



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

March 31, 2025

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# Bledsoe

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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.

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# Bledsoe



Bledsoe County Courthouse

**Revised and Edited by:** Steve Lobertini, Codification Specialist, and Theodore Karpynech, Administrative Assistant, 1996

**Updated by:** Elaine Turner, Paralegal, 2010

# Chapter I - Administration

## Administration - Historical Notes

### **County Clerk**

The following acts once affected the office of county clerk in Bledsoe County. They are included herein for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1827, Chapter 54, declared it to be lawful for the county court clerk of Bledsoe County to keep his office at his own house provided that he shall not reside more than one mile from the courthouse.
2. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 124, stated that the clerks of the county courts of Marion and Bledsoe counties shall make out and hand over to the tax collector of Sequatchie County a list of the taxes for the year 1858 which have been levied in the fractions of those counties which have now become part of Sequatchie County.

### **County Legislative Body**

The following acts once applied to the quarterly court or the county legislative body of Bledsoe County and are included herein for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1808, Chapter 9, declared that the court of pleas and quarter sessions of Bledsoe County would meet on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October. The court was made a part of the Hamilton District and was required to send two jurors to the superior court of that district.
2. Acts of 1808, Chapter 53, set the terms of the court of pleas and quarter sessions in Bledsoe and Rhea counties, starting in Bledsoe on the first Monday in February, May, August, and November. This act would not be effective in Rhea County until after the next term of court.
3. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 93, scheduled the opening dates of the terms of the courts of pleas and quarter sessions for every county in the state. Bledsoe County Court was still scheduled for the first Monday in February, May, August, and November.
4. Acts of 1817, Chapter 138, rescheduled the opening dates of some of the quarterly county courts in the district, including Bledsoe County, which would convene on the second Monday in January, April, July, and October.
5. Private Acts of 1819, Chapter 160, Section 4, changed the terms of the quarterly courts in several of the counties with Bledsoe County being changed to the second Monday in February, May, August and November.
6. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 34, changed court terms for the courts of pleas and quarter Sessions of several counties, among which was Bledsoe County, whose court would meet hereafter on the fourth Monday in February, May, August, and November.
7. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 264, allowed the justices of the peace of the court of pleas and quarter sessions of Bledsoe and Marion counties, a majority being present, if they should deem it expedient, on the first day of the first term of each year, to select three of their own number by ballot to hold the courts of that year each month under the same rules and regulations as other courts of like manner were being held.
8. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 83, repealed Sections 3 and 4 of Private Acts of 1827, Chapter 34.
9. Acts of 1907, Chapter 367, created the position of county judge in Bledsoe County, published herein, in Sections 6 and 7 provided that the county court to be held by the county judge would meet on the first Monday of every month and continue in session until the business of the court was completed, and the court meeting quarterly would convene on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October.
10. Private Acts 1947, Chapter 595, created three additional offices of justice of the peace for the incorporated town of Pikeville in Bledsoe County, making a total of four in that city. Wilder Farmer, W. L. Tollett, and R. S. Evans are appointed under the act to fill the said offices until their successors are elected at the next general August election for regular terms.
11. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 354, stated that in Bledsoe County, identified by the use of the 1950 Federal Census figures, the justices of the peace will receive a per diem of \$10.00, and an expense allowance of \$5.00 for every day of attendance at the quarterly court. This act was

rejected by the quarterly court and therefore never became a law.

12. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 375, provided that justices of the peace in Bledsoe County, would be paid \$15 per day for each days attendance upon the sessions of the quarterly court but no justice shall be entitled to more than one days pay at each session. No mileage allowance, or expense allowance, was mentioned in this act which was properly ratified by the quarterly court.

### **County Mayor**

The references below are of acts which once applied to the office of county judge, or county executive in Bledsoe County. They are included herein for historical purposes only. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1907, Chapter 367, as amended by Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 898, Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 479, and Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 83, established the office of county judge in Bledsoe County for a term of eight years and a salary of \$300 per year paid quarterly. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 2002, Chapter 156.
2. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 92, required the county judge to keep a county warrants paid book, school warrants paid book, and a road warrants paid book. All such warrants were entered in when accepted from the county treasurer. The judge caused all county officials collecting or receiving fees or disbursing county revenue to make settlements and reports monthly, quarterly and annually in a well-bound book for that purpose. The county judge received a fee of ten cents for each warrant, settlement, and report so entered and was paid quarterly, after furnishing the county superintendent and county treasurer a certificate. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 2002, Chapter 156.
3. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 898, amended Acts 1907, Chapter 367, Section 5, by entering a qualification that the county judge be a regularly licensed lawyer.
4. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 479, repealed Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 898, which required the county judge of Bledsoe County to be a regular practicing attorney.

### **County Register**

The following act once affected the office of county register in Bledsoe County, but is no longer operative.

1. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 4, provided that a register for Bledsoe County would be appointed by both houses of the general assembly who would hold office during good behavior and have his office at Sparta for the Mountain District. The office would be operated under the same rules and regulations as the other register's offices were being operated. All land entered, or hereafter to be entered, in Franklin, Warren, Marion, Bledsoe, White, Overton, Fentress, and Jackson counties, shall be registered in the Mountain District.

### **General Reference**

The following private or local acts constitute part of the administrative and political history of Bledsoe County but are today no longer operative because they have either been superseded, repealed, or failed to receive local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 88, appointed John Tollitt, John Narrimore, Michael Rawlings, John Anderson, William Robertson, James Standifer, and James Coulter, as commissioners whose duty it was to select a seat of justice for Bledsoe County as near the center of the county as possible, bearing a water supply in mind, and when the site was determined, they would proceed to acquire 30 acres and on it lay out the town with proper streets, and alleys, leaving one acre for the public square. The lots would be advertised for sale and the proceeds used to build a courthouse, prison, and stocks on the public square. If the funds were insufficient to accomplish these objectives, a tax could be levied to do so. The commissioners were charged to keep a good account of all the money.
2. Acts of 1813, Chapter 14, directed the sheriff of Bledsoe County to hold an election for the voters to select a county seat, either at Madison where the same was now located, or at a site somewhere north of a line between Phillip Thurman's and John Hunter's plantations, crossing the Sequatchie Valley at right angles. If this site were selected by a majority of 50 votes, then the act named John Skillern, Jesse McKinney, Reuben Brown, Charles Hutchison, Joseph McReynolds, Jesse Walker, and Alex Lamb as commissioners to select a site of 30 acres, acquire the same, lay off the town with streets and alleys, leaving one acre for the public square on which would be built the courthouse, prison, and stocks, and which town would be called Pikeville. The lots were to be sold and the public buildings erected out of the proceeds. If these funds were not enough, a tax could be levied for the remainder. Contracts could be let for the accomplishment of these

- directors. Phillip Thirman, William Robertson, James Standifer, Jacob Meek, and James Devers would manage and supervise the above election. This act was repealed by Acts of 1815, Chapter 89.
3. Acts of 1815, Chapter 89, described the boundaries within which the seat of justice for Bledsoe County would be permanently located. Timothy Hixon, John Douthet, William Christian, Eli Thurman, Aquilla Johnson, Joseph Peters, and Adam Sherrill are appointed commissioners to select a site for public square and to exercise the powers and discharge the duties in the same manner described in the repealed act, above, except that they were required to make a \$6,000 bond and be sworn. When the courthouse was completed, the courts were instructed to adjourn to it. This act repealed Acts of 1813, Chapter 14.
  4. Acts of 1815, Chapter 144, required the commissioners appointed under the 1813 Act to lay out the county seat, and do other things related thereto, shall lay before the county court a fair statement of their time spent and of their services performed pursuant to their mandate and the county court shall allow them reasonable and fair compensation for their services. The commissioners presently appointed to accomplish the same results shall also lay before the court a statement of their services when their task is completed for which they also shall be paid.
  5. Acts of 1815, Chapter 160, stated in the preamble that Alexander Coulter, one of the commissioners named to select a site for the county seat did convey to the commission 40 acres of his land when the commission selected the same for the site, on which lots were laid out and sold and a town was built for the county seat of Bledsoe County, but the general assembly of the state has seen fit to remove the county seat to another place, now, the quarterly court may levy a tax, if it sees fit, each year to raise funds to pay Alexander Coulter a reasonable sum for his forty acres of land.
  6. Private Acts of 1819, Chapter 14, authorized the county court of Bledsoe County to dispose of the courthouse, prison, and public square in the said county located in the town of old Madison in any manner they may consider to be proper for the county, or reconvey the same back to the person who bestowed the land for the purpose of erecting the said town as aforesaid.
  7. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 95, appointed Charles Therrell, Thomas C. Pile, and George Vaughn, to lay off and establish a town within half a mile of Tollett's Mill in Bledsoe County which shall consist of no more than twenty lots and shall be called by the name of Iredill.
  8. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 285, allowed Robert Porter, the entry taker for Bledsoe County, to keep his office at his own house any law to the contrary notwithstanding.
  9. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 328, provided for the relief of James Wilson for his service in running and marking the county line between Rhea and Bledsoe counties.
  10. Private Acts of 1831, Chapter 161, directed the county trustee of Bledsoe County to file in his office, the claim of Daniel Riggle of \$125.50, for keeping John Holeman eleven months in the Marion County jail.
  11. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 101, Section 2, dissolved the bonds of matrimony between Nancy Close and her husband Samuel S. Close.
  12. Private Acts of 1833, Chapter 218, dissolved the bonds of matrimony between Sally Moore and her husband Nimrod Moore.
  13. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 152, Section 2, disposed of the \$2,000 heretofore given to Bledsoe County to improve the Sequatchie River which was a part of the \$100,000 set aside for the rivers of East Tennessee by directing that amount be invested in some work of interval improvement in Bledsoe County as roads, rivers, common schools, etc.
  14. Public Acts of 1897, Chapter 124, fixed the salaries of various county officials, named therein, according to the population figures of the counties as they were determined by the 1890 census, and which stripped these county officers of the fees of their offices, making them the property of the state, although this act was declared to be unconstitutional in the case of Weaver v. Davidson County, 104 Tenn. 315, 59 S.W. 1105 (1900), it nevertheless served in many aspects as a model for the salary acts which followed.
  15. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 282, removed the disabilities of minority from William Max Taylor of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, granting him the right to conduct himself as an adult in all respects.
  16. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 818, amended Section 1, Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 96, by annexing some areas to the city of Pikeville as they were described therein. Chapter 96 was the charter of Pikeville as it then existed, which was repealed by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 575.
  17. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 344, created a three member board of county commissioners, one

from each civil district, to serve two year terms as elected by the voters of the district. C. F. Debord, Hayne Roberson, and Grover Ault were named under this law to serve in these positions until their successors could be elected. Vacancies would be filled by the remaining two commissioners unless they fail to agree on someone when a special election will be held to fill the post. The commissioners must meet all qualifications, as stated, be sworn, and execute performance bonds. The chairman was to be paid \$600.00 per year, and the members \$100.00. They would meet regularly on the first Monday in each month and on special occasions when called. The powers and duties are pronounced in the act, and thirty-eight special duties of the chairman are listed, plus he would succeed to all the responsibilities of the county judge. The county judge would continue as such but only in that capacity. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 93.

18. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 93, repealed in its entirety Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 344, which created a board of county commissioners for Bledsoe County.
19. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 361, recited in its preamble that there was a balance of \$914.20 in the "Old Age Fund" from the Beer Tax; \$111.34 in the Judgement Fund; \$1,728.04 in the Refinancing Fund; and \$937.18 in the fund to pay for the heating plant at Bledsoe County High School, and that the County owed \$914.20 to Eastern State Hospital for care of some patients there. This act authorized the transfer of \$914.20 out of the Old Age Fund to the general fund to be paid to Eastern State Hospital; \$111.34 from the Judgement to the County Fund; \$1,728.04 from the Refinancing Fund to the County Fund and \$837.18 from the special school fund to the general school fund.
20. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 424, stated that John Wenton Putnam was adopted son of Judge John H. Putnam, of Bledsoe County, now deceased, was 18 years of age and of sufficient good judgement to handle his own affairs which included a sizeable inheritance and several properties. His guardian and the executor of the judge's will recommend that action be taken to remove his minority which this act promptly does.
21. Private Acts of 1972, Chapter 235, transferred all the judicial powers, duties, authorities, jurisdiction and functions presently exercised by the county judge of Bledsoe County, including juvenile jurisdiction, to the court of general sessions. The remaining office of the county judge is redesignated as the "County Administrator of Bledsoe County" who would serve a four year term beginning on the effective date of this act. The administrator was empowered to succeed himself in office and exercise all the administrative powers of the county judge. The act amended Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 363 and repealed Acts of 1907, Chapter 367, which created the office of county judge. The secretary of state states that this act was not acted on by the quarterly court of Bledsoe County prior to the publication of the 1972 volume of Private Acts but the act itself provides that it was not to become effective unless approved in a referendum vote by the people as stated in Section 4.

## Chapter II - Animals and Fish

### Deer

#### Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 373

**SECTION 1.** That in all Counties of Tennessee having a population of not less than 8,560 and not more than 8,562 by the Federal Census of 1950, or any subsequent Federal Census, it shall be lawful to use buckshot numbers 1-0 and 00 in all open deer hunts held in such Counties.

**SECTION 2.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall have been approved by two-thirds vote of the Quarterly County Court of any county to which it may apply on or before the next regular meeting of such Quarterly County Court occurring more than thirty days after its approval by the Chief Executive of this State. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the body having jurisdiction to approve or the reverse, and shall be certified by him to the Secretary of State.

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

Passed March 11, 1955.

### Animals and Fish - Historical Notes

## **Animals and Fish**

The following is a listing of acts that at one time affected, but no longer appear to have any effect on, hunting, fishing or animal control in Bledsoe County. They are included herein for reference purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 133, made it unlawful for any person, other than a citizen of Cumberland, Fentress, Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Overton, Putnam, White, Roane, Rhea, Bledsoe, and Van Buren counties, to hunt and kill deer for profit, or any species of game; but all the citizens in Tennessee may hunt and kill game in these counties for their own and their family's use. Fines for violators were set at \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for the second which would be recoverable before any justice of the peace on the suit of any person.
2. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 179, declared it to be unlawful for any non-resident of the state to hunt, shoot, kill, catch, or carry away, game of any kind in Scott, Fentress, Pickett, Morgan, Cumberland, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Van Buren, White, Putnam, Rhea, Clay, Campbell, Henry, Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Meigs, and Claiborne counties. A minimum fine of \$50.00 was established for those failing to abide by the provisions of this act, half of which would go to the county, and half to the prosecutor.
3. Public Acts of 1893, Chapter 59, made it unlawful for any person to hunt, kill, or capture, any wild deer in Bledsoe, Cumberland, Rhea, Fentress, White, Hamilton, Warren, Johnson, Hancock, Unicoi, DeKalb, and Montgomery counties from December 1 to September 30 of the following year, and it was likewise unlawful for any non-resident, or resident, to hunt, kill, or capture, any wild turkey in Bledsoe, Rhea, Fentress, and While Counties from May 1 until October 1 of each year. The fines for offenders would range from \$25 to \$50. This act was required to be charged to the grand jury of the counties mentioned.
4. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 213, made it unlawful for any person from any other county to hunt, capture, kill, shoot, wound, or destroy in any way or manner, any quail, partridge, wild turkey, or deer in Bledsoe County. It was also unlawful to kill quail in the enclosed lands of another at any time without permission and to export quail or partridges, for profit at any time. This act sets a closed season on deer in the county from January 1 to October 1 of each year. Fines ranged from \$10 to \$40 and discretionary jail sentences from ten to twenty-five days were ordered for all violators. The judges would charge this act to the grand jury which would also have inquisitorial powers on its own.
5. Acts of 1909, Chapter 360, defined a lawful fence for use in Bledsoe County. The first could be of barbed wire strands securely fastened to substantial posts, no more than 24 feet apart, with stays and braces not over eight feet apart and fastened to each wire. The bottom wire would be from 12 to 18 inches from the ground and the others at intervals above it often to twelve inches. The second lawful fence could be of smooth #10 wire, planks, or rails, on posts no more than ten feet apart, the planks to be at least four inches wide and one inch thick. The distances from the ground were the same as for the first fence. The wires, or other horizontal fence material, could be fastened to standing timber wherever possible. It was declared unlawful for sheep, goats, swine, or geese, to run at large. Fines ran from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for the first offense. The owner was liable for any damage done which could be placed in the form of a lien on the marauding animals. The person damaged could take up care for the trespassing stock and add the cost to the lien.
6. Acts of 1909, Chapter 502, defined a lawful fence for Bledsoe, Fentress, Grundy, Houston, Lake, Meigs, and Trousdale counties. Four strands of barbed, or smooth, wire securely fastened to substantial posts not over sixteen feet apart and not over eight feet at the corners and gates, the strands to be at twelve inch intervals from the ground. Nothing in this act shall be construed to conflict with any of the Railroad Acts. Damages, for which the owners of trespassing stock are declared liable, would be a lien on the stock until satisfied and their care and feeding might be added to the damages.
7. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 686, applied to Bledsoe, Cumberland, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, and Van Buren counties and declared open seasons in which game could be lawfully hunted and killed as follows: on turkeys, from November 1 until January 1, of each year; on turkey gobblers, from April 1 until May 1; on quail, from November 1 to the following February 1; on deer, from November 1 until December 10; and one could kill squirrels anytime.
8. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 719, amended Public Acts of 1915, Chapter 152, which was a state law on games and fish, in Section 47, so as to exempt Bledsoe County from the provisions of that section, thus allowing citizens to fish with baited hook and line, and rod and line, in all the streams of Bledsoe County at all seasons of the year with no time limit.



9. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 748, amended Public Acts of 1919, Chapter 61, which was a statewide law regulating the care and keeping of dogs, so as to exempt Bledsoe, Van Buren, and Sequatchie counties from its operations and requirements.
10. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 115, made it unlawful in Bledsoe County for any person to shoot any fox, or to destroy the den of any fox, or by means of a snare, trap, or other device, to catch, maim, or otherwise injure, any fox. This act was not to be applied when foxes were being chased by hounds, or were a threat to fowls, crops, or livestock. It was likewise termed to be unlawful to sell, or buy any fox pelt in the county. A fine from \$25 to \$50 awaited a convicted offender. The act was to be charged to grand jury which were also given inquisitorial powers. This act was repealed Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 35.
11. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 35, repealed Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 115.

## Chapter III - Bond Issues

### Bond Issues - Historical Notes

#### **Debts**

1. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 45, allowed the quarterly county court to issue up to \$35,000 in bonds, at an interest rate not to exceed 5%, and for a maturity period not to exceed 20 years, to fund the present county debt and to pay for the poor house property of the county. All the details essential to a valid bond issue were contained in the act, plus the form of the bond. A tax levy for the sinking fund was made mandatory which would amortize the bonds over the specified maturity period. The county judge and trustee were instructed to keep accurate records.
2. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 133, permitted the quarterly court of Bledsoe County to issue \$25,000 in 5%, 20 year bonds, to take up and pay the outstanding warrants of the county, to fund the current debts of the county, including the building of the courthouse, and to finish paying for the county high school building. All details and the tax levy required were set out in the act.
3. Private Acts of 1935 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 148, provided that all the previous actions of the quarterly county court of Bledsoe County with reference to the issuance of \$20,000 in funding bonds which are dated on April 1, 1935, with an interest rate of 5%, or less, and payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1, are hereby validated, confirmed and ratified notwithstanding any lack of statutory authority, any defects, or errors, or any omissions. The bonds were declared to be the general and incontestable obligations of the county. All details were approved and a tax levy required to be imposed each year until paid.
4. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 190, validated, confirmed, and ratified all prior actions of the quarterly court of Bledsoe County taken on September 2, 1940, which authorized the issue of \$41,000 in 4%, funding bonds, Series 1938, maturing through the year, 1957, which are declared to be legal and binding obligations of the county, confirming all the details.
5. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 244, ratified, confirmed, validated, and legalized all the actions of the county court taken in connection with the issuance of \$16,000 in 4%, refunding bonds on September 6, 1938, maturing through the year, 1957, declaring all the covenants and conditions to be legal and binding and the incontestable obligations of Bledsoe County.
6. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 245, ratified, confirmed, validated, and declared to be the legal and binding obligations of the county all the proceedings of the county court held on January 15, 1940, in the issuance of \$225,000 in 4%, general refunding bonds. Any future delivery and sale which might take place under the authority of this act are also validated.

#### **Roads**

1. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 493, stated that the pike commission of Bledsoe County was authorized and empowered to build, construct, and complete two roads in Bledsoe County beginning at Pikeville, one running down the valley on the west side of the Sequatchie River to the Sequatchie County line at or near Mount Airy, and the other running up the valley on the west side of the Sequatchie River to the Cumberland County line at or near Litton, all in accordance with state requirements and specifications and to issue up to \$18,000 in 5%, twenty to thirty year bonds, if the project required it.

#### **Schools**

1. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 914, declared that all the prior proceedings of the quarterly county court had or taken under the authority of Public Acts of 1911, Chapter 60, to authorize the issuance and sale of \$70,000 in negotiable coupon bonds for the purpose of erecting a high school

site in or near Pikeville, enlarging the present school site, or to provide a new site and equip and improve said school grounds, same being designated as "School Bonds," are hereby ratified, confirmed, and validated in all respects despite any errors of commission or omission in the issuance.

2. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 150, recited that the quarterly court of Bledsoe County had issued \$6,000 in Elementary School Warrants, at an interest rate of 6%, to construct and equip the J. A. Patton school; and in January, 1924, issued \$21,000 in bonds for a consolidated school building, known as the First District College, all of which are outstanding and unpaid, about which some doubt has arisen. Therefore, to remove all doubt as to the validity of either, this act ratifies and confirms the actions of the court and grants the authority to the court to issue the bonds for the purposes therein stated.
3. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 368, allowed the quarterly court of Bledsoe County to issue up to \$60,000 in 6%, 20 year bonds to erect and equip a high school, provided that the issue is first approved by the people in a referendum held for that purpose under the general election laws of Tennessee. The county judge, the chairman of the board of education, and three others to be appointed by the county judge shall be a building committee to be in charge of the construction and make all the necessary contracts therefor.

## Chapter IV - Boundaries

### Creation of the County

#### Acts of 1808 Chapter 9

**SECTION. 1.** That from and after the passing of this act, Roane county shall be bounded on the south-west by the following line, viz. Beginning on the north bank of Tennessee, at the end of the ridge that divides the waters of White's creek from those of Piney River; thence along said ridge, to Wallen's ridge; thence north forty five west to Overton county line.

**SEC. 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 *Bledsoe*, viz. Beginning on the north-west end or corner of Rhea county, where it strikes the road leading to West Tennessee; thence north forty five west, to Overton county line; thence southwardly with said line, to White county line, and with that line to the southern boundary of this state; thence eastwardly with said line to the corner of Rhea county line; thence with said line to the beginning.

**SEC. 8.** That John Tollet, Joseph Hoge, and James Standefer, are hereby appointed commissioners to fix on the most suitable place for holding courts for Bledsoe county, until otherwise provided for by law.

**SEC. 9.** That for the due administration of justice, that the court of pleas and quarter sessions shall be held in and for the county of Bledsoe, on the first Mondays of April, July, October and January; and the justices for said county, shall hold their respective courts at the place that shall be fixed upon by said commissioners, until otherwise provided for by law, and shall have and exercise the power and jurisdiction as are or shall be prescribed by and for the courts of the several counties in this state.

**SEC. 10.** That said county of Bledsoe be, and the same is hereby declared a part of the district of Hamilton, in the same manner and for all purposes, civil, criminal and military, in as full and ample manner as any county in this state, and shall send two jurors to the superior court of said district.

**SEC. 12.** That a majority of the acting justices of the counties of Rhea and Bledsoe, when in session, shall have power, and are hereby authorized and required, to lay a county tax, not exceeding twelve and one half cents on each hundred acres of land liable to taxation; twelve and one half cents on each white poll; twenty-five cents on each black poll; fifty cents on each stud horse, kept for covering mares; said tax to be laid from year to year, until otherwise provided for by law.

**SEC. 13.** That the election for governor, representatives to congress and members to the general assembly, shall be held at their respective places of holding courts, in the counties of Rhea and Bledsoe, by the sheriffs or their deputies, under the same rules and regulations as are prescribed by law, and on the same days which elections for such purposes, are authorized to be held; and those citizens of Rhea and Bledsoe counties, formerly citizens of Roane county, shall be entitled to vote in their respective counties.

**SEC. 14.** That it shall be the duty of the returning officers for the counties of Rhea and Bledsoe, to meet the returning officer of Roane county, in Kingston, on the succeeding Monday, with the number of their respective polls, and with him compare the same; and the returning officer of Roane, those duly elected

members of the general assembly, and give certificates accordingly; and it shall be the duty of said sheriff to transmit a just statement of the polls of election for governor and representatives to congress, to the speaker of the senate, in the same manner as by law directed.

**SEC. 16.** That the sheriff of Bledsoe county shall open and hold an election at the place of holding court in said county, on the third Friday and Saturday in February next, for the purpose of electing field officers of the militia of said county; and the militia of said county shall compose the thirty first regiment of the militia of this state, and shall be attached to the third brigade.

*November 30th, 1807.*

## Change of Boundary Lines

### Acts of 1809 (Second Session) Chapter 20

**SECTION 1.** That the line which divides the county of Roane from the counties of Rhea and Bledsoe, shall begin on the north bank of Tennessee river, at the mouth of White's creek; thence up White's creek, as it meanders, to the place where the road leading from Knoxville to Nashville, crosses the main fork of said White's creek; thence north, forty west, to the Overton county line. *Provided*, nothing in this act contained, shall be so construed as to preclude the sheriff of Roane county from collecting the state, county and poor tax, due in that part of Rhea and Bledsoe counties, which is east and north of the line described in the before recited act, for the year one thousand eight hundred and nine.

*April 20, 1809.*

### Acts of 1815 Chapter 182

**SEC. 1.** That all that part of White county, lying east and south of the following described lines, that is to say: Beginning on the old Cumberland road, where the line of Rhea county strikes the same, thence with said road to the ford of Obed's river so as to include all the citizens on each side of said road, in Bledsoe county, thence a direct line to the cross road near Simpson's stand, on the new road leading to Sparta, so as to include said stand in Bledsoe county, thence a direct line to a point two miles north west of Peter Hoodenpyles, thence a direct line to the ford of Brush creek where the Madison road crosses the same so as to include Archibald Beard in Bledsoe county, be and the same is hereby made a part of Bledsoe county.

**SEC. 2.** That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of White county from collecting any tax or arrearages of tax that is or may be due from those who are by this act added to the county of Bledsoe, for the year 1815.

**SEC. 3.** That this act shall be in force from and after the passage thereof.

**SEC. 4.** That all settlements left out of Bledsoe county, lying on Cumberland road, by the establishment of the above line shall be included in White county. *Provided nevertheless*, That the settlements on Cumberland mountain called Anderson's and Robertson's settlements, and a settlement near Crance's shall still be considered a part of White County.

*Nov. 6th, 1815*

### Private Acts of 1821 Chapter 73

**Sec. 1.** That the line dividing Bledsoe and Rhea counties shall be as follows, (to wit) beginning in a point on the northern boundary line of Hamilton county, near where the road from Keedy's Gap to Washington crosses the head of Sale Creek; running thence up the general course of Walden's ridge of Cumberland mountain, so as to cross Richland Creek at the bridge on the Kincah turnpike road; thence to cross Loony's turnpike road so as to include the former residence of Richard Walker on said road in the county of Bledsoe; thence a direct line to the old Cumberland turnpike road, at T. Bound's turnpike gate, and that all persons residing near to, and south of Morgan, and west of said line shall belong to the county of Bledsoe.

**Sec. 2.** That said line shall be run and marked at the mutual expense of Bledsoe and Rhea counties.

*September 28, 1821.*

### Private Acts of 1826 Chapter 153

**SECTION 1.** That the county courts of White and Bledsoe, shall, at their first session after the first of

January next, or some other term thereafter, appoint some suitable persons as commissioners and surveyors, to run and mark the line between the county of White and Bledsoe, beginning at the ford of Oby's river, on the old Cumberland road, running thence a direct line to George Dawson's, at the cross roads, on the road leading from Sparta to the Crab Orchard, including said Dawson's house in Bledsoe county, thence a direct line to a point two miles north west of Philip Hoodenpile's old place, in the road between Sparta and Pikeville; thence a direct line to the ford of Brush creek, where Madison road crossed the same, so as to include Archibald Board's old place, in Bledsoe county.

**SEC. 2.** That the *expece* [expense] of running and marking said line, shall be paid by the counties of White and Bledsoe equally, and the county courts of White and Bledsoe is [are] hereby authorized to lay a tax for the purpose of defraying said expense.

December 9, 1826.

## Private Acts of 1829-30 Chapter 141

**SEC. 1.** That the dividing line between the counties of Hamilton and Bledsoe, shall be as follows, to wit: beginning on the north west corner of Hamilton county, on Walden's ridge near Keedy's road, running thence in a direction with Hamilton county line towards Tennessee river to the middle of Walden's ridge; thence running a direct line on the centre of said ridge, in a direction towards the mouth of Suck creek, to a point opposite the mouth of Brush creek, the dividing line between Bledsoe and Marion counties; thence to the south east corner of Bledsoe county, near the head of Kelly's mill creek.

**SEC. 2.** That the dividing line between the counties of Marion and Hamilton, shall be as follows, to wit: beginning on the line between Hamilton and Bledsoe counties, at a point opposite the mouth of Brush creek, on the centre of Walden's ridge, and thence with the centre of said ridge, or as nearly so as a direct line will admit, to Suck creek, and down said creek to its mouth, and with the line as now established by law between the said counties of Marion and Hamilton.

December 31, 1829.

## Public Acts of 1881 Chapter 143

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The first two sections of this act referred to Cheatham and Dickson counties and are therefore not repeated here.

**SEC. 3.** That hereafter the county lines between the counties of Bledsoe, Rhea and Hamilton be changed so as to attach the lands of James Sladen to Bledsoe county: Beginning on the Hamilton county line where said line crosses the head waters of McGill creek, thence down the McGill creek gorge to the corner in the Robert's survey in said gorge, thence with the same degree and line of the Robert's survey, running near a point in the old heart road known as the Stoney Battery to the waters of Roaring creek, thence with the waters of said creek to the original county line between Rhea and Bledsoe counties.

**SEC. 4.** That this act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed April 4, 1881.

## Boundaries - Historical Notes

The private act has often been used as a means for transferring parcels of land from one county to another, often because the boundary lines would bisect an individual landowner's property, placing the landowner under the jurisdiction of two counties. This type of boundary change was often very general in its description of the land transferred, without any metes and bounds description. The following is a summary of acts which authorized boundary changes for Bledsoe County.

1. Acts of 1817, Chapter 109, created Marion County and used the Bledsoe County line as part of the description of Marion County. A careful analysis of the description of Marion County does not indicate that any land area was taken from Bledsoe County by this act.
2. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 46, Section 3, established the true dividing line between the counties of Bledsoe and Marion which left the residence of John Heard and John and William Henson in Bledsoe County. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 66 and re-established the line between Bledsoe and Marion counties to its condition before the passage of Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 46.
3. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 65, changed the lines between Bledsoe and White counties so as to leave the line dividing the two counties at the point where it crosses the Big Laurel Creek running down the creek to form a parallel line with the county line, thence to Bee Creek, and down to the mouth of Glade Creek, thence up Glade Creek to the county line, which would include the farms of

Thomas F. Barnett, Jonathan Acuff, William Campbell, George Gregory, and William Graham in Bledsoe County, and the plantation belonging to John Mitchell in White County.

4. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 129, Section 7, changed all the lines between Van Buren and Bledsoe County so as to include the residence and farm belonging to Hiram Walden wholly within Bledsoe County.
5. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 83, Section 3, provided that a line be established between Rhea and Bledsoe counties which would begin at Pole Bridge Creek and run southwest so as to include B. F. Bridgeman's farm, and to intersect the established line at a white oak, a black oak, and a hickory now known at the old corner of Rhea, Hamilton and Bledsoe counties. Section 4 of this act transferred the properties of Mark Stephens and William Moss out of Cumberland County and into Bledsoe County.
6. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 211, Section 6, moved all the land belonging to James Seats, Junior, out of Bledsoe County and into Van Buren County.
7. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 21, Section 3, transferred the tenth civil district of Bledsoe County over to Sequatchie County beginning at the last corner of the original line with the ninth and tenth civil district's line of the Bledsoe and Hamilton County lines, running west with the old seat line to Bush Creek on the top of the Cumberland Mountain so as to include all of the territory contained in the original tenth civil district of Bledsoe County in Sequatchie County.
8. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, Section 2, detached the lands of Mark Stephens, E. F. Patton, and the lands adjoining the Bledsoe County line which belonged to J. M. Thorn and the Stephens heirs from Cumberland County and attached all of the properties mentioned to Bledsoe County, but nothing in this act was to prevent Cumberland County from collecting the revenues due them. Section 4 of this same act transferred the property of Jesse Wallings out of Bledsoe County and into Van Buren County.
9. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 58, amended Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, above, so as to correct an error in the name listed as J. M. Thorin, changing it to the correct name of J. M. Thurman, repealing that part of the act.
10. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 25, removed all of the lands of Oxshee John Thurman from Rhea County and placed them all in Bledsoe County.
11. Private Acts of 1897, Chapter 149, changed the boundary lines between Bledsoe County and Cumberland County so that the home and properties of E. T. Patton was included wholly in Bledsoe County giving a general description of the area involved.
12. Acts of 1903, Chapter 41, detached that part of the farm which J. R. Swafford owned lying partly in the tenth civil district of Bledsoe County, and partly within the eleventh civil district of Rhea County, from Rhea County and included the whole of it in Bledsoe County.
13. Acts of 1903, Chapter 54, was identical to Private Acts of 1903, Chapter 41.
14. Acts of 1903, Chapter 562, moved all the lands known as the Mount Airy Farm, now owned by W. B. Pope, out of Sequatchie County into Bledsoe County.

## Chapter V - Court System

### General Sessions Court

#### Private Acts of 1941 Chapter 363

**SECTION 1.** That there is hereby established a Court in and for Bledsoe County, Tennessee, which shall be designated Court of General Sessions of Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Said County shall provide a court room at Pikeville, Tennessee, docket, furnishings and necessary supplies of said Court, and pay for same out of the general funds of said County.

**SEC. 2.** That the Court of General Sessions of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, is hereby vested with all of the jurisdiction and shall exercise the authority conferred by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee upon the Justices of the Peace in civil and criminal cases and actions, and the Justices of the Peace of Bledsoe County are hereby divested of all jurisdiction, power and authority. The authority of said Justices of the Peace in their capacity as members of the Quarterly Court and in the performance of the rights of matrimony is in no wise affected by this Act. And the Court of General Sessions for Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall have jurisdiction concurrent with the Circuit and Chancery Courts of all proceedings for divorce as provided by Section 10325 and 10379 of the Official Code of Tennessee, for the year 1932,

and,

That said Court is hereby vested with jurisdiction to try and determine and render final judgment in all misdemeanor cases either at common law or by statute brought before said Courts by warrant or information wherein the person charged with such misdemeanor enters a plea of guilty or requests a trial upon the merits and expressly waives in writing indictment, presentment and a Grand Jury investigation and a trial by a jury. In such cases the trial shall proceed before the Judge of said Court of General Sessions without a jury. A final judgement shall be rendered by said Court from which final judgement may be appealed to the Circuit Court of Bledsoe County where such appeal shall be tried by a Judge of such Court without a jury and without an indictment or presentment, and,

That it shall be the mandatory duty of the Judge of the Court of General Sessions when a defendant is brought before said Court upon arraignment or trial to advise such defendant of his constitutional right to the aid of counsel, the right to be tried only upon presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, the right to make a statement in reference to the accusation or the right to waive such a statement and the right to a trial by jury. Upon the defendant agreeing in writing to waive the right to be put to trial by presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, and the right to be tried by a jury of his peers such Court may proceed to hear and determine said case as provided in this section hereof.

Said waiver shall be written or attached to the warrant substantially in words and figures as follows: "The defendant \_\_\_\_\_ pleads \_\_\_\_\_ guilty to the offense of \_\_\_\_\_ and waives his right to be tried only by indictment or presentment preferred by a Grand Jury, and likewise waives a trial by jury of his peers.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 129.

**SEC. 3.** That before any civil case shall be tried or judgement rendered in said Court the plaintiff shall secure the costs by executing a cost bond with good security in the sum of \$25.00 or making a cash cost deposit of not less than \$2.50 or more than \$25.00, or shall take the oath prescribed for poor persons and on motion, the Court may increase the amount of such bond or deposit.

**SEC. 4.** That the Court of General Sessions of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be a Court of Record, and that the laws regulating pleadings and practice, stay of judgment, writs and processes in Civil Cases in the Courts of Justice of the Peace shall apply to the Court of General Sessions for Bledsoe County, Tennessee, and all other cases to be tried and determined by said Court having the jurisdiction concurrent with the Circuit and Chancery Court, the pleadings and practice of such cases shall be the same as provided by law for such courts, and,

That said Court shall make all such other rules of practice as may be deemed expedient consistent with law, and which such rules as may be made by the Supreme Court and may revise as often as thought proper, the rules by it so made, and,

That said Court shall keep a separate docket and minutes for all cases to be tried by said Court in which it has jurisdiction concurrent with the Circuit and Chancery Court and the minutes of said Court shall be read in open court and signed by the Judge as provided by law of Courts of Record.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 129.

**SEC. 5.** That in all matters the costs and fees of said Court of General Sessions shall be the same as those provided by law for Justices of the Peace, and as those provided by law for the Circuit and Chancery Court in proceedings for divorce, and,

The Clerk of said Court shall receive as compensation for his services the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, per annum, payable quarterly, out of the same funds and in the manner as provided for the payment of the salary of the Judge of said Court.

The fees and other compensation of the Sheriff, his deputies, constables, game warden, and State highway patrolmen for the execution of writs and process of said Court, and process of said Court and the attendance and mileage of witnesses shall be the same in said Court as those provided by law for the Courts of Justices of the Peace.

The fees and compensation due for services rendered by said Court of General Sessions shall be paid to the Clerk of said Court and by him accounted for as hereinafter provided. Said costs, fees, and mileage of witnesses, and fees, commissions, and emoluments of the sheriff, his deputies, constables, State highway patrolmen, game wardens, and other officers, for services in said Court accounted for and disbursed as required by law.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 129.

**SEC. 6.** That separate dockets shall be kept in said Court for civil and criminal cases. Upon the civil docket shall be entered the style of each case, the date of issuance of the warrant or process, and return on the process in brief form, action of the Court on the case, both interlocutory and final orders, judgments, executions, garnishments, lists of the fees of the Court, the sheriff, his deputies, constables,

game wardens, and State highway patrolmen for their services, fees of witnesses for attendance, etc., and credits for payments upon the judgment and upon the costs. All cases shall be indexed and the dockets shall be substantially in the form of those Justices of the Peace. The criminal docket shall be kept in like manner.

**SEC. 7.** That there shall be one Judge for said Court of General Sessions who shall be a person licensed to practice law in Tennessee, and actively engaged in the practice of law, and with all other qualifications, and the term of office as provided by the constitution of the State of Tennessee for inferior courts, and the oath shall be the same as that prescribed for [sic] Circuit Judges and Chancellors.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 129.

**SEC. 8.** That the compensation of said Judge shall be \$1,800.00 per annum, payable out of the ordinary funds of the County, and shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which he is elected. The Judge of said Court of General Sessions may at any time receive and [sic] receipt from the Clerk of said Court of General Sessions any amount due the said Judge on his salary. Said funds to be paid out of funds in the hands of said Clerk due Bledsoe County, Tennessee, and Clerk of said Court will take credit for same on his quarterly report made for revenue due the County.

**SEC. 9.** That R. B. Schoolfield shall be appointed the first Judge of said Court, who shall serve until the first day of September, 1942, and until his successor has been elected and qualified.

His successor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the County at the election for judicial and other civil officers on the first Thursday of August, 1942, and shall hold said office from the first day of September, 1942, for a term of eight years or until his successor is qualified.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 129.

**SEC. 10.** That if the Judge of said Court fails to attend, cannot preside in a pending cause or for any reason hold Court, a majority of the attorneys present in such Court may elect one of their number who has the qualifications of such a Judge, and when elected shall have the same authority as a regular Judge to hold the Court for the occasion.

**SEC. 11.** That in the case of a vacancy for any cause the Governor shall have the power to appoint some qualified person to fill such vacancy.

**SEC. 12.** That the Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County of Bledsoe shall act as Clerk of said Court of General Sessions, and when acting as Clerk of said Court, shall be designated "Clerk of Court of General Sessions of Bledsoe County." Before entering upon the duties of said office, he shall make bond as such Clerk in the sum of at least One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars with security to take care of all costs and funds coming into his hands as such, and in case he fails or refuses to give such security, the Judge of said Court of General Sessions may appoint someone else to fill his place who will qualify as such.

The Clerk of said Court shall have concurrent authority with the Judge in the issuance of all process required to be issued for said Court. All cost and fees of officers and witnesses shall be paid to said Clerk of General Sessions, and he will receipt for same.

**SEC. 13.** That the sheriff and his deputies of said Court, or any constable hereof, shall serve legal process or papers issued from said Court of General Sessions with the same authority as from other Courts of Law of the State.

**SEC. 14.** That this Act shall in no wise impair the right, title or interest of any Justice of the Peace of said County to any unpaid fees or funds in which he had a right or interest in any proceedings, judgements, or suit, whether said cause is disposed of or pending when this Act becomes effective.

**SEC. 15.** That all of the official dockets, records and papers in cases that are undisposed of or pending in the offices of the Justices of the Peace of said County at the time this Act becomes effective shall be delivered to said Court of General Sessions. The official dockets, records and papers in possession of Justices of the Peace of said County in cases which have been completed shall be turned over to said Court of General Sessions. The Clerk of said Court of General Sessions, when he is qualified as such, shall make a quarterly report of all revenue collected by him due Bledsoe County, and in his report he may take credit for any sums paid by him to the Judge of said Court of General Sessions due on his salary, taking receipt for the same, and he shall have credit for the same.

**SEC. 16.** That said Court shall have authority to hear and determine all undisposed of cases arising before said Justices of the Peace as if said cases had originated in said Court of General Sessions, and to issue executions on unsatisfied judgements of the dockets of said Justices of the Peace, and to certify to said judgement.

**SEC. 17.** That the General Assembly expressly declare that each section, sub-section, paragraph and provision of this Act is several [sic], and that should any portion of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the remainder of the Act, and such unconstitutional or invalid portion

shall be elided, and the General Assembly declares that it would have enacted this Act with such unconstitutional or invalid portions elided therefrom.

**SEC. 18.** That the Judge of said Court of General Sessions is hereby authorized and has power to grant flats authorizing the issuance of injunctions in all cases, Judges of other Courts and Chancellors can do in the State of Tennessee.

**SEC. 19.** That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 11, 1941.

## Court System - Historical Notes

### **Board of Jury Commissioners - Jurors**

The following act once affected jurors or boards of jury commissioners in Bledsoe County, but is no longer operative.

1. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 261, created a board of jury commissioners for Bledsoe County to consist of three members, to be appointed by the judges having criminal jurisdiction, who would be discreet free-holders, not lawyers or county officials, who had no cases pending or interest in any, who would serve for two years. Vacancies would be filled in the same way. If one member should become disabled, the other two would carry on. The members must take the oath prescribed in the act, and would select their own chairman. The clerk of the criminal or circuit court would be the clerk for the board who would likewise be sworn. The commissioners would select a list of names equal to one-eighth of the number of votes cast in the preceding presidential election but would not be more than 1000 or less than 250. The clerk would provide a suitable book on which their names would be entered and then the entire list verified by all members of the commission. The names would also be placed on scrolls, or cards, and placed in a jury box which would be locked and sealed and not opened except in the presence of the commission or in open court on order of the judge. At least fifteen days before the term of court began, the box would be unlocked and a child under the age of ten would draw names in the number ordered by the court or, equal to the number of jurors required, which would be presented to the judge in open court. Five days before court opened, the list would be delivered to the sheriff who would summon the jurors to court. They would be separated into grand and petit juries and none could be excused except by the judge.

### **Chancery Court**

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Bledsoe County, although they no longer have the force of law since they have either been superseded by general law, repealed, or failed to receive local ratification. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1822 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 13, stated that there shall be held by one of the judges of the supreme court of errors and appeals a court of equity at the present places of holding the supreme court at least once each year in the cities of Rogersville, Knoxville, Charlotte, at Sparta, on the second Monday in December, to which equitable causes in Bledsoe County would be assigned, and at Nashville and Columbia. Court would continue for two weeks or until the docket is finished, if that should occur sooner.
2. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 14, Section 8, provided that the justices of the supreme court would make arrangements among themselves to hold the chancery court at least twice a year in each section of the state. The eastern part of the state included the courts at Greenville, Rogersville, Kingston, Carthage, Franklin, Columbia, Charlotte, and McMinnville. The counties of White, Warren, Franklin, Marion, and Bledsoe would file all suits in equity at McMinnville in Warren County where the terms of court would begin on the second Monday in June and December. Any transfer which would be in the best interests of the litigants could be effectuated under the authority of this act.
3. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, divided Tennessee into two chancery divisions, the Eastern Division which included the courts held at Rogersville, Greeneville, Kingston, Carthage, and McMinnville, and the Western Division which was composed of the courts of chancery convening at Franklin, Columbia, Charlotte, Jackson, and Paris.
4. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 88, Section 3, stated that the chancellor of the Eastern Division would hold courts of chancery at least twice a year in the cities mentioned above. The court at McMinnville for the counties of Franklin, White, Warren, Marion, and Bledsoe, would begin on the third Monday in June and December.



5. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 4, divided the state into three major chancery divisions with smaller districts included in each one. The act provided for three chancellors to be appointed for terms of eight years to hold these courts rather than for the justices of the supreme court to conduct them. The eighth district of the Eastern Division contained the counties of Bledsoe, Hamilton, Marion, and Rhea. Court would be held at Pikeville on the second Monday in June and December. This act organized the chancery courts after the 1835 Constitution was adopted.
6. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 116, Section 12, established different terms for the chancery court in the Eastern Division. For the eighth district at Pikeville the court would meet on the second Monday in March and September.
7. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 21, left the meeting dates for the chancery court at Pikeville on the second Monday in March and September but transferred these courts to the fourth district of the Eastern Division.
8. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 169, Section 2, stated that the chancery cases now pending in the chancery courts at Pikeville and Cleveland but which originated in Hamilton County may be transferred to the chancery court at Harrison in that county. The clerk and master of the two courts will transfer all records and transcripts to Harrison within forty days after being properly requested to do so.
9. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 308, declared that the citizens of Marion County may file their bills in chancery in the court at Pikeville in Bledsoe County, or at the court in Winchester in Franklin County, whichever may suit them.
10. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 38, Section 2, reset the starting dates for the chancery courts in several counties including Bledsoe County whose next term of court would begin on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in March in Pikeville.
11. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 54, created the fifth and sixth chancery divisions in Tennessee. The fifth division contained the chancery counts which met at Maryville, Kingston, Madisonville, Athens, Benton, Cleveland, Washington, Harrison, Pikeville, Jasper, Sparta, and Livingston. A chancellor who resided in that district would be appointed to serve until a chancellor could be elected by popular vote.
12. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 112, Section 3, changed the terms of the chancery courts in the 5th chancery division scheduling the court at Pikeville to begin its terms on the third Monday of March and September.
13. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 88, divided the state into the Eastern, Middle, Western, fourth, fifth, and sixth chancery divisions. The fifth division consisted of the counties of Polk, McMinn, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Cumberland, White, Overton, Fentress, Scott, Morgan, Roane, Meigs, Rhea, Blount, Monroe, and Bledsoe whose courts would open in Pikeville on the third Monday in March and September.
14. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 93, Section 4, created a new chancery court section for Cumberland County and directed the clerks and masters of the courts in Washington, Pikeville, Sparta, Jamestown, and Montgomery who had causes pending in their courts which originated in Cumberland County to transfer the same with all the records therein to Crossville.
15. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 32, reorganized the lower court system of the state into twelve chancery districts. The third chancery district contained the counties of Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Cumberland, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Hamilton, Bradley, and the special court at Chattanooga.
16. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 47, scheduled the starting dates for the chancery courts of all the counties in the state. Bledsoe County would open its chancery court terms on the first Monday in April, and the second Monday in October.
17. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 40, changed the terms of court for all the counties in the third chancery division. Bledsoe would start the chancery courts on the Thursday after the third Monday in March and September at Pikeville and all outstanding process would be made to conform to the change.
18. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 34, rescheduled the terms of the chancery courts in all the counties of the third chancery division changing Bledsoe County's Courts to the second Monday in April and October.
19. Acts of 1885, Extra Session, Chapter 20, reassembled the entire lower judicial system into eleven chancery divisions. The third chancery division had in it the counties of Bradley, Polk, Rhea, Marion, McMinn, Hamilton, James, Monroe, Meigs, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Coffee, and

Grundy. Courts would meet in Pikeville on the second Monday in April and October. This act was part of the litigation in the case of Flynn v. State, 203 Tenn. 341, 313 S.W.2d 249 (1958).

20. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 13, stated that the chancellor of the third chancery division would also hold the special terms of the circuit court in the counties of the third chancery division. Section 8 provided for two terms of the chancery court in Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties. Section 10 fixed the terms for all the counties. In Bledsoe County there would be two terms a year to be held at the same time as the circuit courts and any be presided over by the circuit judge.
21. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 13, changed the opening dates for the terms of the chancery court in the third chancery division with Bledsoe County being assigned to the second Monday in April and October.
22. Acts of 1891 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 6, moved Franklin County from the fourth to the third chancery division and changed court terms in Hamilton, Sequatchie, and Bledsoe counties. Bledsoe would commence chancery court on the first Monday in March and September with all process being made to conform to those dates.
23. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, reorganized the entire lower judicial system in every county of the state. Ten chancery divisions were created of which the third division contained the counties of Franklin, Rhea, Bradley, James, Marion, Coffee, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Grundy, McMinn, Moore, Warren, Monroe, Polk, Meigs, and Hamilton. Chancery court for Bledsoe County would convene in Pikeville on the first Monday in March and September.
24. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 435, created the twelfth chancery division out of the third chancery division by removing all the counties in the third chancery division to the twelfth division except Hamilton County which would thereafter constitute the third chancery division alone. All the courts would continue to meet at their currently assigned times. The governor would appoint a chancellor to serve until September 1, 1912, when the chancellor elected by the people would assume office.
25. Public Acts of 1931, Second Extra Session, Chapter 38, reorganized the state into fourteen chancery division. The twelfth division contained the counties of Rhea, McMinn, Warren, Sequatchie, Marion, Van Buren, Bradley, Meigs, Polk, Grundy, Coffee, Monroe, Franklin, and Bledsoe whose courts would take up their chancery docket on the first Monday in March and September.

### **Clerk and Master**

The reference list below contains acts which once applied to the clerk and master in Bledsoe County. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 671, stated that the clerk and master of the chancery court in Bledsoe County, identified by the use of the 1910 Federal Census figures, shall receive an annual salary of \$600.00 provided the clerk and master shall file a sworn, itemized statement with the county judge, or chairman, showing the amount of fees collected by that office. If the fees were less than the above salary, the county would make up the difference, but, if the fees were more than the salary, the clerk and master could retain them as his own.
2. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 556, provided that the sheriff of Bledsoe County shall receive an annual salary of \$2,000.00, and the clerk and master of Bledsoe County shall be paid a yearly wage of \$1,000.00 out of the county treasury on the warrant of the county judge, or chairman. All fees collected in the offices would be reported quarterly and paid over to the county trustee as part of the county funds. This act shall in no way effect the amount allowed the sheriff for feeding and maintaining prisoners as they are fixed by law.

### **Circuit Court**

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Bledsoe County but now have no effect, having been repealed, superseded, or having failed to win local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 49, divided Tennessee into five judicial circuits. The second judicial circuit contained the counties of Cocke, Jefferson, Sevier, Blount, Knox, Anderson, Roane, Rhea, and Bledsoe whose courts met on the third Monday in March and September at the courthouse.
2. Acts of 1812, Chapter 68, Section 5, changed the starting dates for the terms of the circuit court in Rhea and Bledsoe County which went to the fourth Monday in March and September of each year.

3. Acts of 1817, Chapter 38, Section 14, was the act which created Morgan County and assigned it to the second judicial circuit and in Section 14 transferred Bledsoe County to the third judicial circuit.
4. Acts of 1817, Chapter 138, established the court dates for the terms of circuit courts in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth judicial circuits. The Bledsoe County Circuit Court would convene on the fourth Monday in February and August.
5. Public Acts of 1819, Chapter 72, created a new seventh judicial circuit assigning to it the counties of Roane, Rhea, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn, Monroe, and Bledsoe whose court would meet on the fourth Monday of March and September. The judge of the new circuit would be elected by the ballot of both houses of the general assembly.
6. Public Acts of 1823, Chapter 41, Section 6, made it lawful for the circuit judge who may hereafter preside over the circuit court of Bledsoe County to appoint a time for holding one, or more, special terms of the said court, for the purpose of trying the cases pending and, when the time may be fixed on for so doing, it shall be publicly announced during the regular term to all parties concerned.
7. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 63, stated that the circuit court which begins on Monday next in Bledsoe County shall continue in session for two weeks if the business before it is not finished sooner and the next March term shall likewise be held under the same conditions.
8. Private Acts of 1827, Chapter 5, Section 2, changed the circuit court terms in Rhea, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn, Monroe, and Bledsoe counties. Bledsoe County was scheduled to start on the first Monday in April and October.
9. Public Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 46, Section 2, stated that all appeals from the circuit courts of Bledsoe and Marion counties shall be returned to the supreme court at Sparta and be determined under the same rules and regulations as are other cases. Public Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 48, Section 2, does the same thing.
10. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, organized the lower judicial system of the state into eleven judicial circuits, and provided for three terms each year. The third judicial circuit was composed of the counties of Roane, Rhea, Meigs, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn, Monroe, and Bledsoe, where the courts would meet in Pikeville on the second Monday in March, July, and November.
11. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 95, created the sixteenth judicial circuit with the counties of White, Scott, Morgan, Cumberland, Marion, Sequatchie, Fentress, Overton, and Bledsoe in it. Bledsoe's circuit court terms were scheduled to begin on the fourth Monday in February, June, and October in Pikeville.
12. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 98, created sixteen judicial circuits for the state. The fifth circuit was made up of the counties of Cumberland, White, Sequatchie, Marion, Morgan, Scott, Fentress, Overton, and Bledsoe. The circuit court would begin in Pikeville on the first Monday in April, August, and December.
13. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 31, divided the state into fifteen regular, and one special, judicial circuits. The fourth judicial circuit was composed of the counties of McMinn, Polk, Meigs, Bradley, Rhea, Hamilton, Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, and a special court in Chattanooga.
14. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 46, fixed the starting date for the terms of the circuit courts in all the counties of the state. Bledsoe County would begin the circuit court on the third Monday in February, June, and October.
15. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 106, changed court terms for some of the counties in the fourth judicial circuit but Bledsoe's courts would continue to start on the third Monday in February, June, and October.
16. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 34, Section 2, rearranged the schedules of the circuit courts in the fourth judicial circuit assigning Bledsoe County to the second Monday in March, July, and November.
17. Acts of 1885, Extra Session, Chapter 20, reorganized the entire lower judicial system of the state, creating fourteen regular, and one special, judicial circuits. The fourth judicial circuit was made up of Bradley, Polk, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn, and James counties. Circuit court terms in Bledsoe County would commence on the second Monday in March, July, and November.
18. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 13, Section 11, set the terms of the circuit court in Bledsoe County to start on the first Monday in April, and the second Monday in September, holding only two terms, instead of three.
19. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 13, Section 3, changed the circuit court terms in the fourth judicial

circuit authorizing three terms again for Bledsoe which begin on the third Monday in March, July, November, and all conflicting laws were repealed.

20. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 167, reset the terms of the circuit courts in the fourth judicial circuit, delegating Bledsoe County to the third Monday in March, July, and November, requiring all bonds and process to conform to these new dates which will be observed by all the clerks.
21. Acts of 1891, Extra Session, Chapter 2, detached Bledsoe County from the fourth judicial circuit and attached it to the sixth judicial circuit and Franklin County was taken out of the sixth judicial circuit and placed in the fourth. Court would open in Bledsoe on the first Monday in April, August, and December. Court would be held by the judge of the sixth judicial circuit but the attorney-general of the fourth judicial circuit would continue to prosecute the crimes therein.
22. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, divided Tennessee into fourteen judicial circuits. The seventh circuit was made up of the counties of Van Buren, Grundy, Coffee, Warren, Moore, DeKalb, Bledsoe, Rhea, and Lincoln. The Bledsoe County Circuit Court was scheduled to start on the first Monday in April, August, and December.
23. Acts of 1903, Chapter 580, rearranged the schedule of circuit court terms in the seventh judicial circuit assigning the court in Bledsoe to start on the Tuesday after the first Monday in April, August, and December.
24. Acts of 1909, Chapter 540, changed the court terms of the circuit court in Grundy and Rhea counties in the seventh judicial circuit but did not change any others.
25. Public Acts of 1915, Chapter 19, created the eighteenth judicial circuit for the state.
26. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 348, amended Public Acts of 1915, Chapter 19, so that the court terms of the circuit court in Bledsoe County was changed to the fourth Monday in January, May, and September.
27. Public Acts of 1931, Second Extra Session, Chapter 38, was devoted to a complete revision of the lower court system in the state. Twenty judicial circuits were fashioned and the eighteenth circuit consisted of the counties of Franklin, Sequatchie, Marion, Grundy, Meigs, Rhea, and Bledsoe where the circuit court terms would begin on the fourth Monday in January, May, and September.
28. Public Acts of 1963, Chapter 248, created an additional office of the judge for the eighteenth judicial circuit. The new judge would be appointed by the governor to serve until September 1, 1964, and then one would be elected to serve until September 1, 1966, and could run in 1966 for a full constitutional term. The circuit was divided into Parts 1 and 2, the senior judge being in charge of Part 1. Honorable A. F. Sloan was designated senior judge in the act but afterwards the senior judge would be the one with the most service. He was given an \$1,800 annual expense account and could appoint a stenographer to serve at his will and direction at a salary of \$100 per month, payable out of state funds.

#### **Circuit Court Clerk**

The following act has no current effect, but once applied to the Bledsoe County Circuit Court Clerk.

1. Acts of 1903, Chapter 255, was a statewide salary act which involved the circuit court clerks only. The annual salaries provided for the clerks were predicated upon the population of the county in which they operated, the minimum population level being 15,000. The conditions of payment were similar to preceding private acts which required the clerk to file a sworn, itemized statement with the county judge, or chairman, showing the total amount of fees collected in the office. The county would pay the difference if the fees collected failed to equal the salary, and, if the fees exceeded the salary, the clerk could retain the excess. The circuit court clerk of Bledsoe County received \$500.00 per annum. This, and similar acts, finally, culminated in the salary acts which are presently part of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

#### **Criminal Court**

The following act once pertained to the Bledsoe County Criminal Court, but is no longer current law.

1. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, set the time of holding the criminal court of Bledsoe County to the first Monday in April, August and December.

#### **District Attorney General - Assistants and Criminal Investigators**

The following acts once affecting Bledsoe County are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1817, Chapter 65, laid off the State of Tennessee into ten solicitorial districts. The Counties of Bledsoe, Warren, White, Overton, and Jackson composed the fifth solicitorial District.

The act provided for an attorney-general to be appointed for each of the ten districts who would prosecute offenses on behalf of the state.

2. Public Acts of 1819, Chapter 4, created a new eleventh solicitorial district and assigned the counties of Macon, Bledsoe, Warren, White, Overton, and Jackson to it.
3. Public Acts of 1927, Chapter 86, created a position of assistant attorney-general for the eighteenth judicial circuit to which Bledsoe County belonged. This act is virtually identical with Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 82, which created an additional position of the same kind.
4. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 82, created the office of an additional assistant district attorney general for the eighteenth judicial circuit. The district attorney general of the eighteenth judicial circuit was authorized to appoint a suitable person to the office, to serve at the pleasure of the district attorney general.
5. Public Acts of 1971, Chapter 192, created two criminal investigators for the eighteenth judicial circuit of the state, whose duties shall be to investigate crime and take statements of witnesses in felony and other cases and to perform other duties that may be assigned to them by the district attorney general. The compensation of the criminal investigators was provided by the general law of the state and they had the same authority as deputies of the county sheriff.
6. Public Acts of 1973, Chapter 176, amended Public Acts of 1971, Chapter 192, by changing "one" to "two" and making the other significant words plural instead of singular so that the eighteenth judicial circuit would have two criminal investigators instead of one.
7. Public Acts of 1976, Chapter 561, created an additional office of full-time assistant district attorney general for the eighteenth judicial circuit. The district attorney general of the eighteenth judicial circuit was authorized to appoint a suitable person to serve at the pleasure of the district attorney general.

**General Sessions Court**

The following act once affected the general sessions court of Bledsoe County, but is no longer in effect and is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1982, Chapter 284, would have amended Private acts of 1941, Chapter 363, to vest juvenile jurisdiction in the general sessions court of Bledsoe County, transferring all pending cases to that court, and setting the salary of the judge at \$20,000. This act was considered by the Bledsoe County Legislative Body on April 4, 1982, but was not approved, thus making the same null and void.

**Juvenile Court**

The following act once affected juvenile courts in Bledsoe County and is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 91, would have created a juvenile court for Bledsoe County and provided for the appointment of a judge, clerk and other necessary court personnel, but this act was not acted upon by the county legislative body and therefore never became effective.

## Chapter VI - Education/Schools

### Board of Education

#### Private Acts of 1994 Chapter 121

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 463 of the Private Acts of 1951, as amended by Chapter 388 of the Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 387 of the Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 346 of the Private Acts of 1982, and any other act amendatory thereto, are repealed in their entirety:

**SECTION 2.** Bledsoe County shall be divided into seven (7) school districts of substantially equal population, as established by resolution of the county legislative body. The Bledsoe County Board of Education (the "Board") shall consist of seven (7) members, with one (1) member of the Board being elected by the qualified voters in each school district. Board members shall be elected to staggered four (4) year terms so that every two (2) years the terms of one-half (1/2) of the members of the Board shall expire, with the odd-numbered districts expiring at the same time, and the even-numbered districts expiring at the same time. Persons elected in the regular August General Elections shall take office on September 1 following the election and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

**SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding the repeal provisions of Section 1, during the transition from the current

Board to the new seven (7) member Board, all incumbent Board members shall remain on the Board until the expiration of their current terms. The number of members on the Board may temporarily exceed the number of school districts until the expiration of the terms of the current Board members. During the transition, District 7 may temporarily have two (2) resident Board members, both of whom shall continue to hold office until their respective terms expire, and no Board member shall be elected in such district until the last such member's term expires. To establish staggered terms, the new seven (7) member Board shall be elected as follows: At the August 1994 General Election, one (1) member shall be elected from each of the even-numbered districts (Districts 2, 4 and 6) to serve a two (2) year terms, and one (1) member shall be elected from District 5 to a four (4) year term. At the August 1996 General Election, one (1) member shall be elected from District 1 to serve a two (2) year term, and one (1) member shall be elected from each of Districts 2, 4, and 6 to four (4) year terms. In the August 1998 General Election, one (1) member shall be elected from District 7 to a four (4) year term. Thereafter, all Board members shall be elected to for four (4) year terms.

**SECTION 4.** The Bledsoe County Board of Education shall have the same powers, duties, privileges and qualifications as the County Boards of Education established pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, except as otherwise provided herein.

**SECTION 5.** If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 6.** Nothing in this act shall be construed as having the effect of removing any incumbent from office or abridging the term of any official prior to the end of the term for which such official was elected.

**SECTION 7.** This Act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the county legislative body of Bledsoe County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the county legislative body of Bledsoe County and certified to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 8.** For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this Act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 4.

Passed: February 17, 1994.

## Education/Schools - Historical Notes

### **Board of Education**

The following acts once affected the board of education in Bledsoe County but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 56, created a board of education in Bledsoe County to be composed of three members elected by the people of the county at large. There is no repealing clause in this act except for conflicts concerning the superintendent. The members elected would take office on September 1, following their elections, for initial terms of two, four, and six years, and for six year terms thereafter. Hershhal Pope, Mrs. Tom Wood, and Hayden Wilson were named to serve until September 1, 1952, when their successors, elected in August of that year, would assume office. Members would be sworn and execute a \$2,000 bond, and would be paid the rate authorized under the state law. A chairman would be selected by the members. The superintendent of schools would also be elected to two year terms by popular vote, taking office on September 1, following the August election. Ray Greeson was named to serve until his successor was elected. All superintendents to be paid according to the salary set by law. The quarterly county court would fill any vacancy in either place until the next general August election. All boards of education and all positions of superintendent in existence at the day this act becomes effective are abolished. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1994, Chapter 121.
2. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, provided for the reorganization of the educational system in Bledsoe County by creating a board of education and county superintendent of schools. The act outlined the powers, duties, qualification and terms of the office of members of the board of education and county superintendent. Members of the board of education and the county superintendent were elected by a vote of the citizens of Bledsoe County at the regular county elections.
3. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 388, would have amended Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, published herein, by increasing the term of the superintendent of education from two years to four years but this act was rejected by the quarterly court in Bledsoe County and never became

an effective law under the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution.

4. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 387, would have amended Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, by changing the method of election for members of the school board to electing one from each civil district and not at large; by fixing their term of office at two years and by setting their compensation at \$500 per year. This act was also rejected by the quarterly county court and never became an effective law.
5. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 115, would have amended Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, by changing Section 3 so as to extend the term of the school superintendent from two to four years. This act was disapproved by the quarterly county court of Bledsoe County thus rendering it null and void and of no effect.
6. Private Acts of 1982, Chapter 207, would have amended Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, but it was not approved by local officials and therefore never became law.
7. Private Acts of 1982, Chapter 346, amended Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, by increasing the members of the county board of education from four to five and rewriting part of section 1.
8. Private Acts of 1994, Chapter 114, divided Bledsoe County into seven school districts and a county board of education, which consisted of seven members, with one member of the board being elected by the qualified voters in each school district. In addition, board members were to be elected to four staggered year terms. However, this act did not receive local approval and thus never became effective.

### **General Reference**

The following acts constitute part of the administrative and political heritage of the educational structure of Bledsoe County but are no longer operative since they have either been superseded, repealed, or failed to receive local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 109, named the boards of trustees for several county academies. In Bledsoe County, the trustees named were John Anderson, William Rodgers, Joseph Hodge, Michael Rawlings, William Christian, John Narrimore, and James Standifer who would serve as the trustee of Love Academy. All would have and could exercise the powers, authority, and prerogatives of other trustees.
2. Acts of 1817, Chapter 186, made it the duty of the surveyor for Bledsoe County, as soon as the treaty with the Cherokee Indians was ratified, to lay off school lands in the area which the Cherokees were relinquishing. This territory would be laid off in tracts of 640 acres each in such a way that each one would have the Sequatchie River running through it. After following this and other guidelines the surveyor shall make a plot of the same and file it with the county court clerk who would retain the same as part of his official records. The surveyor must be paid the normal fees for his services.
3. Private Acts of 1826, Chapter 15, Section 6, appointed John Bridgeman, Scott Terry, James Roberson, Isaac Stephens, Eli Thirmon, James A. Whiteside, Elisha Kirkland, and James Standifer, as a board of trustees for an academy in Bledsoe County which would be called the Kremer Academy. John Bridgeman was appointed chairman of the academy which was to be located in the town of Pikeville.
4. Private Acts of 1827, Chapter 175, authorized the board of trustees for Kremer Academy in Bledsoe County to locate the same on an eligible site within one mile of the town of Pikeville and so much of the prior act which conflicts with this act is repealed.
5. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 206, stated that the academy heretofore incorporated as the Kremer Academy shall hereafter be known as the Lafayette Academy, and by that name shall have, possess, exercise, and enjoy all the corporate rights and privileges heretofore conferred upon the Kremer Academy. The trustees of the former academy shall continue to serve as trustee for the new school.
6. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 15, Section 2, appointed Samuel L. Story as an additional trustee for Lafayette Academy in Bledsoe County.
7. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 76, Section 5, empowered the clerk and treasurer of the board of common school commissioners for Bledsoe County to perform all the duties required of the late bank agents of Bledsoe County.
8. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 303, Section 5, authorized the trustees of the Lafayette Academy in Bledsoe County to invest the funds of the academy in the stock of, or in the depositories of the Planter's Bank.

9. Acts of 1907, Chapter 236, abolished the district directors and established a board of education and a district board of advisors for every county in the state. The county court would divide the county into five school districts of equal or nearly equal population, composed of whose civil districts from each of which one member of the board of education would be elected. The county superintendent would serve as the secretary to the board, and would fill any vacancies to occur until another member could be elected. The duties of the chairman of the board, the secretary of the board, and the general powers of the board itself are specified in the act. A three member advisory board shall be elected to serve two year terms by the people in each civil district. Their duties are also specified among which was the task of taking the annual scholastic census to be reported to the superintendent. Vacancies on the advisory board would be filled by the superintendent. Several counties exempted themselves from the provisions of this act but Bledsoe did not. This act was litigated in the case of Whitthorne v. Turner, 155 Tenn. 303, 292 S.W. 147 (1927).
10. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 379, stated that the county superintendent of public instruction in Bledsoe County would be elected by the qualified voters in the general August election. The present superintendent shall continue in office until the expiration of the term on January 1, 1933. The superintendent elected in August, 1932 would not take office until January 1, 1933 and would serve until September 1, 1936 when the superintendent elected in August, 1936, would assume the office for four years. Salary for the superintendent was fixed at \$1,000 per year. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 111.
11. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 111, repealed Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 379.
12. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 114, provided that the county superintendent of public instruction in Bledsoe County shall be elected by the quarterly county court under Section 2346, Code of Tennessee. His term of office was four years and his salary was fixed at \$1,000 per year. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 159, and for all practical purposes was superseded by Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 463, Section 3.
13. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 116, created a three member county commission of education who would be appointed by the quarterly county court to two year terms. The members of the commission shall have the same qualifications and perform the same functions as are now performed by county boards of education. The commission would meet within five days after appointment and organize by selecting a chairman. Commissioners would be appointed regularly at the July session of the court and the act named E. G. Tollett, Robert T. Rogers, and Arthur Standifer to serve as commissioners until that time. They would draw the same compensation as members of the board of education were drawing. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 457.
14. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 117, abolished the county board of education in Bledsoe County by using 1930 Federal Census figures to identify the county.
15. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 458, provided that the administration, management, government, supervision, control, and conduct of all public school affairs in Bledsoe County would be vested in the county board of school commissioners to be elected by popular vote of the qualified voters in each civil district which were declared to be school districts as well. Each district would elect one member of the board to two year terms. Arthur Standifer, Robert T. Rogers, and E. G. Tollett were named as commissioners to serve until September 1, 1940, when those who were elected would assume office. Certain qualifications were established which one must meet in order to serve as a commissioner. When a vacancy occurred the remaining members would choose a successor to serve until the next election. If the members cannot agree, than a special election will be called to elect someone to fill the vacancy. The commissioners must be sworn and elect one of their members as chairman. Regular meetings would be held on the second Thursday in September, December, March, and June of each year, and at such special times as the chairman may designate. Their compensation shall be set by the quarterly court at \$4.00 per day, or less, and no compensation will be paid for special meetings. They shall have and exercise all the powers and authority of boards of education. All conflicting acts are repealed.
16. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 459, repealed Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 116, which created a county commission of education.
17. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 159, amended Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 114, by deleting Sections 1 and 2 and inserting new sections which returned the selection of the school superintendent to a popular vote for a four year term provided the incumbent superintendent would complete his term. Any vacancy occurring would be filled by the county board of school commissioners.



18. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 606, stated that the county board of education in Bledsoe County would consist of three members, one from each of the three civil districts, who shall have the qualifications, receive the compensation, and perform the duties now fixed by law who shall be elected every four years for four year terms. The county court shall elect the first board and their successors every four years thereafter. The county superintendent of education shall also be elected every four years by the quarterly county court beginning at the July, 1948 term. He shall have the same qualification, perform the same duties, and be paid the same salary as is now fixed by law. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 606, was attacked in its constitutionality in the case of Brown v. Brown, 187 Tenn. 617, 216 S.W. 333 (1948). The suit was based on the premise that the act included more than one subject but the supreme court ruled otherwise, sustaining the validity of the act. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 459.
19. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 637, amended Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 606, above, in lines of Section 1 by changing the method of election for members of the board of education from each civil district to the county at large, but the present members of the board shall serve until the expiration of their respective terms.
20. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 862, stated that there was such a small number of Negro high school students in Bledsoe County that facilities could best be provided for them in cooperation with other counties. This act was the authority for the board of education of Bledsoe County to contract with the board of education of any neighboring county to provide facilities for Negro high school student living in Bledsoe County. The board was further authorized to contract for the joint construction and maintenance of buildings and other physical facilities for Negro high school students for which public school funds may be used. Any contract must, however, be approved by the county court before becoming effective.
21. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 459, repealed Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 606, which provided for a board of education and a superintendent of education, and abolished the positions created under that act.

## Chapter VII - Elections

### Districts - Reapportionment

#### Private Acts of 1949 Chapter 638

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** Civil districts as described in the act reproduced below are no longer used for election purposes, but are preserved as they existed on March 7, 1978 for record-keeping purposes as required by T.C.A. § 5-1-112.

**SECTION 1.** That the present civil districts of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, numbering from one to three, both inclusive, be and the same are hereby abolished.

**SEC. 2.** That in lieu of the present three civil districts heretofore existing in Bledsoe County, Tennessee, there are hereby created nine civil districts for said County as follows:

First Civil District: The First Civil District of Bledsoe County shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of the Old Stage Coach road (the Lee's Station Road) on the side of the Cumberland Mountain at the Laurel Branch in the old First District line; thence, westward with the center of the Old Stage Coach road to the Van Buren County line; thence northeasterly, with the Van Buren County line to a point in the center of Highway No. 30; thence east with the center of said highway to the Louis Simmons' road; thence north with the center of the Louis Simmons' road to the Lucius Cove road; thence, with the center of Lucius Cove road in a southeast direction to the beginning of said road at Highway No. 30; thence, with Highway No. 30 to the eastern brow of Cumberland Mountain; thence, with the brow of the said mountain in a southwest direction to the intersection of Laurel Branch and the Old Stage Coach road, the beginning of said line.

Second Civil District: The Second Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of the T.V.A. power line where it crosses the brow of the mountain near Lucius Cove; thence, in an eastern direction with said power line to the center of the top of Cox Ridge; thence, in a southern direction down the crest of Cox Ridge to the southwest corner of Thos. J. Hutcheson's property line; thence, eastwardly with the Thos. J. Hutcheson's property line to the center of the Sequatchie River; thence, up the center of said river as it meanders to the southwest corner of the J. M. Pollard property line; thence, eastwardly with the

said Pollard property line to the southeast corner of said property or the brow of Walden's Ridge Mountain; thence, northward with the brow of said mountain to the Oxier Gaps Road; thence, in a northwest direction with the center of Oxier Gaps Road (Tom Wood's Lane) to the East Valley Road; thence, southward with the center of the East Valley Road to the Akin Lane; thence, northwestward with the center of the Akin Lane to Highway No. 28; thence, south with the center of the said highway to the Taylor Branch, that meanders through Moon and Roberts' property; thence, down the Taylor Branch meandering to the center of the Sequatchie River; thence, southwardly meandering with the said river to the northeast corner of the S. P. Little property line; thence, westwardly with said property line to the center of Highway 28; thence, southwardly down the center of said highway to intersection of Big Spring Gap Road; thence westwardly with meanders of said road to the cliff or brow of Cumberland Mountain; thence, southwestwardly with the brow of the mountain to the center of the T.V.A. power line, the beginning of the said line."

Third Civil District: The Third Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of T.V.A. power line at the brow of the mountain near what is known at Beatty's Cove; thence, southward with the brow and cliffs of the mountain to a point in the southern boundary of Mrs. Arthur Standefer's property; thence, westward with said Standefer's line to the center of the Sequatchie River; thence, down said river as it meanders to Sequatchie County line; thence, with the Sequatchie County line to the intersection of Hamilton County line; thence, with Hamilton County line to the Rhea County line; thence, with the Rhea County line to the center of the T.V.A. power line; thence west with the T.V.A. power line to the point of beginning.

Fourth Civil District: The Fourth Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning in center of Sequatchie River at Dr. Greer's Ford; thence, westward with the center of the road leading to Lee's Station to a point in the center of York Highway No. 28; thence, northward with the center of said highway to a point opposite the intersection of the North road leading up the Lee's Station Mountain; thence, with said Lee's Station Mountain road to Alton Greer's southwest corner; thence, northwest with Alton Greer's west boundary line to Tom Keener's southern boundary line; thence, westward with said Tom Keener's southern boundary line to brow or cliff of Cumberland Mountain; thence, northward with brow and cliff of Cumberland Mountain to Highway No. 30; thence with the center of said highway westwardly to a point and intersection of Highway No. 30 and Lucius Cove road; thence, with the center of Cove Road northwestward to the center of T.V.A. power line; thence, eastwardly with power line to center of top of Cox Ridge; thence, southwardly down center top of Cox Ridge to southwest corner to Thos. J. Hutcheson's property line; thence, eastwardly with property line to center of Sequatchie River; thence, northeast with river meanders to the southwest corner of the J. M. Pollard property line; thence, eastwardly with Pollard property line to southeast corner of said line or on the cliff on brow of Walden's Ridge Mountain cliff; thence, with the brow of said mountain as it meanders in a southwest direction to Crystal Creek Falls; thence, with the center of Crystal Creek as it meanders towards the Sequatchie River to a point in the center of the lower east Valley Road; thence, with the center of said road in a northern direction to the Lee's Station crossroad; thence, with the Lee's Station crossroad in a western direction to the center of said river, the point of beginning."

Fifth Civil District: The Fifth Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning southwest corner of Mrs. Arthur Standefer's line in center of Sequatchie River; thence, northwardly with said river as it meanders to a point in the center of the river at the Dr. Greer Ford; thence eastwardly with Lee's Station crossroad to lower east valley road; thence, southward with lower east valley road to a point in the center of the river at the Dr. Greer Ford; thence, eastwardly with Lee's Station crossroad to lower east valley road; thence, southward with the lower east valley road to a point in the center of Crystal Creek; thence, eastwardly with said creek as it meanders to a point in the brow of Walden's Ridge Mountain known as Crystal Creek Falls; thence, southward with the brow and cliffs of Walden's Ridge to southern boundary of Mrs. Arthur Standefer's property line; thence, westward with said line to the point of beginning."

Sixth Civil District: The Sixth Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of the Sequatchie River where it crosses the Sequatchie County line; thence, up the said river as it meanders to the Dr. Greer Ford; thence, westwardly with the center of the Lee's Station crossroad to the center of Highway No. 28; thence, northwardly with the center of said highway to the Lee's Station Mountain Road (the Old Stage Coach Road); thence, westwardly with said road to Alton Greer's southwest corner; thence, in a northern direction with Alton Greer's west boundary line to Tom Keener's southern boundary line; thence, westward with said Tom Keener's boundary line to the brow of Cumberland Mountain; thence, southwestward with the brow of the mountain to the Sequatchie County line; thence, southeastward with the

Sequatchie County line to the center of the Sequatchie River, the beginning point.”

Seventh Civil District: The Seventh Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of the Old Stage Coach road (the Lee's Station road) on the side of the Cumberland Mountain where the Laurel Branch crosses said road; thence, westwardly with the center of the Old Stage Coach road to the Van Buren County line; thence, southwestwardly with the Van Buren County line to the point where it joins the Sequatchie County line; thence, southeastwardly with the Sequatchie County line to the brow or cliff of the Cumberland Mountain; thence, northeastwardly with the brow of the mountain to the point where Laurel Creek crosses the Old Stage Coach road, the beginning of said line.”

Eighth Civil District: The Eighth Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of Highway No. 28, at the intersection of said highway and the Big Spring Gap road; thence, westward by the meanders of said Big Spring Gap road to the brow of Cumberland Mountain; thence, southwestwardly with the brow of said mountain to the center of the T.V.A. power line; thence, westwardly with said power line to the Lucius Cove road; thence northwestwardly with said road to the Lewis Simmon's road intersection; thence southwardly with said road to Highway No. 30; thence, westwardly with said highway to the Van Buren County line; thence northwardly with the Van Buren County line to where White County corners Bledsoe County; thence, eastwardly with Cumberland County line to the brow of Cumberland Mountain; thence, southwestward with the brow of said mountain to the northwest corner of the Old Charley Taylor line; thence, eastward with the Taylor line to the center of Highway No. 28; thence south with the center of said highway to the Taylor branch that meanders through Moon and Robert's property; thence, down the Taylor branch meandering to the center of the Sequatchie River; thence, southwardly meandering with the said river to the northeast corner of the S. P. Little property line; thence, westwardly with said property line to the center of Highway No. 28; thence, southwardly down the center of said highway to the intersection of the Big Spring Gap road, the point of beginning.”

Ninth Civil District: The Ninth Civil District of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, shall be as follows:

Starting at a point in the Cumberland County line at the Cliffs; running thence southwestward to the northwest corner of the old Charley Taylor line; thence, eastward with the Taylor line to the center of Highway No. 28; thence, north with center of York Highway to Akin Lane; thence, eastward with the Akin Lane as it meanders to east valley road; thence, northward with center of east valley road to the Leander Lee lane (now known as Tom Wood's lane); thence, eastward with said lane up Oxier Gap road to top brow of Walden's Ridge Mountain; thence, southward with brow of mountain to T.V.A. power line; thence, eastward with power line to Rhea County line; thence, northeastwardly with the Rhea County line to the Cumberland County line; thence, westwardly with said Cumberland County line to the brow of Cumberland Mountain, the beginning of said line.”

**SEC. 3.** That the following Justices of the Peace be and they are hereby appointed to serve until the first day of September, 1950 and until their successors are elected at the August, 1950, general election, and qualified.

For the First Civil District: Carmack Sapp and Norman C. Colvard; for the Second Civil District: Irvin Downey and George Brown; for the Third Civil District; [sic] Wayne Holloway and George Sullivan; for the Fourth Civil District: (which includes the County Town), George Herd, R. S. Evans and W. M. Greer; for the Fifth Civil District: Arthur Standefer and Shelton Greer; for the Sixth Civil District: Richard Cunningham and Edward Brown; for the Seventh Civil District: Henry Myers and John M. Johnson; for the Eighth Civil District: Otis Seals and U. S. Pugh; for the Ninth Civil District: Wendell Ault and Thompson Tollett.

**SEC. 4.** That the County Court of Bledsoe County at its first regular or duly called special meeting after the enactment of this Act, shall elect Constables in each of the said districts to serve until the first day of September, 1950, and until their successors are elected at the August, 1950, General Election, and qualified.

**SEC. 5.** The voting places in said districts be and they are hereby established as follows:

For the First Civil District: New School House and Griffith School House; for the Second Civil District: Cold Springs School House; for the Third Civil District: Sumner City, Brayton, Sunnyside; for the Fourth Civil District: The Courthouse in Pikeville, Blackburn's Store and Lincoln School House; for the Fifth Civil District: The place of holding elections shall be designated by the County Court under the provisions of Code Section 1943; for the Sixth Civil District: Lusk School House; for the Seventh Civil District: Old Cumberland School House; for the Eighth Civil District: Nine Mile and Bellvie School Houses; for the Ninth Civil District: Melvin and Luminary School House.

**SEC. 6.** That the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or words of its provisions be held unconstitutional or void, the remainder of this Act shall continue in full force and effect, it being the legislative intent that this Act would have been adopted even if such unconstitutional matter had not been included therein.

**SEC. 7.** That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

**SEC. 8.** That this Act shall take effect ten (10) days from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 8, 1949.

## Elections - Historical Notes

### Elections

The following is a listing of acts for Bledsoe County which affected the elective process, but which have been superseded or repealed. They are listed here for historical and reference purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1808, Chapter 74, set up the electoral districts in the state for the election of the president and vice-president. Of the five established districts, the counties of Knox, Blount, Anderson, Roane, Rhea, Bledsoe, and part of Campbell which was formerly in Roane County, constituted the third district. The votes would be counted at Knoxville.
2. Acts of 1811, Chapter 102, authorized Bledsoe County to hold a separate election for members of congress, governor, and members of the state legislature at a place called Big Springs under the same laws and regulations as other elections. All those residing north of the house of James Skilleron and the lines from his house to that of Phillip Thurman shall vote at Big Springs.
3. Acts of 1812, Chapter 5, divided Tennessee into eight presidential electoral districts. The fourth district was composed of the counties of Rhea, Bledsoe, Overton, White, Warren, Franklin, and Jackson.
4. Acts of 1812, Chapter 27, separated the state into six U.S. congressional districts. The third U.S. congressional district consisted of the counties of Anderson, Campbell, Roane, Rhea, Bledsoe, Overton, White, Warren and Franklin.
5. Acts of 1812, Chapter 57, apportioned Tennessee for the general assembly. Of the twenty state senators, Roane, Rhea, Anderson and Bledsoe counties would join together to elect one and the votes would be counted at Kingston on the Monday following the election. All counties would elect one representative to the assembly except those which were specified to elect more than one.
6. Acts of 1815, Chapter 31, divided the state into eight presidential electoral districts with the same counties being assigned to the same districts which were establishing in Acts of 1812 Chapter 5, each district electing one elector.
7. Acts of 1817, Chapter 56, provided that all elections to be hereafter held in Bledsoe County for governor, the general assembly and members of congress shall be held at Tolets Mill in the upper part of the county, at the courthouse in Pikeville, at some house in the town of Madison, and at the house of John Shropshire, all to be conducted under the general and regular election laws.
8. Public Acts of 1819, Chapter 69, apportioned Tennessee into twenty senatorial and forty representative districts. Anderson, Roane, Morgan, Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion, Hamilton, and McMinn would jointly elect one senator, counting votes at Kingston. Bledsoe and Marion counties would elect one representative jointly.
9. Public Acts of 1822, Chapter 1, created eight U.S. congressional districts in the state assigning Campbell, Anderson, Morgan, Roane, Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn and Monroe counties to the third U.S. congressional district.
10. Public Acts of 1823, Chapter 47, established eleven presidential electoral districts in the state. The fourth district contained the counties of Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn and Monroe. The polls would be counted and compared at Washington in Rhea County.
11. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 1, was a duplicate of Acts of 1823, Chapter 47, above, setting up eleven presidential electoral districts and assigning the same counties to each.
12. Public Acts of 1826, Chapter 3, apportioned Tennessee into twenty senatorial and forty representative districts. One senatorial district had Roane, Morgan, Rhea, Hamilton, Bledsoe, and Marion counties in it and polls would be compared at Washington for this district. Bledsoe and

Marion counties would join together to elect one representative.

13. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 17, divided the state into eleven presidential electoral districts of which the fourth was composed of the counties of Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion, Hamilton, McMinn and Monroe.
14. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 4, established thirteen U.S. congressional districts in Tennessee. The fourth congressional district at that time included the counties of Morgan, Roane, McMinn, Rhea, Hamilton, Bledsoe and Marion.
15. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 9, set up fifteen presidential electoral districts in the state, combining McMinn, Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion and Hamilton counties into the fifth district.
16. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 71, apportioned Tennessee for the general assembly. Roane, Rhea, Marion, Hamilton, and Bledsoe counties composed one senatorial district and elected one senator. Bledsoe, Marion, and Hamilton counties would jointly elect one representative, counting the polls at the house of William Henson in Bledsoe County on the first Saturday after the election.
17. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 76, provided for the election of sixty delegates at a Constitutional Convention to be held in Nashville on the first Monday in May next. Bledsoe and Marion counties would jointly elect one delegate at the election. The returning officers for the district, composed of Bledsoe and Marion counties, met at the house of James Standifer.
18. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 39, set up fifteen presidential electoral districts in Tennessee. The fifth district contained the counties of McMinn, Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion and Hamilton.
19. Acts of 1842, Second Session, Chapter 1, stated that the free, white male voters in Tennessee would elect 25 state senators and 50 representatives. Hamilton, Marion, Bledsoe, Rhea and Meigs counties composed the eighth senatorial district and joined together to elect one state senator, counting the polls at Harrison in Hamilton County. Bledsoe and Morgan would elect a representative jointly, comparing polls at Crossville in Bledsoe County.
20. Acts of 1842, Second Session, Chapter 7, organized the state into eleven U.S. congressional districts, assigning Knox, Roane, Bledsoe, Rhea, Meigs, McMinn, Polk, Bradley, Hamilton and Marion Counties to the third U.S. congressional district.
21. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 196, authorized ten U.S. congressional districts in Tennessee. The third district at that time contained the counties of Blount, Monroe, Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion and Roane.
22. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 197, reorganized the general assembly of the state. The counties of Rhea, Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton and Marion were all in one senatorial district counting polls at Harrison in Hamilton County. Rhea, Bledsoe and Hamilton counties would elect one representative jointly, meeting at Washington in Rhea County to count the polls.
23. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 90, Section 2, stated that hereafter the vote for joint representative from Bledsoe, Rhea and Hamilton counties would be compared at Harrison in Hamilton County.
24. Public Acts of 1865, Chapter 34, began the reconstruction of the state dividing it into eight U.S. congressional districts. In the third district were the counties of Rhea, Hamilton, Marion, Grundy, Bledsoe, Van Buren, Sequatchie, Warren, White, Smith, Cumberland, Putnam, Jackson, Macon, Overton, DeKalb and Fentress.
25. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 146, reapportioned Tennessee for the general assembly probably based on the 1870 Federal Census. Rhea, James, Hamilton, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Grundy and Van Buren composed the seventh senatorial district. Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Hamilton, Grundy and Van Buren would jointly elect a representative.
26. Acts of 1872, Extra Session, Chapter 7, added a U.S. congressional district to Tennessee, making nine. The third district contained the counties of Blount, Loudon, Roane, Monroe, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Polk, Bradley, James, Hamilton, Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Grundy, Van Buren and Warren.
27. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 27, added still another U.S. congressional district to the state making ten in all. Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Bradley, James, Hamilton, Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Van Buren, White, Warren, DeKalb, Cannon and Cumberland counties were all in the third U.S. congressional district.
28. Public Acts of 1881, Extra Session, Chapter 6, organized the general assembly in accordance with the act above. The ninth senatorial district was composed of Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Van Buren, Rhea, Cumberland, Morgan and White counties. Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Van Buren and Cumberland counties would jointly elect one representative.

29. Public Acts of 1882, Chapter 27, apportioned Tennessee for the congress probably based on the 1880 Federal Census. There were ten U.S. congressional districts. The third district contained the counties of Monroe, Polk, Bradley, Hamilton, James, McMinn, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Grundy, Van Buren, White and Warren.
30. Acts of 1891, Extra Session, Chapter 10, reapportioned the general assembly of the state. The ninth senatorial district consisted of the counties of Rhea, Bledsoe, White, Cumberland, Sequatchie, Van Buren and Morgan. Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Van Buren and Cumberland counties would jointly elect one representative.
31. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 109, divided the state into ten U.S. congressional districts, placing the counties of Monroe, Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Bradley, James, Hamilton, Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Van Buren, Grundy, White, Warren and Franklin in the third U.S. congressional district.
32. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 122, did the same for the general assembly. The ninth state senatorial district comprised the counties of Rhea, Meigs, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Van Buren, White and Cumberland, while Cumberland, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Van Buren and Grundy made up the eleventh representative district.
33. Acts of 1907, Chapter 554, amended Public Acts of 1897, Chapter 17, so as to make the provisions of that act apply to Bledsoe County without regard to the number of civil districts in the county or the population of the civil districts. The amended 1897 act also amended Acts of 1890, Extra Session, Chapter 24, which concerned the printing of ballots, the registration of voters, and the imposition of other regulations on the manner of conducting public elections.

### **Districts - Reapportionment**

The acts listed below have affected the civil districts in Bledsoe County, but are no longer operative regarding elections. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 162, Section 3, moved the tenth civil district of Bledsoe County, and the first and second civil districts of Marion County into Hamilton County.
2. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 122, Section 8, stated that portion of Bledsoe County which lies on Walden's Ridge, north of the fifth civil district, shall constitute a new tenth civil district for the county. One of the first duties performed at the formation of a new county was for the commissioners, generally appointed for that purpose, to divide the new county into civil districts so that justices of the peace and constables could be elected.
3. Acts of 1903, Chapter 521, created six civil districts in Bledsoe County to take the place of those existing at the time. The new civil districts were composed of whole former civil districts. All but the third civil district shall have two justices of the peace and one constable each, but the third shall have an additional justice and constable for the county seat. Voting precincts would remain as they were. This reduction was for the purpose of conserving resources and funds.
4. Acts of 1909, Chapter 505, reduced the number of civil districts in Bledsoe County from six to three which were also composed of former whole civil districts. The first and third civil districts would have two justices of the peace and one constable but the second civil District, which had the county seat, would have three justices and two constables. Voting precincts would not be changed and all the civil districts and elective positions not provided for under this act were abolished.
5. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 287, created five civil districts to take the place of the three then existing in Bledsoe County, although no repealing clause is contained in the act nor any express abolition of the three former civil districts. The new districts are described by metes and bounds. Voting precincts were named in the first district to be Bethel, Hembree Mill, and Rainly; in the second district as Pikeville and Billingsley; in the third district to be Nine Mile, Melvine, and Luminary; in the fourth district to be New Harmony, James' Store, and Hendon Chapel, and in the fifth district, the precincts were located at the new schoolhouse and Bellview.
6. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 934, added a new sixth civil district to Bledsoe County which was taken from the third civil district and embraced the area described in the act. A special election would be held within 20 days to choose two justices of the peace and a constable. The voting precinct would be at "Griffith Schoolhouse."
7. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 223, reduced the number of civil districts in Bledsoe County from six to five, placing most of the sixth civil district in the fourth under this act. The justices of the peace and the constables were abolished as they existed in the old fourth district and new ones would be elected from the new area of the district. The act abolished the voting precincts at Hendon's Chapel, Center Point, Melvine, and New Harmony, and new precincts were established

at Bethel and Summer City.

8. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 110, established eight civil districts in Bledsoe County instead of the existing five, all being described individually with metes and bounds descriptions. They could not be changed except by the act of the general assembly. This act would not affect the tenure of office of any elected official of the district, and vacancies would be filled by special elections. Any conflicting acts were repealed.
9. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 110, abolished the eight civil districts of Bledsoe County and created three civil districts in their room and stead describing each with a regular detailed description. The election commission would hold an election within 30 days from passage of this act to elect justices of the peace and constables as required by law. Those magistrates who were elected to represent incorporated cities would serve out their terms and no more would be elected in those towns. The county seat would have a justice and a constable, however.

## Chapter VIII - Health

### Healthcare Facilities Board

#### Private Acts of 2010 Chapter 36

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 94 of the Private Acts of 1967, as amended by Chapter 75 of the Private Acts of 1981, and any other amendatory acts thereto, is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 2.** That the general and overall purpose of this Act be, and the same is hereby declared to be, to cause healthcare facilities to be maintained, managed, and operated within Bledsoe County.

**SECTION 3.** That all authorities granted hereunder to the Healthcare Facilities Board to be created hereby and to be established in accordance with this Act by said County, and any amendments to such authority under the auspices of this Act or other applicable law, not herein or by other applicable law expressly or by necessary implication authorized to be otherwise taken, shall occur pursuant to action of the County Legislative Body of said County. Any expansion, limitation, amendments or modifications to the authorities crated or granted hereby to the Healthcare Facilities Board by the County Legislative Body shall occur or be had only upon a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the County Legislative Body at a regular or special called meeting of the County Legislative Body for said County.

**SECTION 4.** That the Healthcare Facilities Board is the successor entity to the Board of Hospital Directors for Bledsoe County General Hospital, established by Chapter 94 of the Private Acts of 1967-68, as amended. All leases, contracts and all contract rights and responsibilities in existence with the Board of Hospital Directors with respect to the duties transferred in accordance with this Act shall be preserved and transferred to the Healthcare Facilities Board. All assets, liabilities and obligations of the Board of Hospital Directors with respect to the duties transferred in accordance with this Act shall become the assets, liabilities and obligations of the Healthcare Facilities Board.

**SECTION 5.** That the County shall be, and is hereby authorized to acquire, purchase or lease land and/or to erect, construct, acquire, purchase or lease buildings, equipment, fixtures and personal properties or to otherwise own, purchase, sell, lease and dispose of facilities for general healthcare purposes consisting of but not limited to a General Hospital, Nursing Home, Convalescent Care Center, Clinics, Urgent Care and Primary Care facilities, or other related medical care facilities of every type and nature within Bledsoe County.

**SECTION 6.** That Bledsoe County be and is hereby authorized to acquire, maintain, operate, manage or lease such hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent care facilities, clinics, care centers and/or other related medical and healthcare facilities through a Healthcare Facilities' Board of Directors, which Board is hereby created, and which Board shall have and exercise, for and on behalf of the County, full authority and powers in and for the purpose of the general and governing control and supervision of the maintenance and operation of such facilities by the County, including the authority and powers to formulate, adopt, prescribe, and carry out policies, plans, rules and regulations for the management, maintenance and operation of such facilities by the County. In accordance with applicable statutory law, the Healthcare Facilities Board shall have the right and power, with the approval of the County Legislative Body, to execute contracts and to pledge the income and assets of such facilities in order to obtain funds for the operation of such institutions and for the acquisition of equipment, properties, supplies or capital improvements.

**SECTION 7.** The Healthcare Facilities Board shall be composed of six (6) members who are citizens of the County and who have resided in the County for at least two (2) years and shall be at least twenty-one

(21) years of age. Not more than three (3) members of the Board shall be persons who are also County Commissioners. The members of the Board shall be designated and appointed by the County Legislative Body. The terms of office shall be for four (4) years, and shall be so staggered that not more than two (2) members will be elected each year in order to have a continuing Board so that there will always be experienced members on the Board. The initial six (6) members of the Board shall be comprised of the existing Board of Hospital Directors, which Board was initially established by Chapter 94 of the Private Acts of 1967-68, as amended. The terms of two (2) members of the Board of Hospital Directors, or the terms of their predecessors in office expired on February 1, 1970, and terms of two (2) members of the Board of Hospital Directors, or their predecessors in office, expired on February 1, 1971 and the terms of two (2) members of the Board of Hospital Directors, or their predecessors in office, expired on February 1, 1972, and a staggered four (4) year succession has continued thereafter. This staggered succession shall remain in full force and effect for the Healthcare Facilities Board created hereunder, and the County Legislative Body shall appoint two (2) members to the Board each year at its first regular meeting after January 1. A Director whose term has expired shall continue to serve until his or her successor shall have been selected in the manner herein provided. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the Board shall be filled at the next regular or special called meeting of the County Legislative Body. Each member of the Healthcare Facilities Board shall, before entering upon the duties of his or her office, make and file with Clerk of the County Court an oath to the effect that he or she will faithfully, honestly and impartially discharge the duties of his or her office to the best of his or her ability.

**SECTION 8.** That the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board shall receive no compensation for their services but may be paid their necessary expenses incurred in the proper exercise of their duties as members of the Board.

**SECTION 9.** That the Board shall, at its first meeting after January 1 of each year, organize by electing one (1) of their number as Chairperson and shall also elect a Secretary, who may or may not be a member of such Board. It will be the duty of the Directors to hold a meeting on no less than a quarterly basis at some place designated by the Directors. They shall meet at any other time upon the call of the Chairperson, or upon the call of any three (3) Directors. The Board shall keep complete, permanent and public records and minutes reflecting all business and transactions of the Board.

**SECTION 10.** That the powers and duties of the Board shall include the authority to contract or enter into management agreements for all facilities or to lease such facilities. Absent such management or lease agreements, and/or when not provided for by such agreements, the powers and duties of the Board shall include the authority to engage, employ, contract with or otherwise obtain, retain, regulate and control the services of administrators or superintendents, to be in immediate charge of and to personally administer or superintend the maintenance and operation of such facilities by the County, which administrator or superintendent shall so serve at the will, consistent with any applicable contract provisions, of the Board and be directly responsible and accountable to it for and in connection with such operation of the facilities. The compensation of such administrator or superintendent, and any other benefits or other matters in connection with his compensation or basis therefore, shall be as prescribed by the Board. Such administrator or superintendent shall execute and remain under surety bond payable to the State of Tennessee for the use and benefit of the County in such amount and with such surety or sureties as may be prescribed by the Board and be approved by its Chairman and Secretary to be conditioned so as to assure the full, faithful, complete and honest performance of the duties of such administrator or superintendent and the accounting for and paying over into the office of the County Trustee, in the manner as hereinafter provided, all funds collected or otherwise received in or by virtue of the operation of the healthcare facilities by the County, and to account for, preserve or turn over to the Board all funds on hand, materials, supplies and equipment. Any person authorized by the Board to countersign checks shall also be required to execute a like surety bond in an amount to be determined by the Board.

**SECTION 11.** For such facilities, the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board shall administer its own financial affairs, and maintain separate banking arrangements. All disbursements made by the Board shall be made by check, signed by the Administrator (if any) or other person designated by the Board and countersigned by at one (1) member of the Board or other person designated by the Board. The Board shall install and maintain a system of double entry accounting of all funds received and expended. The Board shall annually prepare and submit to the County Legislative Body a budget reflecting in detail all estimated receipts and disbursements of the facilities. Said Budget shall be for the fiscal year July 1st to June 30th, and shall be submitted by the Board not later than May 1st, prior to the commencement of the fiscal year.

**SECTION 12.** The County Legislative Body of Bledsoe County be and the same is hereby authorized to appropriate to the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board from the General fund of the County, such sums as may be required for the operation and management of all Healthcare Facilities, and thereafter



such sums as may be required to pay any deficits arising in the operation, management or maintenance of said facilities; and the County Legislative Body is further authorized and empowered to levy a Hospital tax or other taxes sufficient for this purpose upon all the taxable property located in said County; and provided that the funds derived from such levies shall be carried on the official books and records of said County, separate and apart from other accounts, and which tax shall be in addition to the levies for general county purposes when collected by the Trustee and received by the Trustee from other miscellaneous revenue shall be transferred by the Trustee to the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board. The County Legislative Body is further authorized to direct other taxes or revenues available for general purposes for the operation, maintenance and management of such Healthcare Facilities.

**SECTION 13.** That on the fifteenth (15th) day of July of every year hereinafter, such profits or funds that are in the hands of the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board, after retaining such amount or amounts in the Board's sole discretion as they may deem necessary or advisable for working capital, will be delivered over the Trustee of Bledsoe County and take his or her receipt therefore. Such profits or funds delivered over to the Trustee will be set aside by the Trustee in a separate and dedicated fund for healthcare facilities' purposes. Any and all interest or earnings generated through the investment of such funds by the Trustee shall inure to the benefit of this fund and be paid into this fund rather than the general fund of Bledsoe County or retained by the Trustee in this fund, to be used for healthcare facilities' purposes rather than for the general purposes of Bledsoe County, unless the Healthcare Facilities Board specifically authorizes the use of such interest for other county purposes.

**SECTION 14.** That the Directors of the Healthcare Facilities Board shall cause an audit to be made annually of the books and records of said hospital by a Certified Public Accountant and reports of said audit, properly certified, shall be to the County Mayor who shall present the same to the County Legislative Body. A copy of said audit shall be filed with the County Court Clerk which shall become a public record and be open to the inspection of any interested citizen or taxpayer.

**SECTION 15.** That all laws, on parts of laws, in conflict with or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, or any part thereof, are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 16.** That should any Section, or part of a Section, of this Act be declared unconstitutional or for any reason invalid, same shall not be held to impair or invalidate the constitutionality, validity, force or effect of any other section or part of this Act, it being expressly declared by the General Assembly that this Act and the remaining Sections, or parts of Sections, would have been approved or adopted without regard to the invalidity or unconstitutionality of any part of a Section, unless it clearly appears that the remainder of the Act be necessarily dependent upon that part declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 17.** For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 18.

**SECTION 18.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall have been approved by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the County Legislative Body of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, on or before the next regular meeting of said County Legislative Body occurring more than sixty (60) days after its approval by the Chief Executive of this State. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the County Legislative Body of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, and shall be certified by him to the Secretary of State.

Passed: February 17, 2010.

## Health - Historical Notes

### Health

The following summary is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 2010, Chapter 65, almost identical to Private Acts of 2010, Chapter 36 included herein. No action was taken on Private Acts of 2010, Chapter 65.

## Chapter IX - Highways and Roads

### Road Law

### Private Acts of 1941 Chapter 153

**SECTION 1.** That all counties of this State having a population of not less than 8,358 and not more than 8,368 under the Federal Census of 1940, or any subsequent Federal Census, shall elect at the next

general election in August, 1942, a Road Supervisor, who shall hold his office for a term of two years or until his successor is elected and qualified, provided that no member of the County Court shall be eligible to the office of Road Supervisor. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, Bob Evans is hereby designated to serve as Road Supervisor until the regular election in August, 1942, with the same salary and authority given the Road Supervisor to then be elected.

The said Road Supervisor shall take his oath of office in September following the election as other county officers, and before he assumes the duties and obligations of his office he shall be required to make an indemnity bond, to be paid out of said gas tax, in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) with some solvent bonding company authorized to do business in Tennessee, payable to the County, that he will faithfully and honestly comply with the requirements of his office. The Road Supervisor may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Quarterly County Court at any of their regular quarterly sessions upon conviction, after trial, that he has been guilty of any illegal acts in office, but he shall first be furnished with a copy of the charges against him at least five days before date of trial. In case of vacancy in the office of the Road Supervisor, and occurring while the Quarterly County Court is not in session, the same shall be filled by appointment made by the Judge or Chairman of the County Court, to hold until the next meeting of the Quarterly County Court, when the vacancy will be filled by the Court until the next regular August election. The Road Supervisor shall be a resident of the County, a freeholder, and must have had previous experience as a road builder and known to be a well-qualified man with the ability to deal with the public and to handle efficiently and ably the workers under his supervision. The said Road Supervisor shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, which may be increased or diminished from time to time. In the event the County needs his services in connection with other road construction or in securing rights-of-way for other roads or highways, not directly under his supervision, he must make himself available. The said Road Supervisor, when elected under this Act, shall receive Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) a month for his services and in addition thereto he shall be allowed a county-owned automobile or pickup truck to make his trips over the County roads. Said upkeep and gas used in this county-owned truck or automobile shall be paid out of the County road fund, as well as all salaries incidental to the various road operations shall be paid from said road fund. Said road fund is created by the gas tax received from the state, and should at any time this gas tax be withheld for any cause from the County, then all expenses of road building, including salaries, shall terminate and payments cease. The bookkeeper hereinafter named shall draw his pay from the road or gas fund the same as other payments are made.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 614  
Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 131  
Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 127

**SEC. 2.** That a road supervisor of said County shall appoint for a term of one year a road overseer for each Civil District of the County, who may or may not be subject to road duties hereinafter provided; provided, that when such overseer is subject to the road duties hereinafter provided, he shall be exempt from actual labor during his term of office. Such overseer shall serve as many days in his official capacity as are fixed to road hands by the County Court without compensation except as hereinafter provided, and for each additional day's service in warning hands and in superintending the roads, he shall receive as compensation \$2.50 per day, not to exceed 10 days in any one year. He shall have charge and care of the tools, materials, etc., belonging to his section of roads, shall keep an account and take care of same, and shall turn the same to his successor in office when appointed. It shall be a misdemeanor for any such overseer, having received notice in writing of his appointment, to fail or refuse to serve as such overseer, to fully and faithfully perform his duties as such overseer, and to keep at all times his section of roads in a reasonably good state of repair throughout his entire term of office. He is especially required to see that all ditches are kept open and that no mudholes, ruts or washouts are allowed to remain in any of his roads longer than five days at any one time, and also to see that all ditches and culverts are kept open; and the Grand Juries of the respective counties of this State within the provisions of this Act shall have inquisitorial power to investigate the conduct of an overseer appointed under this Act, especially as to the condition and state of repair of the roads of his district, and any fine or fines collected under the provisions of this Act shall be paid to the County Trustee and credited to the road funds of said County. All overseers shall file an itemized statement with the Road Supervisor at the end of each month showing what roads he has repaired, the conditions of his roads, giving a list of all parties subject to road duty who have been warned and have failed to work out their time on the road, and to furnish stub to receipt for each party who has worked the road taxes assessed against him for that year.

**SEC. 3.** That all male residents of the counties of this State within the provisions of this Act, living outside of any incorporated town, over the age of 21 years and under the age of 45 years, except those who shall be exempt by the County Court for physical or mental disabilities, which disabilities shall wholly incapacitate said party from performing manual labor, shall be subject to road labor upon the respective sections of the public roads as have been established by the Road Supervisor, or nearest to which such

person resides, and to which they have been assigned by the Road Supervisor. The Road Overseer shall give three days' warning, either in person or written notice, left at the residence or usual stopping place of such person subject to road duty, of the time and place work will begin upon his section of the road, to all parties subject to road duties assigned to that section, and in case any hands so warned shall willfully fail or refuse to faithfully and honestly comply with the directions of the overseer to perform as many days' labor on that section of road to which he has been assigned, as are fixed upon him by the County Court, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

It shall be the duty of the overseer to report to the Road Supervisor all persons so refusing to work out the number of days fixed upon him or them, by the County Court, and it shall be the duty of the Road Supervisor to swear out warrants against all such delinquents before some justice of the peace and for the overseer and other essential witnesses summoned to give evidence against such delinquent; provided, that any road hand upon which a number of days' work has been fixed by the County Court under the provisions of this Act may commute same and be discharged therefrom by paying to the Trustee of the County, on or before the day appointed for road work upon the section of the road to which he has been assigned \$1.00 for every day's work to which he is subject, and all moneys so received from such person shall be expended upon the road section to which such person has been assigned. The overseer shall be present and superintend all work done upon his section of road, and he shall not require more than four days in any one week for work on any one section of road, nor shall any overseer receive pay for more than one warning or notice to hands for anyone working. Provided, further, that notice be given to hands at the close of the day's work to work upon any subsequent day within the next thirty days, fixed designated by said overseer, shall be legal and sufficient.

**SEC. 4.** That at the July term, 1941, and at any subsequent July term thereafter, that the Quarterly Court in their discretion shall fix within the provisions of this Act the number of days of labor to be performed by road hands subject to road duties hereinafter provided, but shall not be more than six days of eight hours each in any one year.

**SEC. 5.** That the overseers hereinbefore provided for shall have charge of all roads in their respective district other than State or Federal roads, but their respective authority over roads in their district shall be secondary to the authority of the County Road Supervisor and amenable to him at all times.

**SEC. 6.** That the Road Supervisor shall have general supervision of all common and graded and macadamized roads in the County, other than the State and Federal highways. He shall have control of the funds derived from taxation or otherwise for the construction and maintenance of all roads in the County under the limitations hereinafter provided for. It shall be the duty of the Road Supervisor to purchase all machines, tools, supplies, etc., under the rules of public advertising for sealed bids for each month's supplies upon estimates or requisitions. All bids to be opened on a fixed date in the office of the County Judge or Chairman in the presence of the County Judge or Chairman, the Clerk of the County Court and the road supervisor, and the contract for purchase awarded to the lowest and best bidder. An emergency fund of \$500.00 is hereby set up each month and the same to be used by the road supervisor in the purchasing of materials, machinery and other articles necessary for the carrying on of his duties as such road supervisor, and any of this money expended by him during the month shall be accounted for at the end of the month in full. Any of said fund not expended at the end of the month shall revert to the general road fund of the County. It shall be the duty of the road supervisor to take receipts showing the full amounts paid for such purchases for any company, firm, individual or from any source that said purchases shall be made and to file said receipts along with his reports to be made monthly, with the clerk of the County Court, which shall become a part of the road records and which shall be kept as a public record. The road supervisor shall not incur any debt beyond the sum set apart for roads for each current year, and at the expiration of his term of office any and all debts so incurred shall become an obligation against himself and his bondsmen and shall be collected by the County as other debts, and when paid, shall be returned to the county road fund.

He shall keep or cause to be kept a record of all his actions, preserve all papers, accounts, petitions and reports which may come into his hands and which shall become public records, subject to inspection to anyone who may desire to see them. He shall before giving order for payment carefully audit the accounts of overseers and other persons employed by him. He shall keep a complete and full record of all claims which he orders paid and shall draw an order on the county judge or chairman for same which shall state in detail for what purpose this order is to be paid, and it shall be the duty of the county judge or chairman to audit the account or ordered paid and to issue warrant to the trustee for payment which shall constitute a charge against the county road fund. The road supervisor shall make or cause to be made a complete detailed report to each Quarterly County Court term, same to be made out in duplicate, one to be retained in the office of the road supervisor and the other to be filed with the County Court Clerk for public view. At the first session each year of the Quarterly County Court a complete inventory of all the county's road machinery, tools and all other property shall be shown in said report, showing in what repair

same is at the beginning of each year as well as to show in said report the conditions of each district roads and bridges.

**SEC. 7.** That said road supervisor shall have the authority and it shall become his duty to lay out all roads in the county and classify them into first-class, second-class, third-class and fourth-class roads. First-class roads shall not be less than 24 feet in width, second-class not less than 18 feet wide, third-class not less than 14 feet wide, and fourth-class not less than 9 feet wide. Said road supervisor can make any changes in the county roads as the public needs may require by cutting down grades, ditching, cutting off rights-of-way, opening or closing by mutual consent with interested parties to adjacent properties by written agreements. Except as provided herein, no public funds shall be spent on private roads, without first laying them off and designating them as public roads, to be included within the above classes to be kept open to the public. Any other method for opening roads shall be within the provisions of the general law of condemnation procedure. It is further provided that the road supervisor shall have control of the building, repairing and maintaining of all bridges and culverts within the county road system, and shall buy only first-class material for the use in the construction and repairing of said bridges.

The County Judge and Road Supervisor jointly are authorized, upon the appropriation of funds to the road fund of the county for that purpose, to direct that personnel, equipment or materials of the County Highway Department may be used to spread rock or gravel upon such driveways or private roads entering onto a public road as the County Judge and Road Supervisor may designate and to direct that personnel and/or equipment of the County Highway Department may be used to excavate graves at such sites as the County Judge and Road Supervisor may designate, all under such terms and conditions as such officials may provide.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1976, Chapter 200

**SEC. 8.** That the road supervisor shall have full power to hire and to fire men employed to do road work and that all overseers shall be directly responsible to said road supervisor in the performance of their respective duties as overseers or foremen. He shall fix their wages, which shall be in accordance with the prevailing wage scale for like work in the community where their work is performed, he shall have the authority and it shall be his duty to get the best qualified men to use with the operation of the county's machinery.

**SEC. 9.** That the road supervisor shall have authority to appoint a bookkeeper, prescribe his duties and fix his compensation and said bookkeeper shall serve at the pleasure of said road supervisor. Said bookkeeper is to keep all the records of the County Highway Department and is to work in the office of the road supervisor. No member of the County Court shall be eligible for the office of bookkeeper for said County Highway Department. Said compensation of said bookkeeper when fixed shall be paid from the county's gas tax road fund, and chargeable thereto. Before said bookkeeper assumes the duties and obligations of his office he shall be required to make an indemnity bond in the amount of \$1,000.00 with good and sufficient security approved by said supervisor, payable to the county, that he will faithfully and honestly comply with the requirements of his said office.

**SEC. 10.** That this Act shall be liberally construed and interpreted, and its provisions are hereby declared to be severable. If any of its sections, provisions, exceptions, sentences, clauses, phrases or parts be held unconstitutional or void, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect, it being the legislative intent now hereby declared that this Act would have been adopted even if such unconstitutional or void matter had not been included therein.

**SEC. 11.** That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed, and this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 5, 1941.

## Highways and Roads - Historical Notes

### **Highways and Roads - Historical Notes**

The following is a listing of acts which once had some effect upon the county road system in Bledsoe County, but which are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1812, Chapter 84, authorized the county court of Bledsoe County to appoint at their next meeting a jury of 12 freeholders for the purpose of laying off one acre of land which would be divided by the turnpike road in the county at the foot of Spencer's Hill on which would be erected a toll gate and a house for the toll gate keeper. Five, or more, of the jurors could lay off and place a value on the acre, make a plot of the same, and file all of this with the county court. This would not be done as long as the states agent and property owner were in agreement. The gate keeper would be paid \$150 per year, and the solicitor-general shall defend any suit filed relating

to the above.

2. Acts of 1817, Chapter 142, was the authority for Samuel Perry to open a turnpike starting at the foot of Walden's Ridge in Rhea County, at some point near Jacobs Wassam's and Richland Creek and running on the most direct course to Pikeville. Isaac Stephens and Reuben Brown, of Bledsoe County, and Alexander Ferguson, of Rhea County, were appointed as commissioners to examine and inspect the road as it was being built.
3. Private Acts of 1820, Chapter 83, made it the duty of the proprietors of the road across the mountain running from Pikeville to McMinnville to work that road beginning at the foot of the mountain between Pikeville and Phillip Hoodenpyle, Senior, and from there along the mountain side to where it forms a junction with the old mountain road. James and Luke Standifer were allowed to continue the work on the road in Marion County. Abraham Thomas, of Bledsoe County, was appointed a commissioner to succeed Isaac Stephens.
4. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 6, required the county courts of all the counties to index and classify the roads in their respective counties. Three classes of roads were defined according to width and surfacing material. Penalties were set up for those who obstructed roads in any way and for failing to abide by the terms of this act. This act was the first step towards modernizing the state road system and served as a model for others following.
5. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 124, established the road leading from Benjamin Hills to John Rains across Cumberland Mountain as a road of the second class. The county courts of Warren and Bledsoe counties shall appoint overseers for the road and allot the overseers a sufficient number of road hands to keep the road in good condition. Any person who damaged or obstructed the road was subject to a stiff fine.
6. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 170, stated that John Simpson and Isaac Brown of White County and Scott Terry and Robert Montgomery of Bledsoe County were authorized to cut out a road on the nearest and the best way from the foot of the mountain at Isaac Brown's in White County towards Pikeville so as to intersect Raney's and Hoodenpiles Road at or near John Hall's. The above named people must report to the county court of each county and citizens of either county may use the road on a one-horse basis without having to pay any toll.
7. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 290, appointed Charles Sherrell, Charles Wilson, and Aquilla Nall, as commissioners to view, work, and lay off the road from the foot of Walden's Ridge near Widow Wilson's property, running a direct course across the ridge to White's Creek in Roane County. They were to examine and inspect the road when completed and see that the tolls specified in the act were the ones being charged on the road.
8. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 215, repealed the section of the act authorizing Scott Terry and Robert Montgomery to build a turnpike road, above, which exempted the citizens of Bledsoe and White counties from paying toll fees.
9. Private Acts of 1826, Chapter 19, authorized Reuben Ross to open and keep in repair a turnpike road commencing at or near Grassy Cove on Gordon's Turnpike in Bledsoe County and running thence southward to the foot of the mountain at Lost Creek near Henry Avery's property in White County. William Denny and Isaac Taylor were appointed commissioners to inspect the road.
10. Private Acts of 1827, Chapter 198, Section 7, named Jonathan Whiteside as a Commissioner to inspect the Simpson, Brown, Terry, and Montgomery Turnpike every three months to see that the same is repaired if it needs it. He would receive the same compensation as the other commissioners. The citizens of White and Bledsoe counties were exempted from paying the toll charges. Section 11, of the same act, appointed Samuel Cathey, Senior, of Bledsoe County, and Spilesby Dyer, of Rhea County, as commissioners for Hugh Beaty's Turnpike Road.
11. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 40, appointed William Gillingwater, of Rhea County, as an additional commissioner for the turnpike road running from the foot of Walden's Ridge to Bledsoe County, commonly called Beatties Turnpike.
12. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 53, released and discharged the owners and proprietors of the turnpike road running from Bledsoe to Rhea County, know as Beatties Turnpike, from the payment of any tax for keeping a turnpike gate on said road, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.
13. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 209, authorized for Joseph B. Woodward, Samuel Cathey, Thomas J. Hazlerig, and Orville Potts to open a turnpike road, starting near Aquilla Johnson's place, running near Cathey's Mill across Walden's Ridge to Washington in Rhea County, which would be eighteen feet wide if the ground permitted. John Ayers and Henry Collins of Bledsoe County were named commissioners to examine and inspect the road and report its condition to

- the county court. The road must be kept in good repair or no tolls were to be charged.
14. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 263, declared the Sequatchie River from its junction with the Tennessee River as high as old Madison in Bledsoe County to be a navigable stream free and open to all transport, boats, rafts, or other water craft without obstruction or interruption. All violators could be fined up to \$50.00 and no person was allowed to fell timber so that the same would fall into the stream.
  15. Private Acts of 1831, Chapter 90, appointed John Gillentine as a commissioner upon the turnpike road leading from the foot of the Cumberland Mountain near Crows in White County to the foot of the same mountain at Pikeville, and he has the power to open the gate when he finds the road out of repair. He was to be paid \$1.50 per day for all the time he necessarily spends upon the road. The operator of the road will also pay \$25 for each time he fails to keep the road in good condition plus having the gate opened.
  16. Private Acts of 1833, Chapter 192, Section 9, authorized William Hixon to open a turnpike road in Bledsoe County.
  17. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 191, Section 5, appropriated \$5,000 towards the improvement of the Sequatchie River out of the \$100,000 to be spent on river improvements in East Tennessee. \$2,000 was allotted to Bledsoe County to improve the Sequatchie which would be spent under the supervision of Adam Lamb, John Bridgeman, and James L. Schoolfield.
  18. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 11, incorporated Daniel Clark, Mark Lowery, Madison Fiske, and Barlowe Fiske, proprietors of the road leading from Sparta, in White County, to Crab Orchard, in Bledsoe County, as "Sparta and Crab Orchard Turnpike Company," and granted them an additional two years in which to complete the road.
  19. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 29, authorized for Scott Terry and Thomas Gardner to open a turnpike starting at a point on the road leading from Pikeville to McMinnville at or near John Fleming's in Van Buren County which would follow the most practical route towards Kingston so as to intersect the Sparta-Kingston Road, near Charles Lowry's. Peter Hoodenpyle, of Bledsoe County, and David Walling of Van Buren County were appointed commissioners to examine as progress was being made.
  20. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 36, authorized for William Walker, of Bledsoe County, to keep open turnpike road leading from George Reels, in Bledsoe County, to the foot of Walden's Ridge, in Hamilton County, and he would have all the rights and privileges as were granted to others in similar circumstances for the next twenty years.
  21. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 83, authorized William Hickson, of Bledsoe County, to open a road beginning at Edley Harrison's road near Hedgecocks, running, with the old Madison Road, so as to cross Savage's Road at or near the old Cagle place, and thence on the best route to intersect the road in the Sequatchie Valley. This road must meet all the specifications established for Hill's Turnpike. When completed, a toll gate may be opened on top of the Cumberland Mountain. Thomas A. Pope and Robert Owens were named as commissioners to inspect this road. Section 4 of this Act provided that the charter to Hale's Turnpike Road is extended to John Mitchell and his heirs and assigns. W.B. Cummings and Peter Hoodenpyle were appointed commissioners to look after the latter road.
  22. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 107, authorized Isaac Whittenburg, of Bledsoe County, and Daniel Walling, of Van Buren County, to open a turnpike road beginning at a point on the southeast side of Cane Creek at or near Burden Wheeler's in Van Buren County, crossing the Cumberland Mountain so as to intersect Thomas Gardner's turnpike at the top of the mountain in Bledsoe County. This road will be 18 feet wide where the ground permits and 12 feet wide where it doesn't. All rights granted hereunder, or otherwise, will be forfeited if the road gets into a state of disrepair. John B. Hill, of Van Buren County, and William S. Dalton, of Bledsoe County, are named as commissioners to examine and inspect the road, who will be sworn to their duties, and who will report to their respective county courts. A schedule of tolls to be charged was set up in the act. The road must not be damaged, or obstructed. There would be fines imposed if it were, and if not remedied in three years, all rights would be forfeited.
  23. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 136, set up a road law for all counties under 70,000 in population, according to the 1900 Federal Census. The county court would elect one road commissioner from each road district, which were co-extensive with each civil district, who would be in charge of all public roads, bridges, and overseers. The commissioners would be sworn and bonded and serve for two years. Commissioners would name the overseers for the roads in their districts and be paid \$1.00 for each day's work not to exceed ten days in any one year. The courts would set the day for road hands to work between five and eight days, and could levy a special tax of 2 cents

- per \$100.00 for each day's work required. The judge, or chairman, would present quarterly status reports to the court. All males between 21 and 45 years of age, outside of cities, were required to work on the roads as the county court directed, or pay 75 cents for each day not worked as a commutation fee. Roads were to be indexed, classified and built according to the specifications in the act. Petitions to open, close, or change, roads could be addressed to the commission which would handle and dispose of them as the act stipulated. Work could be let on contract if the conditions specified in the act were met. This act was the subject of litigation in the case of Carroll v. Griffith, 117 Tenn. 500, 97 S.W. 66 (1906).
24. Acts of 1905, Chapter 478, amended Acts of 1901, Chapter 136, in several minor particulars and primarily in the method of handling petitions to open, close, or change roads, especially when the exercise of the right of eminent domain was involved.
  25. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 595, had a general repealing clause but apparently constituted the first private road law for Bledsoe County. The act created a three member board of county highway commissioners who would be elected by the people at the general August election every two years. T.A. Pope, Eugene Patton, and Walter Coulter were named to serve on the board until the August, 1930, election. After being sworn they would meet and elect a chairman, a secretary, and an associate member. Bond for the chairman was \$2,000, and \$1,000 for the others. Compensation was set at \$200.00 per year for the chairman, \$150.00 per year for the secretary, and \$100.00 per year for the associate member, but the county court could supplement this amount. The duties of all three members were enumerated in the bill, but generally they would have supervision over all public roads except state roads. They could employ a road superintendent at \$5.00 per day or less, who would be in immediate charge of the department, who would have an office at the county seat, and inspect all the county roads. The board was to lay off and classify all the roads, and would appoint three citizens to assess damages when necessary, which would be paid out of the common road fund. They would purchase supplies and equipment and the superintendent would keep records of the use. They would appoint overseers, or foreman, for each section of road. All road hands must work, or pay a fine before a justice of the peace, being committed to jail upon failure to pay. All males between 21 and 45 years of age would work no less than 3 nor more than 6 days on the road as the county court ordered, or pay 75 cents per day. The court could levy a special road tax but could not exceed 25 cents per \$100.00 property valuation.
  26. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 331, authorized the quarterly county court in Bledsoe County to set apart one-half of the funds received from the 2 cent gasoline tax, known as state aid funds for county highways, to be used in the retirement of road bonds issued by the county. The trustee would set up a separate account to be used to retire the said road bonds and for no other purpose, the other half to go to the road commissioner for use on the public roads of the county.
  27. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 112, amended Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 595, in Section 1 by increasing the number of highway commissioners from three to five and changing their elections to the county court instead of by popular vote, the next election to be at the July Session; Section 2 was amended to provide for the additional two members and to set a quorum of three instead of two members. This act named R. L. Brown and Sam Patton as the two new commissioners to serve until the county court appointed two in July, the three original members continuing to serve out their terms.
  28. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 614, amended Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, the current road law of Bledsoe County, in the latter part of the second paragraph in Section 1 so as to increase the salary of the road supervisor from \$150 to \$200 per month. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 127.
  29. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 854, amended Section 1, Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, by providing that the road supervisor would thereafter be elected by the county court for a four year term, beginning in July, 1948 instead of having a two year term as the original act provided. This act was to become effective September 1, 1948, except for that portion establishing a July election for the road supervisor. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 627.
  30. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 627, repealed Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 854, in its entirety, stating that it is the intention and purpose of this act to restore the election of the road supervisor in Bledsoe County to the qualified voters in the general county elections which will begin again in August, 1952.
  31. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 131, amended Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 614, by increasing the monthly salary of the road supervisor from \$200 to \$300. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 127.

32. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 332, would have amended Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, by extending the term of the road supervisor from two years to four years but this act was rejected by the quarterly county court of Bledsoe County and consequently never became an effective law.
33. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 114, would also have amended Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, by extending the term of the road supervisor from two to four years, by increasing the bond from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and by increasing the monthly salary to \$500 per month but this act was likewise rejected by the quarterly court and never became an effective law.
34. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 271, would have amended to Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, by changing Section 9 to the extent of allowing the road supervisor to appoint a bookkeeper to serve at his pleasure and direction at a salary of \$400.00 per month to be paid out of county road funds. This act was rejected by the quarterly court and was rendered null and void.
35. Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 169, would have amended Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 153, Section 9, by permitting the road supervisor to appoint a bookkeeper who would serve at the pleasure of the road supervisor at a salary of \$300 per month, payable out of the county road funds. This act was also disapproved by the quarterly court and never became an effective law.

## Chapter X - Law Enforcement

### Law Enforcement - Historical Notes

#### **Militia**

Those acts once affecting Bledsoe County, which related to the militia and to other law enforcement agencies other than the sheriff, are mentioned below in chronological order. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1808, Chapter 9, directed the sheriff of Bledsoe County to open and hold an election on the third Friday and Saturday in February next to elect the field officers for the militia in Bledsoe County which would constitute the thirty-first regiment of the state.
2. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 19, Section 4, stated that, after the passing of this act, the regiment of infantry composing the county of Bledsoe shall hold their regimental musters at the place for holding court in the said county on the second Thursday in November of each year, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.
3. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 89, assigned Bledsoe County's militia to the eighth brigade along with the forces in Anderson, Roane, and Rhea counties. Bledsoe County's militia composed the thirty-first regiment.
4. Acts of 1811, Chapter 102, declared that the general musters of the militia in Bledsoe County shall hereafter be held at the house of Phillip Thirman at the respective times stated by law.
5. Acts of 1815, Chapter 119, assigned every unit of the Tennessee Militia to regiments and brigades, and reenacted the entire militia law of the state, setting internal organizational units down to the squad level and establishing disciplinary standards for all. Bledsoe was designated at the thirty-first regiment, of the seventh brigade, which was part of the first division.
6. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 136, exempted Captain Thomas Miller's Company, that part of the county militia which lived in the Grassy Cove, now being a district company, from attending batallion and regimental musters but the unit shall hold company musters and drills as do the other companies of the state and shall be subject to be called on by the Colonel of Bledsoe County to furnish their quota of active men to suppress invasion, or insurrection.
7. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 69, revised the militia laws of the state. Bledsoe County's unit was still the thirty-first regiment but was assigned to the twelfth brigade under this act.
8. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 147, established the third battalion out of the Cumberland Mountain Company and the Grassy Cove Company of Bledsoe County to be known as the Lafayette Centinels. The act also called for the election of a field officer and for holding a battalion muster on the third Saturday in April of each year.
9. Private Acts of 1831, Chapter 271, Section 3, set the times for holding court martials for the third battalion of Bledsoe County to the third Saturday in June annually and their regimental court martial on the first Saturday after the fourth Thursday in November annually.
10. Private Acts of 1833, Chapter 6, made it the duty of all the officers in the Grassy Cove and Cumberland Mountain Companies of the state militia in Bledsoe County to return delinquents, and the judge advocate of the units was authorized to issue executions against them as in all other



cases.

11. Private Acts of 1833, Chapter 142, Section 2, authorized the majority of the commissioned officers in Bledsoe County to exempt the company on Cumberland Mountain from attending musters.
12. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 157, Section 3, rescheduled drill and muster times for all the militia units in the state, and then amended in great length the militia law. The seventh brigade was composed of Meigs, Rhea, Marion, Hamilton, and Bledsoe counties. Bledsoe's units would convene and drill on the second Thursday and Friday in September of each year.

### **Sheriff**

The following acts have no current effect but are included here for reference purposes since they once applied to the Bledsoe County Sheriff's Office. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1820, Chapter 117, provided that the sheriff's of Warren, Jackson, Bledsoe, and Marion counties at their discretion may advertise in the Sparta Gazette on execution sales of land and other properties. Further, the rangers of those counties were also given the discretionary authority to advertise in like manner in the Sparta Gazette concerning estrays which were captured and others which would be sold under execution.
2. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 180, Section 3, stated that the sheriff's of Warren, Jackson, Bledsoe, and Marion counties may in their discretion advertise all lands and properties to be sold under execution in some paper printed in Sparta, and the rangers of those counties might do likewise for the strays they wanted to dispose of under execution.
3. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 191, recited that it had appeared that Peter Looney, sheriff and collector of Bledsoe County for the years 1808 and 1810 had been compelled to pay \$53.85 as tax money to the state treasurer of East Tennessee on insolvencies which occurred in the county during that time. This act allowed the state treasurer to return that amount of money to Looney in the interests of fairness and lists the properties upon which Looney had paid the taxes.
4. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 178, Section 2, allowed the sheriff of Bledsoe County to appoint one additional deputy sheriff to the number now authorized by law, any other law to the contrary notwithstanding.
5. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 660, stated that the compensation of the sheriffs of Bledsoe and Perry counties shall be fixed at \$2,000 per year in addition to any amounts the sheriffs might receive for boarding prisoners and turnkeys, the said \$2,000 being made payable out of the general funds of the county on the warrant of the county judge, or chairman.
6. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 551, set the compensation for the sheriff of Bledsoe County to \$1,000 per annum, which was paid quarterly on the first day of January, April, July and October out of the county funds by the county trustee.

## Chapter XII - Taxation

### Litigation Tax

#### Private Acts of 1967-68 Chapter 26

**SECTION 1.** That a litigation tax of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) shall be taxed as part of the costs in all civil and criminal actions in the General Sessions Court, the Circuit Court and the Chancery Court of Bledsoe County, Tennessee.

As amended by:

Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 44

**SECTION 2.** That the said Clerks of said Courts will collect the said litigation tax and pay same into a separate fund, which is to be designated as the "Court House and Jail Maintenance Repair and Improvement Fund," to be used exclusively for the purpose of maintenance and repair of the Court House and Jail.

**SECTION 3.** That all expenditures made from the said Fund are to be made by the County Judge upon the authorization of the Quarterly County Court.

**SECTION 4.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall have been approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the County Court of Bledsoe County, Tennessee, on or before the next regular meeting of such County Court occurring more than thirty (30) days after its approval by the Chief Executive of the State. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the body having jurisdiction to

approve or the reverse, and shall be certified by him to the Secretary of State.

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

Passed: March 15, 1967.

## Taxation - Historical Notes

### **Taxation**

The following is a listing of acts pertaining to taxation in Bledsoe County which are no longer effective. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 228, authorized the court of pleas and quarter sessions of Bledsoe County to lay a tax on all taxable property, not to exceed the state tax, and not to continue for more than two years, to raise funds to secure a site and erect a house thereon for the accommodations of the poor people. This tax, authorized herein, will be collected and paid over in the same manner as are other taxes levied for special purposes.
2. Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 182, levied a litigation tax of \$2 which would be taxed as part of the costs in all civil and criminal suits brought in the general sessions court, the circuit court, and chancery court of Bledsoe County. The clerks of the different courts would collect the tax, pay the same into the "Courthouse and Jail Maintenance Fund" to be used exclusively to maintain and repair the courthouse and the jail. All expenditures from the fund would be made by the purchasing and finance commission on the authorization of the county court. This act was rejected and disapproved by the quarterly court of Bledsoe County and never became an effective law.
3. Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 44, amended Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 26, to increase the litigation tax from \$2 to \$10. This act was approved by the Bledsoe County Legislative Body on April 13, 1981, according to records in the secretary of state's office.

### **Assessor of Property**

The following acts were superseded, repealed or failed to win local ratification, but they are listed here as a reference to laws which once affected the Bledsoe County Assessor. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 310, amended Acts of 1907, Chapter 602, which was a general law regarding tax assessors, in Section 5, by inserting a provision that the tax assessor of Bledsoe County shall receive a fee of ten cents for each and every schedule so returned for personal property as required under that section only when the personal property less or in excess of \$1,000 in value.
2. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 130, set the compensation of the tax assessor of Bledsoe County, identified by using the 1950 Federal Census figures, at the sum of \$2,400.00 per year, payable in equal monthly installments out of the regular funds in the county treasury.

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