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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

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

Sincerely,

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Chapter IV - Boundaries	3
Creation of the County	3
Acts of 1808 Chapter 9	3
Change of Boundary Lines	3
Acts of 1809 (Second Session) Chapter 20	3
Acts of 1815 Chapter 182	4
Private Acts of 1821 Chapter 73	4
Private Acts of 1826 Chapter 153	4
Private Acts of 1829-30 Chapter 141	4
Public Acts of 1881 Chapter 143	5
Boundaries - Historical Notes	5

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' 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, Jonothan 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.

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