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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Dear Reader:

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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 3
Creation of the County 3
Acts of 1807 Chapter 44 3
Change of Boundary Lines 3
Private Acts of 1822 (Second Session) Chapter 96 3
Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 46 4
Acts of 1837-38 Chapter 211 4
Acts of 1843-44 Chapter 38 4
Acts of 1851-52 Chapter 189 5
Acts of 1853-54 Chapter 138 5
Private Acts of 1897 Chapter 270 6
Public Acts of 1899 Chapter 264 6
Boundaries - Historical Notes 6

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1807 Chapter 44

SECTION 1. That there shall be a new county laid off to be contained within the following bounds, (to wit:) Beginning one mile north of the south east corner of the eighth section, in the sixteenth range, in the first district, and on the western boundary line of Williamson county; running thence, west, to the east boundary line of Stewart county, thence south with said line, to the southern boundary of the state; thence with the state line, east, so far that a line at right angles north, shall strike the south west corner of the county of Maury; thence with the lines of said county of Williamson to the beginning; within which bounds shall be contained, a new and distinct county by the name of Hickman, in memory of Edwin Hickman, deceased.

SECTION 2. That for the administration of justices in said county of Hickman, the justices of the peace in said county, shall hold a court of pleas and quarter sessions, on the first Mondays in the months of January, April, July and October in each and every year; which courts shall be held at the house where William Joslin at present resides, on Pine river, and shall have the same power and jurisdiction, and be subject to the same laws, rules and regulations as the other courts of pleas and quarter sessions within this state.

SECTION 3. That elections shall be held in said county, for governor of the state, members of congress, members of the state legislature, and electors to elect a president and vice president of the United States, at the place of holding court in said county, on the days and under the same laws, rules and regulations as are prescribed for such elections as in other cases; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff of the county of Hickman, to meet the sheriff of the county of Dickson, on the succeeding day, at the court-house in the town of Charlotte, and compare the votes so taken in said county of Hickman, which shall compose part of the election of the said county of Dickson and Robertson, so far as respects the representative for said counties; and the votes for senator shall in like manner be annexed to the votes of Dickson county, and be compared as heretofore prescribed by law; and in like manner for member to congress, and an elector to elect a president and vice- president of the United States, and governor for this state.

SECTION 4. That the sheriff of Hickman county shall hold an election on the first Thursday and Friday in May next, for the purpose of electing one colonel and two majors of the militia in said county, under the rules and regulations prescribed by law for electing such officers; and said officers when elected and commissioned, shall have the same power and authority, and shall perform the duties prescribed to colonels and majors by the laws in force regulating the militia of this state, and the said militia shall compose the thirty-sixth regiment and be a part of the sixth brigade.

SECTION 5. That the county of Hickman shall be, and compose a part of the district of Robertson, and shall send two jurors to the superior court at Clarksville, to be appointed by the county court as in other cases.

SECTION 6. That the sheriff of Dickson county shall have full power and authority to collect any arrearages of taxes which may remain unpaid by any of the citizens of Hickman county, and this act shall be in force from the first day of January next.

December 3rd, 1807.

Change of Boundary Lines

Private Acts of 1822 (Second Session) Chapter 96

SECTION 1. That all that tract of country lying North of the following described bounds shall be, and remain a part of Hickman county (to wit,) beginning at the south east corner of Hickman county made by the commissioners on the old Natchez road, and running with said road to Grinder's old stand on said road, thence eastwardly on the top of said ridge, with its different meanders between the head waters of Swan and Buffaloe, and extending on with said ridge between the head waters of Cane creek and Trace creek, and thence with a ridge so as to include Racoon creek in Hickman county, to the east boundary line of Perry county; thence north with Perry county line to the north-west corner of Hickman county.

SECTION 2. That all the balance of territory being north of Lawrence county and south

of [the] aforesaid described line shall be and remain a part of Lawrence county.

SECTION 3. That all the remaining part of said territory lying north of Wayne county and south of said before described line of Hickman shall be and remain a part of Wayne county.

SECTION 4. That the county court of Wayne and Lawrence shall appoint one or more commissioners to run and mark the lines as far as respects Lawrence and Wayne counties.

SECTION 5. That all and every person or persons whatsoever, falling into the bounds of either of the aforesaid counties, shall, and they are hereby vested with all the rights and privileges that they would have had in case they had been originally attached or belonged to said counties, and that this act shall be in force from and after the passing thereof, and that all laws or parts of laws coming within the purview and meaning of this act shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

August 17, 1822.

Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 46

COMPILER'S NOTE: Section 2 of this act is the only section that effects Hickman County, the rest of the sections are therefore not printed herein.

SECTION 2. That all that territory and country now lying in the county of Hickman, within the following boundaries, shall hereafter belonging and (be) attached to the county of Humphreys to wit:--Beginning in the line dividing the counties of Hickman and Humphreys, where the same first strikes Duck river, running south from the north west corner of Hickman; running thence up with the meanders of Duck river, with the main channel, to where the middle of the main ridge dividing the waters of Sugar and Tumbling creeks strikes the river; thence a north easterly course, along the summit of said ridge, between the waters of said creeks, to the main ridge dividing the waters of Garner's and Little Hurricane creeks; thence along the summit of the same to the north boundary line of Hickman county; thence west with said line, to the north west corner of said county; thence south with the line dividing the counties of Hickman and Humphreys to the beginning.

Passed: February 2, 1836.

Acts of 1837-38 Chapter 211

COMPILER'S NOTE: Section 1 of this act did not effect Hickman County and is therefore not printed herein.

SECTION 3. That the county line between the counties of Maury and Hickman, be and the same is hereby so altered as to include within the limits of Hickman county the following described territory, to wit: beginning at the ford at Gordon's ferry, where the Natchez road crosses Duck river, on the south bank of said river, running thence up said river with it meanders to the mouth of Fall branch; thence up said branch with its main channel to where the same strikes the Natchez road, thence northerly with said road to the beginning.

SECTION 4. That the citizens residing in said limits shall enjoy all the advantages and be subject to all the duties and liabilities that are enjoined or secured to the citizens of Hickman county.

Passed: January 24th, 1838.

Acts of 1843-44 Chapter 38

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and the same is hereby established, to be composed of fractions taken from the counties of Maury, Lawrence, Wayne and Hickman, and to be known and designated by the name of Lewis County, in honor of Captain Merriwether Lewis, who has rendered distinguished services to his country, and whose remains lie buried and neglected within its limits, and shall be bounded as follows:

SECTION 2. Beginning on the South bank of Duck River, at a point twelve miles on a straight line West from Columbia, and running in a South direction, leaving Columbia twelve miles to the East, to the Turnpike leading from Mount Pleasant to Tennessee river, thence with said turnpike road to the Wayne county line, running thence in a Northerly direction, leaving Waynesboro to the West twelve miles, thence in a North-East direction through Hickman county, leaving Centerville twelve miles to the West to Duck river, thence up said river to the beginning.

SECTION 3. That John Aiken and Albert G. Cooper of the county of Maury, Shadrick Morris and James Voss of the county of Lawrence, James Gullett and David Voorhies of the county of Wayne, Hugh B. Venable and John Clayton of the county of Hickman, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, with authority to employ a competent surveyor to run out and designate the boundaries of said county, and also to employ a competent surveyor to ascertain by actual survey of the several

counties, from which the county of Lewis is to be composed, and if upon such survey there shall be territory and population sufficient to meet the requirements of the constitution, without infringing upon the constitutional territory or population of either of the counties, from which said county of Lewis is to be composed, then said county of Lewis is hereby established upon the following conditions:

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of said commissioners, as soon as they ascertain that there is territory and population sufficient to constitute a new county under the requirements of the third section of this act, after first giving twenty days notice in two or more public places, of the time and place in each of the fractions proposed to be stricken off from the counties of Maury, Lawrence, Wayne and Hickman, that they will open and hold an election in each of the fractions proposed to be taken off from the counties aforesaid, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a majority of the voters, residing in the several fractions, are in favor of, or opposed to the establishment of said county of Lewis; and all persons qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, who have resided in the fractions aforesaid six months immediately preceding the day of election, shall be entitled to vote, and each voter who desires to vote for the establishment of the new county, shall have on his ticket the words New County, and those desirous to vote against the new county, shall have on their tickets the words Old County; and if upon counting the ballots, the judges of the several elections in said fractions, shall return that a majority of each of the fractions have voted for the new county, then the county of Lewis shall be, and the same is hereby established, with all the powers, privileges and advantages, and subject to all the liabilities of other counties in this State.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining Sections of this Act involved only Lewis County.

Passed: December 21, 1843.

Acts of 1851-52 Chapter 189

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Perry and Hickman, be changed as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the Ridge between Cain creek and Brush creek, at the head of Dicky's branch, running thence north, so as to leave Isaac Depreast west of said line, crossing Cain creek, and continuing one half mile north of said creek, there to corner, and run from said corner west or north-west to the Perry county line, so as to include all the citizens living on Cain creek, below where said line crosses the creek, above said Depreast's, and that all the territory stricken off of Hickman County by changing the line as above described, be, and is hereby attached to the county of Perry.

SECTION 2. That all persons residing within the territory attached to the county of Perry, by the first section of this act, shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and subject to all the liabilities and penalties of other citizens of Perry county. Provided, It does not reduce the county of Hickman below its constitutional limits, and it shall be the duty of the county court of Hickman county to appoint a surveyor to run out said county, whenever the county of Perry shall have deposited with the county court clerk, of Hickman county, money sufficient to pay all the cost and expense for running out said county.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Section 3 did not concern Hickman County.

Passed: February 25, 1852.

Acts of 1853-54 Chapter 138

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Perry and Hickman be changed as follows--to-wit: Beginning on the present county line, twenty poles north of William Watson's; thence East, to Abisha Curl's, so as to include said Curl in Perry county; thence southeast to Owen Morgan's; thence south-east to Jno. Sutherland's, on the Cave branch; thence southeast to David Carry's, including all of said persons and places in Perry county; thence south-west so as to leave Alexander Joice in Hickman county; and thence so as to leave John Sisco's in said county of Hickman; thence south to the county line on the dividing ridge between Cane and Brush Creeks; and all the territory stricken from Hickman county by changing the line as above described, be, and the same is hereby attached to the county of Perry.

SECTION 2. That the persons residing within the territory attached to the county of Perry by the first section of this act, shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and subject to all the liabilities and penalties of other citizens of Perry county; and that this act shall take effect from and after the tenth day of March next.

SECTION 3. That it shall be the duty of the county surveyor of Perry county to run and mark the line between said counties of Hickman and Perry, as set forth in the first section of this act; and it shall be the duty of the county of Perry to pay for the same. Provided, said change does not reduce said county of Hickman below its constitutional limits.

Passed: March 3, 1854.

Private Acts of 1897 Chapter 270

SECTION 1. That the line now dividing the counties of Hickman and Lewis be so changed as to include within the county of Lewis, all of the lands, farms, and homes embraced within the following metes and bounds, to-wit: Begins at the crossing of the Coon creek and Linden roads, the common corner of Perry and Hickman and Lewis Counties, running thence north 12 degrees, west five hundred (500) poles to a pile of stones; thence north 65 degrees, east four hundred and twenty-four (424) poles to a white oak; thence north 19 degrees, east one hundred and eighteen (118) poles to a spotted oak; thence north 74 degrees, east forty-two (42) poles to a stake; thence north 31½ degrees, east one hundred and six (106) poles to a chestnut tree; thence south 63 degrees, east fifty-six (56) poles to a stake on steep point; thence north 81½ degrees, east seventy poles to a spotted oak; thence north 4 degrees, east one hundred and four (104) poles to the center of Cane creek; thence with the meanderings of said creek about north 60 degrees, west about one hundred and sixty (160) poles to a point opposite the cross fence between John E. Sisco and A.J. Pace; thence north 15 degrees, east, with Sisco's line, one hundred and thirty (130) poles to a hickory; thence north 83 degrees, east thirty-seven (37) poles to a hickory; thence south 45 degrees, east twenty-two (22) poles to a white oak; thence north 64 degrees, east thirty-eight (38) poles to a spotted oak; thence south 79 degrees, east fifty (50) poles to the pathway on top of ridge that divides the Deprust branch from Pace Branch; thence with the meanderings of said pathway, a course varying from north 45 degrees, east to north four hundred and eighty (480) poles to a large stone on south side of road running from Kimmins to Pleasantville; thence with said road and the Beaverdam road, a course varying from north 85 degrees, east to south 50 degrees, east fifteen hundred and sixty (1,560) poles to the Lewis County line, westerly of Kimmins; surveyed January 21, 22, and 23, 1897. All bearings read from magnetic meridian with instrument that reads 3 degrees, 18 minutes easterly of true meridian.

W. J. Hale, *County Surveyor*.

Lewis County, Tennessee;

W.W. Brown,

J.P. Talley,

Will Goodman,

W.E. Humphreys,

C.C.

Including in the said county of Lewis the lands, farms, and homes of the following, to-wit: G. W. Skelton, Sr., R. A. Mitchell, G. W. Hinson, G. W. Skelton, Jr., Thos. James, E. C. Bastian, L. W. Hinson, J. R. Duncan, P. K. J. Hensley, W. H. Crowe, Bryant Mathis, D. C. Anderson, S. J. Downing, Elisha Talley, S. H. Hinson, A. H. Wylie, Budd Mathis, J. E. Sisco, E. M. Hinson, Richard Willis, W. W. Brown, D. D. Humphreys, C. W. Mooday, A. T. Wylie, J. P. Talley, Ruben Mathis, W. H. Bastian, J. H. Brown, W. W. Quillin, J. A. Sisco, R. Lee Hinsley, William James, John Harper, D. L. Hinson, W. A. Pace, F. J. Cheatham, J. A. Goodman, C. A. Lancaster, "land" by Union Bank and Tr. Co., Executor; J. H. Sisco, W. A. James, J. M. Carson, Solomon Hinson, J. D. Brown, J. E. McCullon, W. T. Duncan, W. J. Garrette, Jonathan Duncan; and also all other farms and lands and homes embraced within said metes and bounds, as hereinbefore expressly set forth.

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

Passed: March 12, 1897.

Public Acts of 1899 Chapter 264

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Hickman and Lewis be, and the same is hereby, changed as follows: Beginning at a stake in the line as now established on the south side of Cane creek, at what its [sic] is known as Jenkins' ford, and on the south side of DePriest's branch and the public road, runs thence N. 82 degrees east 140 poles to a stake; thence N. 75 degrees east 36 poles to A. J. DePriest's line; thence with his south boundary line to a black walnut stump near the south side of the road; thence with the south boundary of A. J. Brown's land to A. J. DePriest's other tract of land; thence with his south boundary line to his corner; thence with J.D. Brown's south boundary line to a black walnut on the south said of the south side of the Centreville road, thence N. 65 degrees east 32 poles, to a stooping black oak with white oak pointers; thence N. 41 degrees east 80 poles to a stake with hickory pointers; thence N. 31 degrees east 134 poles to a small black gum in the Hickman and Lewis county line, near Joseph Horner's house.

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

Passed: April 15, 1899.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 7, stated that on the first Monday of next March an election would take place in Hickman County to elect five commissioners to establish a permanent seat of Justice in the county. The commissioners, after being sworn by the oath in this law, would select a place as near the central portion of the county as possible and proceed to acquire at least 30 acres of land at that point which they would lay off into streets, alleys, and lots, reserving 2 acres in square form for the public square. The lots were to be sold and the money used to build the courthouse, prison, and stocks in the county seat, and, if the funds were insufficient, the quarterly court could levy a tax to complete these structures. The commissioners would be compensated at the court's direction and the town herein provided for would be called Vernon.
2. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 31, created Humphreys County and mentioned Hickman County several times in the description of the new county. However, it seems there were no territorial changes in Hickman County as a result of this act.
3. Private Acts of 1819, Chapter 108, appointed David Lowe, Joel Walker, John T. Primm, and Joseph Lynn, as commissioners, to run and mark the boundary line of Hickman County so as to reduce its land area below the constitutional limit of 625 square miles. The commissioners would appoint a surveyor, not a Hickman County resident, to run and mark the line aforesaid, beginning at the point stipulated in the act. The commissioners would assist the surveyor as chain bearers while running the line. After said line has been run and the reduction in the area made, the commissioners would select a site as near the center as possible for the county seat, purchase at least fifty acres and lay the same out in streets, alleys, lanes, and lots, reserving two acres in the most convenient place for the public square. The commissioners must be sworn and bonded and then would sell the lots under the minimum conditions established in the act, using the proceeds to build a courthouse and prison in the town. Nothing herein would be construed as removing Vernon from consideration as the county town. The line run by William B. Ross as the dividing line between the counties of Dickson and Hickman would remain as such, and the town herein directed to be laid off would be called Canton. If the commissioners could not agree on a location then Col. Robert Weakley, of Davidson County, Major James Fentress, of Montgomery County, and Col. Archer Cheatham, of Robertson County, would be called in as umpires to settle the question.
4. Private Acts of 1819, Chapter 149, Section 2, declared that all of that part of the county north of Wayne County and south of Hickman County was annexed as a part of Wayne County to be governed by the same regulations as were other parts of the county.
5. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 150, appointed Henry Harden, Edward Nunley, David Curry, and James McNealy, as commissioners, to superintend the running and marking of the boundary line of Hickman County so as to reduce the area of that county to its constitutional limits. The commissioners were to employ a competent surveyor to run the line starting at the point designated in the act and to make a chart of it. The commissioners would assist the surveyor as chain bearers and markers. The center of the county was to be located using the method prescribed in this act and the commissioners would acquire 50 acres, laying the area of into streets, alleys, lanes, and lots which would be sold to finance the construction of a courthouse, prison, and stocks on the two acres reserved for the public square of the city to be named Centerville. Sterling Brewer, Dickson County, James Fentress, Montgomery County, and George Isham, Lawrence County, were designated umpires to settle any controversy which might arise. The county and circuit courts would meet at Centerville as soon as facilities were available.
6. Private Acts of 1822, Second Session, Chapter 145, named James Young and William Carothers, Senior, as two more commissioners who would have same authority as the others appointed to select a county seat for the county. If they could not agree, the quarterly court, a majority being present, would choose one or more added commissioners to break the tie. The county court would adjourn to Centerville at any time after the lots were sold, and all writs and process returnable to Vernon would be changed to Centerville.
7. Private Acts of 1822, Second Session, Chapter 210, allowed Molton Dixon to charge the county of Hickman the rate of \$3.00 for each day necessarily engaged in running the lines and centering the same, and employed in making out maps for Hickman County.
8. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 62, Sections 4 and 6, changed the lines between Hickman County and Perry County by attaching to Perry County the territory described therein. An election was to be held for all qualified voters living within that territory to vote for or against being attached to Perry County.
9. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 92, altered the lines between Hickman County and Maury County so as to include the farm and residence of Phillip Hoover in Hickman County. He was to have all the

- rights and privileges as all other citizens of the county.
10. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 55, changed the boundaries between Hickman and Lewis counties so as to include the lands and dwelling of Jesse G. Thompson in Lewis County.
 11. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 85, Section 24, placed the land and residence of William P. Kelly wholly within the fourteenth civil district of Hickman County.
 12. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 129, Section 6, changed the line between Hickman County and Maury County so that the portion of land belonging to Phillip Hoover which was located in Maury County would thereafter be included in Hickman County.
 13. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 100, Section 7, altered the county line so as to include those citizens residing on Russell's Creek in Perry County.
 14. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 135, Section 11, changed the county line between Hickman and Lewis counties so as to include the plantation belonging to Simeon Smith out of Hickman County over into Lewis County.
 15. Public Acts of 1866-67, Chapter 28, detached the lands of Clement C. Dyer from Hickman County and attached them to Perry County.
 16. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 60, Section 7, realigned the boundaries between Hickman County and Perry County so that the properties of Amos S. Keltan would be entirely within Perry County.
 17. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 31, restored all the lands taken from the counties of Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Wayne, and Perry to form Lewis County back to the original county and repealed the act creating Lewis County and those conflicting with this act. Lewis County was later reconstituted.
 18. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 30, reconstituted Lewis County and repealed the above act. Details for administrative and judicial procedures were included which reinstated all the Lewis County officials and courts as they formerly existed.
 19. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 88, repealed Section 2 of the act which restored Lewis County to the counties from which it was taken, restoring the line between Perry County and Hickman County as it formerly existed, and the property and polls within the area would be listed for the year 1870 in Hickman County.
 20. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 103, rearranged the boundary lines between Hickman County and Lewis County so that all the lands owned by Jesse M. Grinnell, near the mouth of Indian Creek in Lewis County, provided the legal and constitutional rights of Hickman County were not interfered with.
 21. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 59, changed the boundary lines between Maury County and Hickman County so that a small portion of land belonging to R. C. Gordon, as particularly described in the act would be included wholly within Maury County.
 22. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 87, moved the residences and lands of N. E. Andrews and Clay Andrews, which were located on Plunder's Creek, in the sixth civil district of Hickman County out of Hickman County and into Dickson County.
 23. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 37, transferred the real properties belonging to A. W. Weatherly out of Hickman County and into Lewis County.
 24. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 133, took the lands of James F. Buttrey, about 112 acres in all, out of Hickman County and placed them into Williamson County, the said lands being bounded on the east by the county line.
 25. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 285, provided that the county surveyors of Hickman County and Perry County with one chain carrier from each county, none of whom were allowed to have any personal interest in this matter, or the officials connected with it, would meet within 90 days from the passage of this act and resurvey and mark the line between the counties extending north from where the same crosses Cane Creek to its northern terminus, beginning at the point where the line is known to cross Duck River, or at some other point well known north of the creek. The parties would be sworn and bonded before commencing this undertaking. If the two surveyors failed to agree they would choose a third surveyor and a majority of the three would determine the line. Proper reports and accurate maps must be made as the program progressed.
 26. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 300, detached the lands belonging to Moses Tidwell and J.L. Brown from Hickman County and attached the same to Dickson County.
 27. Acts of 1903, Chapter 53, moved all the lands owned by Charles Cagle out of Perry County and into Hickman County.

28. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 152, changed the boundaries between Hickman County and Williamson County so that the residences and lands of Z. J. Sullivan and John A. Greer were removed from the fourth civil district of Hickman County and placed in the first civil district of Williamson County.

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