



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

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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.

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

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

WHEREAS the large extent and inconvenient situation of the county of Knox, renders it troublesome and expensive to many of the inhabitants thereof to attend courts and other public meetings therein.

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

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

SEC. 3. That the court for the said county, of Blount shall be held constantly by the justices of said county, on the second Mondays in September, December, March, and June: And the justices for the said county of Blount are hereby authorized and empowered to hold the first court for the same at the house of Abraham Weir, and all subsequent courts for said county on the days above mentioned for holding courts therein, at any place to which the said justices shall from court to court adjourn themselves, until a courthouse shall be built for said county of Blount; and then all causes, matters, and things, depending in the said court, and all manner of process returnable to the same, shall be adjourned to such court house; and all courts held in and for said county of Blount, shall be held by commission to the said justices, in the same manner, and under the same rules and restrictions, and shall have and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction as are or shall be prescribed for other courts held for the several counties in this territory.

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

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

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1796 Chapter 35

WHEREAS the lines between Sevier and Blount counties have not been sufficiently ascertained, to prevent disputes between the citizens of said counties.

That the line dividing Sevier and Blount counties, begin at where the said lines intersect on the top of

Bay's Mountain, thence taking the ridge that divides the water of Little River from the waters of French Broad, and with said ridge to the eastern boundary of this state.

Acts of 1798 Chapter 6

That from and after the passing of this act, the county of Blount shall be contained within the following described bounds. Beginning upon the south side of Holston, at the mouth of Little River, thence up the meanders of Little River on the south side, to the mouth of Stock creek, and up the meanders of Stock creek upon the south side, to the head of Nicholas Bartlett's mill pond at high waters; thence a direct line to the top of Bay's mountain, leaving the house of James Willis to the right, within forty rod of the said line; thence along Bay's mountain to the line of the county of Sevier; thence with that line, to the eastern boundary of the state; thence southwardly with the said eastern boundary, to the line lately run and marked agreeably to the late treaty between the United States and the Cherokee Indians, and with that line to the river Tennessee; thence down the Tennessee, with the meanders thereof, to the mouth of Holston; and thence up the meanders of the said river Holston, to the beginning.

December 28, 1798.

Acts of 1801 Chapter 52

SECTION 1. That the boundaries of Blount County shall be extended as follows, viz: Beginning on the eastern boundary of this state where the Sevier county line strikes the same, thence with the North Carolina boundary to the southern boundary of this state, thence with the southern boundary of this state to where it strikes the river Tennessee, thence up said river to the boundary of Knox county, thence with a line described by an act, entitled "An act extending and describing the bounds of Blount county," passed at Knoxville, December the twenty eighth, in the year on one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, to the beginning.

Sec. 2. That is shall and may be lawful for the sheriff, coroner, or any constable of said county, to execute any process criminal or civil, within the said described limits of Blount County.

Sec. 3. That this act shall be in force and use from and after the passing thereof.

PASSED: October 29, 1801.

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, of 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 1809 (First Session) Chapter 91

That from and after the passing of this act, that part of Blount county included within the following lines, to wit: Beginning at the extreme height of the round top mountain near William Davis's in Weir's cove, from thence running due south until the said line intersects the Indian boundary line, thence along the said line until it intersects Sevier county line, thence along said line to the beginning, be, and the same is hereby annexed to and shall in every respect whatever compose part of the said county of Sevier: *Provided*, the aforesaid location may not include any of the citizens of *Tuckylechy* cove in the county of Sevier: *And provided also*, that nothing in this law contained, shall prevent the sheriff of Blount from making such collections as he is authorized to make under the laws in force, previous to the passing of this act.

22nd Nov. 1809.

Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 143

SECTION 1. That the following shall be the line between the counties of Blount and Monroe, to wit: beginning on the present line at the Militia Springs, thence a direct line from said springs to strike the little Tennessee River, above the farm of David Russell, so as to include said Russell in the county of Monroe:

the said river then to be the line to where the said river strikes the North Carolina line; *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of Monroe county from collecting all taxes, both state and county, that may be due from that portion of the citizens residing north of said river, and within the territory hereby taken off said county of Monroe and *Provided* further, that the sheriff and other officers of said county of Monroe shall have full power and authority to collect all judgments that have been rendered by either the county or circuit courts of said county, or any justice of the peace against any person residing in said territory hereby taken off said county of Monroe.

SEC. 2. That Robert Wear, of Blount county, shall run the line from the Militia Springs to the river as contemplated by this act, and that the county court of Blount pay him a just compensation therefor.

Passed February 13, 1836.

Acts of 1837-38 Chapter 270

SECTION 1. That the following shall be the line between the counties of Blount and Monroe, to wit: Beginning on the present line at the Militia Springs, thence with the original line to where it crosses the present line, thence with the present line to the Tennessee River, above the farm of David Russell; *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of Monroe county from collecting all taxes, both State and county, that may be due from that portion of the citizens residing within the territory hereby taken off said county of Monroe; *and provided further*, that the sheriff and other officers of said county of Monroe shall have full power and authority to collect all judgments that have been rendered by either the county or circuit courts of said county, or any justice of the peace against any person residing in said territory hereby taken off said county of Monroe.

Passed: January 17th, 1838.

Public Acts of 1879 Chapter 119

SECTION 1. That the County line between Blount and Sevier Counties be changed as follows:

Beginning on the Blount and Sevier County line, near Millstone Gap in Bluff Mountain; thence a direct line to Shook's Gap, in Bays' Mountain; thence with the top of said Mountain, to the Sevier County line.

SEC. 2. That the County Surveyors of the Counties of Blount and Sevier, together with J. R. Chandler and E. S. Thompson, of Sevier County, and Hugh Cox and Andrew McTerr, of Blount County, are hereby appointed Commissioners to run and mark said County line.

SEC. 3. That said Commissioners shall take an oath, before some Justice of the Peace, that they will faithfully, honestly and impartially perform the duties of said Commission; and they shall perform the duties above designated within six months after the passage of this Act.

SEC. 4. That said Commissioners shall make two plats of the survey, and shall accompany them with such report as may be necessary to explain said survey; and said plats of survey shall be signed by the Commissioners, and one copy filed in the Register's office of each County of Blount and Sevier, which shall be registered by the respective Registers thereof.

SEC. 5. That the Commissioners shall mark the line on such standing timber, with such fore and aft marks and side lines as they may deem necessary to make said line plainly known; and said County Surveyors shall be paid the sum of three dollars per day--while they are employed at said service, to be paid by their respective Counties.

SEC. 6. That the fractions of either of the above named Counties that may be added to the other County by the change of the County line as above provided for, shall continue to be liable for their *pro rata* of all debts contracted by their respective counties prior to said change, and shall be entitled to their proportion of any stock or credits belonging to the county from which said fractions are taken.

Passed: March 14, 1879.

Acts of 1903 Chapter 55

SECTION 1. That the line between Blount and Sevier Counties be so changed as to include all the lands of Hugh Garner in Blount County. Said new line to run from the point where the present line between said counties enters the south side of Hugh Garner's land along the line between the lands of Park Delozier and Hugh Garner to the line between Hugh Garner and A.C. Rodgers, thence with said line to the line between Hugh Garner and W.S. McClayham, thence with said line back to the present line between Blount and Sevier Counties.

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

Passed February 5, 1903.

Acts of 1903 Chapter 478

SECTION 1. That the line between Sevier and Blount Counties be so changed as to begin on the extreme top of Round Top Mountain at the southwest corner of Wear's valley, and running due south to the State line of North Carolina and Tennessee.

SEC. 2. That all laws which conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 28, 1903.

Private Acts of 1941 Chapter 458

SECTION 1. That the line between the County of Blount and Sevier County of the State of Tennessee be and the same is hereby changed so as to include within the boundaries of said Blount County and within the present 18th District thereof that part of Sevier County in the 16th District described as follows:

That portion of land lying between the Stockard tract now owned by Tipton brothers and the tract owned by J.T. Trotter, containing 75 acres, more or less.

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

Passed: February 14, 1941.

Private Acts of 1941 Chapter 459

SECTION 1. That the line between the Counties of Sevier and Blount in the State of Tennessee be and the same is hereby changed so as to include within the boundaries of Sevier County and in the present Ninth District thereof that part of Blount County in the Thirteenth District bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning on an iron pin on right-of-way of highway and runs S. 6 deg. 30 min. W. 128 feet to an iron pin, 3.57 min. W. 90 feet to an iron pin, 3.20 min. W. 305½ feet to an iron pin, S. 64 deg. W. 320 feet to an iron pin. All the foregoing calls run along north side of roadway leading toward Levalor State Highway N. 36 deg. 30 min. W. 258½ feet to Cunningham line with same, N. 32½ E. 231 feet N. 38 deg. 30 min., E. 414 feet to beginning of right-of-way, S. 70 deg., E. 114 feet to concrete post, N. 15 E. 9 feet to concrete post. S. 70 deg., E. 187½ feet to the beginning, containing 4½ acres, more or less, being the lands of S. W. Williams of Blount County in the Thirteenth Civil District.

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

Passed: February 14, 1941.

Private Acts of 1945 Chapter 610

SECTION 1. That the property of O. L. Boyd and John H. Kerr lying in the thirteenth (13th) District of Blount County, Tennessee, be removed from that County and attached to the ninth (9th) District of Sevier County, Tennessee. This property consists of eight (8) acres more or less and is described as follows:

Property of John H. Kerr and Wife, Geneva I. Kerr

Lot No. One (1)

BEGINNING at an iron pin in the S. side of the Chapman Highway, and running S. 6 deg. 43 min. W. 505 ft. to an iron pin in the line of Ogle and Mize. Thence with their line, N. 61 deg. 35 min. E. 355.3 ft. to an I.P. Thence, N. 6 deg. 43 min. E. 234 ft. to an I.P. in the S. side of the aforesaid Highway. Thence with the S. side of same, N. 71 deg. W. 300 ft. to the beginning containing 2.75 acres, more or less, and being a part of the lands formerly owned by G.W. McClure - S.L. Pickens, and known as the Creswell place.

Property of John H. Kerr and Wife, Geneva I. Kerr

Lot No. Two (2)

BEGINNING at a stake E. corner to Kerr and in the Chapman Hwy., Rt. of way and running with Kerrs S.E. line, 6 deg. 43 min. W. 234 ft. to a stake in Mize's line. Thence with his line N. 61 deg. 35 min. E. 315 ft. to a stake in the W. line of the said Highway and in the said Mize line. Thence with the west line of the said highway, N. 17 deg. 00 min. W. 272 ft. to the beginning, containing ¾ Acres (0.75) Acres, more or less.

*Property of John H. Kerr and Wife, Geneva I. Kerr**Lot No. Three (3)*

BEGINNING at a stone, N.E. corner to Boyd's land and running N. 2 deg. 19 min. E. 322 ft. to an iron pin, in an old spring-hole and corner to Ogle and Cunningham. Thence with the line of Ogle and Cunningham's line, N. 88 deg. 25 min. W. 561 ft. to a stake, corner to Cunningham and Ogle, Thence, S. 16 deg. 30 min. W. 26.7 ft. to a large Oak Stump. Thence, continuing with Cunningham and Ogle's line, S. 55 deg. 00 min. W. 254.8 ft. to a stake on the N. side of a ditch, (designated by S. H. Cunningham as the original and legal corner, and said stake being set 2.8 ft. S. of a mulberry tree). Thence, S. 37 deg. 30 min. W. and with the aforesaid Cunningham and Ogle's line, 112.8 ft. to a stake in a ditch and in the line of the Chapman Highway. Thence, with the same, S. 70 deg. 35 min., E. 629.5 ft. to a Hwy. Marker, corner to Boyd's land. Thence, with his line, N. 6 deg. 15 min. E. 125 ft. to a stake, cor. to Boyd. Thence with his line, N. 86 deg. 25 min. E. 225 ft. to the beginning, containing, 5.75 Acres, more or less.

*Property of O.L. Boyd**Lot No. Four (4)*

BEGINNING on a concrete stake at right of way to Chapman Highway and runs N. 2 deg. 45 E. 225 ft. to a stake a corner to Mize. Then S. 85 deg. 30 ft. W. 225 ft. to an iron pin S. 6 W. 125 ft. to concrete stake at right of way. Then S. 71 deg. 30 ft. E. 241 ft. to the beginning, containing one (1) acre, more or less.

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

Passed: March 1, 1945.

Public Acts of 1975 Chapter 134

COMPILER'S NOTE: Although this is a public, rather than a private, act; it is one of special effect and is not found in [Tennessee Code Annotated](#).

SECTION 1. The tract of land now situated in the 13th Civil District of Blount County, hereinafter described, is detached from Blount County and attached to Sevier County, as part of the 10th Civil District thereof, such tract of land being a part of the lands owned by Fred M. Pierce, and the county line between Blount County and Sevier County shall hereafter run with the boundaries of such tract so as to exclude such land from Blount County and include the same in Sevier County. The tract of land is described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the county line at the northwest corner of the Fred M. Pierce property; thence south 24 degrees east seven and one-half ($7\frac{1}{2}$) poles to a stake; then south 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees sixteen and one-quarter ($16\frac{1}{4}$) poles to a persimmon tree; thence south 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees west ten (10) poles to a red oak tree; thence south 31 degrees east twenty-two (22) poles to a stake beside a hickory tree; thence north 74 degrees east five and two-thirds ($5\frac{2}{3}$) poles to a stone; thence north 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees east six (6) poles to a stone; thence north 12 degrees east six (6) poles to a hickory tree; thence due north six and twenty-two twenty-fifths ($6\frac{22}{25}$) poles to a stone; thence north 35 degrees east eight (8) poles to a stake; thence north 22 degrees east eight (8) poles to a stake; thence north 31 degrees east to a spanish oak; thence north 4 degrees west seven and three fifths ($7\frac{3}{5}$) poles to a stake; thence south 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ degrees east eight and seventeen twenty-fifths ($8\frac{17}{25}$) poles to a stake; thence north 13 degrees west twenty and one-fifth ($20\frac{1}{5}$) poles to a stone; thence south 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees west thirty-six and three fifths ($36\frac{3}{5}$) poles to a stake; thence south 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees west ten and two-fifths ($10\frac{2}{5}$) poles to a stake at the beginning point, such tract containing ten (10) acres, more or less.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 5, 1975.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

Boundaries

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 Blount County.

1. Acts of 1812, Second Session, Chapter 60, authorized any sworn surveyor in Blount County, on application of John M'Cally to resurvey his land on Nails Creek and return a plat of the same, and the said M'Cally was entitled to a credit for any of the instalments he may have paid for said tract

of land, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. Acts of 1815, Chapter 200, extended Blount County from the junction of the Holsten and Tennessee Rivers across the Tennessee River to a point and bluff opposite the mouth of Town Creek; then southwardly on the Roane County line to the southern boundary of Tennessee, then east along the state line to where the Blount County line joins the same.
3. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 64, directed John Mullendore from Sevier County and Robert Wier from Blount County to run the dividing line between the two counties.
4. Private Acts of 1833, Chapter 298, authorized the entry of land lying north of the Tennessee River, within the Hiwassee District, in the entry taker's office of Blount County.
5. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 36, changed the dividing line between Sevier and Blount Counties so that it began at a point of the line on the top of "Round-top mountain, and running from thence a due south course to the line of North Carolina." This boundary change was repealed by Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 98.
6. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 196, attempted to establish the County of Jones out of parts of Blount and Monroe counties, but the voters living in those sections rejected the plan and the County of Jones never came into existence.
7. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 130, placed the lands of Charles F. Henley, J. L. Johnson and John B. McGhee in Monroe County, out of Blount.
8. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 102, changed the boundary between Blount and Monroe counties, by placing the lands of M. P. Ray, R. E. McClain and C. S. McGhee in Monroe County.
9. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 217, placed the lands of Samuel Montgomery and John Shedden in Blount County, out of Loudon County.
10. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 51, changed the boundary between Blount and Sevier counties by placing the entire farm of M. G. Cresswell and W. G. Cresswell in Blount County.
11. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 208, changed the line between Blount and Sevier counties by placing the land of Sam L. Pickens in Blount County.
12. Acts of 1903, Chapter 514, changed the line between Blount and Sevier to place all the lands of Hugh Gamble and Park P. Delozier in Blount County.
13. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 816, placed the farm of James Gamble in Blount County, out of Sevier.
14. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 303, transferred the fifty acre tract of land belonging to J. Ed Ogle from Blount to Sevier County, while the lands of Mattie E. Carr, Walter Ogle and E. H. Carr were transferred from Sevier to Blount County.
15. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 458, changed the boundary between Blount and Sevier Counties, by transferring into Blount "that portion of land lying between the Stockard tract now owned by the Tipton brothers and the tract owned by J. T. Trotter, containing seventy-five acres, more or less."
16. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 116, altered the boundary between Knox and Blount counties by transferring the fractional portion of the Elrod farm which was in Blount County into Knox County where the remainder of the farm was located.

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