrees west, to the line which divides this state from the state of Kentucky, thence east with said line, to where it intersects with the line which divides this state from the state of Virginia, thence due east with said line to a point from which a direct line to the beginning, will leave six hundred and twenty five square miles in the county of Hawkins, and all that part of the aforesaid counties of Hawkins and Grainger contained within the lines before described, shall be a separate and distinct county by the name of Claiborne.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 did not apply to Grainger County and therefore, is not included herein.

SECTION 11. That all proceedings now pending in the county courts of Hawkins and Grainger, shall be proceeded on and determined in the same manner as if this act had not been passed.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remainder of this act did not apply to Grainger County, and therefore, is not included herein.

Passed: October 29, 1801.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 47

SECTION 1. That all that part of Grainger county herein described, shall be annexed to, and be a part of Knox county: Beginning at the first bluff above Boyles's old place, running up the several meanders of Holston river to the upper corner of a survey of land claimed by William Cobb, next, below James Vance, thence a direct line to the Richland road, where the Knox and Grainger line crosses it.

SECTION 2. That Nathan B. Markland, is hereby appointed to run the aforesaid line, and shall receive the sum of three dollars for the same, to be paid by the county of Knox.

SECTION 3. That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of Grainger county from collecting the taxes for the year of one thousand eight hundred and one, and all arrearages.

Passed: October 29, 1801.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 55

SECTION 1. That Josphe Cobb, esquire, is hereby appointed a commissioner to run the line between the aforesaid counties of Grainger and Hawkins, from the south west corner of Joel Dyer's and Thomas Henderson's land, to Clinch river, agreeably to an act of assembly, passed at Knoxville, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine, entitled, "An act describing and extending the bounds of Grainger county."

SECTION 2. That the said commissioner is hereby authorized to employ a marker to mark said line.

SECTION 3. That the said commissioner shall be allowed the sum of two dollars per day, and the marker one dollar per day, for each day they may necessarily be employed running said line, which expense is to be paid by the county of Grainger, and their receipts shall be sufficient vouchers with the treasurer in the settlement of his accounts.

Passed: November 13, 1801.

Acts of 1809 (1st Session) Chapter 20

SECTION 1. That the middle of Clinch river shall hereafter be the dividing line between the counties of Grainger and Claiborne, so far as the north bank of said river is at present the line between said counties, any law, custom or usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 2. That this act shall be in force, from and after the passage thereof.

Passed: October 19, 1809.

Acts of 1809 (1st Session) Chapter 29

That the lines hereafter described, shall be the dividing lines between the counties of Hawkins and Grainger, to wit: Beginning at or near the house of John Mossatt, esquire, where the original line between said counties began running, thence with the road leading from Haynes's Iron Works to Cheeks Cross Roads to where John Mossatt's line crosses said road; then with said line to the road leading from Cheeks Cross Roads to Marshall's ferry on Holston River, then with said road to where it crosses the present line

between said counties, and all that part lying westwardly of said line, shall be added to and made a part of Grainger county, any law to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided, That nothing herein contained, shall be so construed as to prevent any collector or other officer of Hawkins county from collecting any arrearages of taxes or other demands which may be due.

Passed: Nov. 22, 1809.

Acts of 1817 Chapter 158

WHEREAS the road leading from the Panther Springs to the house formerly occupied by Felps Reed, is the line between the county of Grainger and Jefferson, and whereas, there have been frequent changes made in said road, which renders it difficult to ascertain where the true line now is, for remedy whereof:

SECTION 1. That hereafter, that part of the main stage road, as it now runs from the Panther Springs, to the house formerly occupied by Felps Reed, afterwards by John Mosset now deceased, and is now occupied by Joseph Shannon; shall be the true dividing line between the county of Grainger and the county of Jefferson, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed: November 1817.

Public Acts of 1883 Chapter 129

COMPILER'S NOTE: Public Acts of 1890 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 5, repealed the above act with the purported exception that the farm of V. W. Capps was left in Union County, but note that the Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 104, purports to, also, place the farm of V. W. Capps in Union County.

SECTION 1. That the county line between the counties of Grainger and Union counties be so as to run as follows, to wit: Beginning on the county line between the counties on the top of Log Mountain, running eastward with the top of said mountain to the corner of William Hollingsworth's farm; thence northwardly with said Hollingsworth's line to Hogskin Creek; thence with said creek to Clinch River; thence from said river to the Union county line.

SECTION 2. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act be and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 21, 1883.

Private Acts of 1919 Chapter 674

SECTION 1. That the boundary line between Grainger and Hancock Counties is hereby changed so as to read as follows: "Beginning on the south bank of Clinch River on a sweet gum known as Nancy Jackson and Irvin Green's corner; thence with said Irvin Green's line to the top of War Ridge, thence with the top of said ridge eastwardly to the Hancock County line, thence northwestwardly to Clinch River, thence to the beginning," and all of the tract of land hereinbefore described is hereby detached from Grainger County and attached to Hancock County, Tennessee, and the farm of Winfield Searce is detached from Hancock County and attached to Grainger County.

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

Passed: April 14, 1919.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 47, Section 4, altered the line between Jefferson and Grainger counties to place the land of J. N. Shannon in Jefferson County.
2. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 51, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place the land of James Barton in Grainger County.
3. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 197, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place the land of William Rice in Jefferson County.
4. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 69, altered the line between Grainger, Hawkins, and Jefferson to place the land of Obadiah Boaz in Grainger County and, also, altered the line between Grainger and Hawkins to place the farm of David Harris in Grainger County.

5. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 221, altered the line between the counties of Grainger and Knox to place in Knox County lands owned by James Cannon, Hardin W. Mynatt, Preston Mynatt, and Preston Mitchel.
6. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 161, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson to place the farm of Charles E. Eckle in Jefferson County.
7. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 47, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson to place the farms of William Taylor and Jessee Hunt in Jefferson County.
8. Private Acts of 1860, Chapter 135, Section 7, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place the farm of Mrs. Nancy Senter in Grainger.
9. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 48, altered the line between Grainger and Hawkins Counties to place the farm of John Coldwell in Hawkins County.
10. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 48, altered the line between Grainger and Knox counties to place the land of James McBee in Grainger County.
11. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 88, Section 8, altered the line between Grainger and Claiborne counties to place Grissom's Island, situated in the Clinch River and owned by George Johnson and Isaac West in Claiborne County.
12. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 118, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the farms of James Dyer Sr. and James Dyer, Jr. in Union County.
13. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 70, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the farms of J. J. Sellers, Pryor Dyer, James Vitetoe and E. D. Hill in Union County.
14. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 149, altered the line between Grainger and Hawkins counties to place the farm of Anderson Mullens in Grainger County.
15. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 56, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place the island farm of John Vance, situated in the Holston River in Jefferson County.
16. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 49, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the farm of J. T. Inkleboyer in Grainger County. This act was repealed by Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 188, which was in turn repealed by Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 361, thus apparently reviving the act. The act was repealed again by Acts of 1905, Chapter 71.
17. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 24, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the lands of G. W. Hollinsworth, William Hollinsworth, B. M. McPhetridge, and B. Shelton in Grainger County.
18. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 154, altered the line between Grainger and Hancock counties to place the lands of J. D. Greene and William T. Greene in Hancock County.
19. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 104, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the farm of V. W. Capps in Union County.
20. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 233, altered the line between Grainger and Union Counties to place the farms of J. A. Popejoy and E. E. Dyer in Union County. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 310, repealed this act.
21. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 191, altered the line between Grainger and Knox counties to place the farm of James M. Shipe in Grainger County.
22. Acts of 1903, Chapter 527, altered the line between Grainger and Hancock counties to place the farm of John Wolf in Grainger County.
23. Acts of 1907, Chapter 227, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place "Old McKinney Island" owned by E. G. Price, James Vance and Samuel Vance, and situated in the Holstein River in Jefferson County.
24. Acts of 1907, Chapter 386, altered the line between Grainger and Jefferson counties to place "Vance's Island" in Grainger County.
25. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 245, altered the line between Grainger and Hancock Counties to place the farm of J. N. Dalton in Grainger County.
26. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 394, altered the line between Grainger and Union counties to place the farms of C. M. Cabbage, Lafayette Hamilton and Jess Rush in Union County.
27. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 739, altered the line between Grainger and Knox counties to place the lands of I. L. Moore and Sallie Moore in Knox County.
28. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 741, altered the line between Grainger County and Knox County to

place the farm of Viola E. Hamilton in Knox County.

29. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 637, altered the line between Grainger and Knox counties to place the farm of A. C. Panatt in Knox County.

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