



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

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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.

Sincerely,

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of Knox County

Ordinance By William Blount Governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio, 1792

BE IT ORDAINED, That from and after the fifteenth day of the present month of June, the counties of Greene and Hawkins shall be circumscribed by a line beginning on the Nolichucky river, at the place where the ridge which divides the waters of Bent and Lick creek strikes it; thence with that ridge to Bull's Gap of Bay's Mountain; thence a direct line to the place where the road that leads from Dodson's ford to Perkin's iron works, crosses the watry fork of Bent creek; thence down that road to the head of Panther creek, down the meanders of that creek to the river Holston; thence a northwest course to the river Clinch; again, from Nolichucky river where the ridge that divides the waters of Bent and Lick creek, strikes it a direct course to Peter Fine's ferry on French Broad; thence south to the ridge that divides the waters of French Broad and Big Pigeon, and with said ridge to the eastern boundary of the Territory.

And be it ordained, That two new counties be laid out and established below the aforesaid line, that is to the southward and westward of it, to be distinguished from and after the said fifteenth day of June instant, by the name of Jefferson county, and Knox county. The county of Jefferson to be butted and bounded by the above described line from the eastern boundary of the Territory to the river Holston, and down the river Holston to the mouth of Cresswell's mill-creek; thence a direct line to the mouth of Dumplin creek on French Broad; thence up the meanders of the French Broad to the mouth of Boyd's creek; thence south twenty five degrees east, to the ridge which divides the waters of Little Pigeon and Boyd's creek, and with said ridge to the Indian boundary, or the eastern boundary of the Territory, as the case may be, and by the eastern boundary; and Knox county to be butted and bounded by the line of Jefferson county, from the mouth of Cresswell's mill-creek to the Indian boundary, or eastern boundary of the Territory, as the case may be: again from the mouth of the said creek up the meanders of the river Holston, to the mouth of Panther creek; thence north west to the river Clinch; then by the river Clinch to the place where the line that shall cross Holston at the ridge, that divides the waters of Tennessee and Little river, according to the treaty of Holston, shall strike it, and by that line.

And be it ordained, That Charles M'Clung and James Maberry, be appointed commissioners to run and mark the north west line from the mouth of Panther creek to the river Clinch, and the line from the mouth of Cresswell's mill-creek to the mouth of Dumplin; and Alexander Outlaw and Joseph Hamilton, that from Bull's Gap to the Watry Fork of Bent creek; and from Nolichucky river to Fine's ferry, on French Broad, and the south line to the dividing ridge between French Broad and Big Pigeon.

And be it ordained, That courts of pleas and quarter-sessions shall be held in and for the said counties for the due administration of justice, for the county of Knox, on the third Mondays of January, April, July, and October, and for the county of Jefferson, on the fourth Mondays in the same months, and may be continued by adjournments from day to day, not exceeding six days.

And be it ordained, That the courts of pleas and quarter-sessions shall be held for the county of Knox, at Knoxville, and for the county of Jefferson, at the house of Jeremiah Matthews.

Done at Knoxville, the 11th day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1792.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of the Territory South of the River Ohio, 1795, Chapter 6

SECTION 1. That the county of Knox shall be divided by a line as follows, to wit. Beginning upon the south side of the river Holston, at the mouth of Little River, then up the meanders of Little River, on the south side to the mouth of Stock Creek, and up the meanders of Stock Creek upon the south side to the head of Nicholas Bartlet's mill pond at high waters, thence a direct line to the top of Bay's Mountain, leaving the house of James Willis to the right, within forty rod of the said line, thence along Bay's Mountain, to the line of the county of Sevier, thence with that line to the eastern boundary of the Territory, thence southwardly to the line of the Indian boundary according to the treaty of Holston, and with that line to the river Holston, and up the meanders of the river Holston, upon the south side, to the

beginning, shall thence forth be erected into a new and distinct county, by the name of Blount County.

SECTION 2. That William Wallace, Joseph Black, Samuel Glass, David Craig, John Tremble, Alexander Kelly, and Samuel Henry, are hereby appointed commissioners, a majority of whom shall have power to fix the place for erecting the court house, prison, and stocks, to receive and apply such sums of money as may be raised or appropriated to build the same to obtain fifty acres of land, by purchase or otherwise, to lay the same out into a town, and to sell and execute deeds for lots, and to apply the money arising from the sale, to the building the court house, which town shall be called and known by the name of Maryville; and the said commissioners shall give bond and security to the Governor, in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, for the due application of such sums of money as shall come to their hands for the purposes before expressed, and well and truly to account for the same, to and with the court of the said county of Blount, which bond shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the said county.

SECTION 3. That the court for the said county, of Blount shall be held constantly by the justices of said county, on the second Mondays in September, December, March, and June: And the justices for the said county of Blount are hereby authorized and empowered to hold the first court for the same at the house of Abraham Weir, 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 courthouse shall be built for said county of Blount; 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 said county of Blount, 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 other courts held for the several counties in this Territory.

SECTION 4. That the justices of the county courts of Knox and Blount shall appoint jurors to serve at the superior courts of law and equity for the district of Hamilton, as follows: The county of Knox, twelve and the county of Blount, six. And the county of Blount shall compose part of the said district in the same manner, and for all purposes civil and military shall enjoy the same privileges as other counties in the Territory--Provided, nothing in this act contained, shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff or collector of the taxes of the county of Knox from collecting the same, both public and county, within the limits of the said county of Blount, for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety five, and the arrearages of taxes for the preceding years, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed.

SECTION 5. That this act shall be in force, and take effect from and after the second day of August next. July 11, 1795.

Acts of 1796 Chapter 28

COMPILER'S NOTE: Section 1 of this act is the only section which affected Knox County. The remaining portion of Acts of 1796, Chapter 28, concerned the creation of Grainger County.

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's iron works, on Mossy creek, at the house of Felps Read, 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, north west of the end of Clinch mountain; thence 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 Boyles'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 waggon [sic] 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.

Acts of 1799 Chapter 22

SECTION 1. That from and after the tenth day of January, instant, the county of Knox shall be contained in the following described limits or bounds: beginning upon the south side of Holston at the mouth of Little river, thence up the meanders of Little river upon the south side to the mouth of Stock creek, and up the meanders of Stock creek upon the south side to the head of Nicholas Bartlett's Mill pond at high waters, thence a direct line to the top of Bay's mountain, leaving the house of James Willis within forty rod to the right hand, thence with the extreme height of the said mountain to its intersection with the river French Broad, a small distance below the house in which Andrew Evans lived, in the year of one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-six, thence across French Broad to a ridge, the continuation of the said mountain, which ridge or continuation of the said mountain divides the waters of Tuckahoe creek, from those of Dumplin creek, and with the extreme height of that ridge or mountain to the line run by Greer, Bayles,

and M'Cleary, in the year of one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-six, thence with that line to the mouth of Criswell's creek, thence up the Holston to the upper end of the first Bluff above Boyles's old place, thence with the ridge which divides the waters of Richland creek from those of Flat creek to the end of Clinch mountain, thence a north west course to Clinch river, thence down said river opposite the end of the Cross mountain, thence with said mountain to the Indian boundary line at Cumberland mountain, and with Cumberland mountain agreeably to the treaty lately entered into at or near Tellico, between the United States and the Cherokees to Emery's river, thence down Emery's river according to its meanders to the river Clinch, and down the Clinch to the point where the line of the said treaty strikes the said river, and with that line to the river Tennessee, thence up the meanders of that river to the point formed by the junction of the Holston therewith, thence up the Holston with its meanders upon the south side to the mouth of Little river.

SECTION 2. That the lands ceded by the Cherokees by the treaty entered into at or near Tellico, shall be liable to taxation for the year of one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-nine, and every succeeding year in the same manner and under the same regulations and penalties as all other lands within the bounds of the treaty of Holston are liable.

January 5, 1799.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 45

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 1 through 4 are the only sections of this act which affected Knox County. The remaining portion of Acts of 1801, Chapter 45, concerned the creation of Anderson and Roane counties.

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 name of the Chesnut 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 Chesnut 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, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed: November 6, 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 1851-52 Chapter 221

COMPILER'S NOTE: This is the only section which affected Knox County. The remaining sections of this act have been intentionally omitted.

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Grainger and Knox, be altered and changed in the following manner: Beginning on a flat-rock, a corner of the two counties, some five or six hundred yards above Sebinah Mynatt's house, towards and on the side of Clinch Mountain; thence running so as to include the Smith Mynatt houses, now owned by James Cannon, in the county of Knox; thence a direct line to Silas Mynatt's house at the head of Crooked Run; thence a due west to the original county line, including Hardin W. Mynatt's house, Preston Mynatt's house, James Cannon's Plantation, Preston Mitchel's plantation, all in the county of Knox.

Passed: February 21, 1852.

Private Acts of 1865-66 Chapter 76

COMPILER'S NOTE: This is the only section which affected Knox County. Sections three and four of this act have been intentionally omitted.

SECTION 1. That the County line between the Counties of Union and Knox be so changed as to run as follows: Beginning on a stone where the County line crosses the Knoxville Road leading to Maynardville by way of Milan Church, running direct to the point of Clinch Mountain near the house of Nels. Mynette; Provided, however, that the persons hereby attached to Union County shall be required, as heretofore, to pay their share of the taxes levied by the County Court of Knox County until the entire indebtedness already incurred by Knox County for Railroad purposes, shall be paid, and the Tax Collector of Knox County shall collect said tax from the people, who, by this act, are attached to Union County, and said Tax Collector shall account for and pay over to the Trustee of Knox County all monies so collected by him, according to the laws now in force.

SECTION 2. That E. Longmire be, and he is hereby, appointed to run and plainly mark the above named line.

Passed: April 26, 1866.

Public Acts of 1887 Chapter 47

SECTION 1. That the county line between the counties of Knox and Union be so changed as to include all of the farm of Calvin Kitts, on which he now lives, in the county of Union, viz.: Beginning on a poplar stump in the Knox County line; thence running southwest with said line to a creek; thence north with said Calvin Kitts' line to the said Knox County line.

SECTION 2. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 26th, 1887.

Public Acts of 1899 Chapter 256

SECTION 1. That the county line between the counties of Knox and Sevier be, and the same is hereby, so changed as to include in the county of Knox all the land in the fourteenth district of Sevier county, which belongs to H. C. Blair and wife, J. G. Cannon, E. W. Houseley, J. N. McMillin, Rufus Kelly, Lula J. Walker, S.

G. Randles, and J. W. Creswell, and the county line is so changed as to run with French Broad river from the point where the Knox county line comes to said river, near the house of Alex Ferguson, a southwest course to a point where the line of said county again comes to said river, near the butt of Bois mountain. But this act shall in no way effect the right of Sevier county to collect all taxes due on said land, prior to and including the taxes of 1899.

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

Passed: April 14, 1899.

Private Acts of 1925 Chapter 462

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Union and Knox be changed as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Manuel Merritt's line and the Knox County line; and Union County line thence northward with Manuel Merritt's line to the north corner of Charles T. Booker land; thence eastward with Chas. T. Booker line to Big Flat Creek; thence southward with the creek to the Knox County line.

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

Passed: April 2, 1925.

Private Acts of 1933 Chapter 355

SECTION 1. That the present County line between the Counties of Knox and Sevier in the State of Tennessee, be and the same is hereby so changed as to include in Knox County, Tennessee, the lands of George Creswell, J. B. Kelly et al, C. M. McAfee, Lula Walker, George Maples, Paul Styles, Mollie LaFollette, Henry LaFollette and Veda M. Freels which lands lie on the North side of French Broad River, and have heretofore been recognized as being in Sevier County, Tennessee. The said County line with reference to said lands is hereby established as follows:

Beginning at a point where the present County line intersects French Broad River at a point a short distance up the River and East of the Seven Islands in said River, and thence extending up and with the meanders of said River to a point where the present County line touches said River at Mrs. C. A. Furgerson's Farm, near Cain Island, and opposite or near Russell Road, which is located on the North side of said River.

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

Passed: April 10, 1933.

Private Acts of 1953 Chapter 116

SECTION 1. That the county line between Blount and Knox County where said lines cross the southwestern part of the Mrs. Annie C. Elrod farm be changed and locate the said county dividing line with the west and southwest lines of said Elrod farm and Fate Cosner, George Sowder, Tim Burdine, Ace Tarwater to the corner of Elrod, Tarwater and Newton Rule thence northwest with the Elrod, Newton Rule and Langley line to county line where it crosses the line between Elrod and Langley, so as to transfer the fractional part of the Elrod farm in Blount County to Knox County adjacent to and adjoining the remainder and larger body of said Elrod farm including all of said Elrod farm in Knox County.

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

Passed: March 6, 1953.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1794, Chapter 16, appointed John Payne and Charles McClung to run the dividing line between Hawkins and Knox County, from the mouth of Panther Creek to the Clinch River.
2. Acts of 1796, Chapter 34, appointed Joseph Greer, Abraham M'Clery and William Bailes as commissioners to run the lines between Knox and Sevier counties. The commissioners were paid \$2.00 per day for their services and \$1.00 was given to the marker for each day's work. The expense was to be borne by Knox and Sevier counties.
3. Acts of 1803, Chapter 49, appointed George Preston and John McClellan to run the line between Knox and Roane counties.
4. Acts of 1842, Chapter 177, changed the line between Knox and Grainger so that the entire farm of

Sam McBee would be in Knox County.

5. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 82, in response to a petition by a number of citizens of Knox and Sevier Counties, provided that the line between those counties from the mouth of Criswell's Mill creek to the top of Bay's Mountain be run by John W. Legg, county surveyor of Knox and John Mullendore, Sevier County Surveyor.
6. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 177, provided that the lands of William Moulden and the heirs of D. Adams would be in Knox County, in order to clear up any controversy that might arise between Knox and Sevier counties.
7. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 248, Section 4, changed the boundary between Knox and Jefferson counties to provide that the farm of Thomas Stringfield would be in Jefferson County.
8. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 196, Section 6, placed part of John Robertson's homestead farm, the farm of Howard Hubbs and the farm of William Dyer in Union County, out of Knox County.
9. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 48, Section 3, changed the line between Knox and Grainger counties so that the lands of James McBee be included in Grainger County.
10. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 72, also changed the Knox-Union boundary, placing the farm of James McHaffie entirely in Knox County.
11. Public Acts of 1875, Chapter 140, Section 4, moved the lands of John and W. Edward Anderson out of Knox, into Union County.
12. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 103, changed the county lines between Knox and Union so that the tract of land owned by Joseph McHaffee be included in Union County.
13. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 132, changed the boundary between Sevier and Knox Counties, placing the farms owned jointly by G. W. Underdown and George King in Knox County.
14. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 20, moved the farm of the Reverend Hugh Caldwell out of Union County into Knox County.
15. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 124, changed the boundary between Knox and Anderson Counties to include in Anderson what was known as "Holt's Island" in the Clinch River, the property of W.C. Kincaid in Anderson County.
16. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 194, moved the lands of Charles H. Smith, R. H. Harless, A. K. Mynatt, L. D. Bates, and Joseph Bates out of Union County into Knox County.
17. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 95, changed the boundary between Knox and Sevier counties, to detach about fifty acres, the farm of D. A. Ferguson, from Sevier and place it in Knox County. This act also specified that the boundary line would be the public road running east-west along the edge of the Ferguson farm.
18. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 183, transferred all of the farm of Samuel Bayless, north of the Raccoon Valley road, out of the Knox County into Union County.
19. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 117, moved the farm of T. F. Adams, out of Sevier County, into Knox.
20. Acts of 1905, Chapter 186, altered the boundary line between Union and Knox Counties by detaching a small triangular piece of land belonging to W. E. Smith and William Childress from Knox County and placing it in Union County.
21. Acts of 1909, Chapter 68, moved the "Hugh Caldwell" farm from Knox into Union County.
22. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 739, transferred the lands of I. L. Moore and Sally Moore out of Grainger County into Knox County.
23. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 741, provided that the farm of Viola E. Hamilton, previously located in Grainger County, would be attached to the thirteenth civil district of Knox County.
24. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 637, detached the remainder of the lands of A. C. Parrott from Grainger County and transferred them to Knox County.
25. Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 120, changed the boundary between Union County and Knox County, to include the farm of Clint Davis in Union County.
26. Public Acts of 1982, Chapter 666, changed the boundaries between Knox County and Union County by detaching the property described in the act, containing 85 acres, more or less, and belonging to Edgar L. Bayless, and wife, Twilla Bayless, from Knox County and attaching the same to the sixth civil district of Union County.

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