



April 05, 2025

Territorial Ordinance of June 11th, 1792

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.

Sincerely,

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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 Nolachucky 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 watery 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 Nolachucky river where the ridge that dividesthe waters of Bent and Lick creek strikes it a direct course to Peter Fine's ferry on French Broad,then south to the ridge that divides the waters of French Broad and Big Pigeon and with that 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 names 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 Breswell's mill creek, thence a direct line to the mouth of Dumplin creek on French-Broad, thence up the meanders of 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 creed and with the 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 to the mouth of Creswell'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 northwest to the river Clinch, thence 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 rivers according to the treaty of Holston shall strike it, and by that line.

And be it ordained that Charles McClung and James Mabrey be appointed Commissioners to run and mark the northwest line from the mouth of Panther creek to the river Clinch, and the line from the mouth of Creswell's mill creek to the mouth of Dumplin: And Alexander Outlaw and Joseph Hamilton that from Bull's Gap to the watery fork of Bent creek and from Nolachucky 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 Monday of January, April, July and October--for the county of Jefferson on the fourth Mondays of the same months and may be continued by adjournments from day to day not exceeding six days.

And be it ordained that the court 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

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