



March 31, 2025

Creation of County

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

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,

The University of Tennessee
County Technical Assistance Service
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
615.532.3555 phone
615.532.3699 fax
www.ctas.tennessee.edu

Table of Contents

Creation of County 3
Laws of North Carolina 3
Acts of 1783 Chapter 52 3
Acts of 1786 Chapter 32 3
Acts of 1788 Chapter 28 3
Acts of 1799 Chapter 3 4

Creation of County

Laws of North Carolina

Acts of 1783 Chapter 52

SECTION 1. Whereas a considerable number of inhabitants have settled on the lands on the Cumberland River in this State at a very great distance from any place where County Courts are held, and it is represented that erecting a County to include the said inhabitants, and appointing Courts to be held among them would be very beneficial and advantageous, therefore for the general good of the said inhabitants.

SECTION 2. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, that all that part of this State lying west of the Cumberland Mountain and south of the Virginia line crosses, extending westward along the said line to Tennessee River, thence up the said River to the mouth of Duck River, thence up Duck River to where the line of marked trees run by the Commissioners for laying off land granted the Continental line of this State intersects said River (which said line is supposed to be in thirty-five degrees fifty minutes north latitude) thence east along said line to the top of Cumberland Mountain, thence northwardly along said mountain to the beginning, shall after the passing of this Act be, and is hereby declared to be a distinct county by the name of Davidson.

SECTION 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the County Court of Davidson shall appoint an entry-taker for the purpose of receiving entries of lands for those who are allowed pre-emptions by the law for laying off lands granted to the Continental line of this State; and as it has been suggested that the inhabitants of the said County have no specie certificates, they shall be at liberty to pay at the rate of ten pounds specie or specie certificates per hundred acres, for the aforesaid pre-emptions, and shall be allowed the term of eighteen months to pay the same, and that the heirs of all such persons who have died, having rights of pre-emptions, as aforesaid, shall be allowed the term of one year after coming of lawful age, to secure their pre-emptions. Provided, that no grants shall be made for the said lands until the purchase money shall be paid into the proper office.

Acts of 1786 Chapter 32

SECTION 1. That from and after the passing of this Act, the said County of Davidson, be divided by a Line beginning where the County Line crosses the West Fork of Stone's River, down the same to the Junction with the Main Stone's River, thence a direct Line to the Mouth of Drake's Lick Creek, thence down Cumberland River to the Mouth of Rasmus Creek, thence up the said Creek to the Head of the War-Trace Fork, thence a Northwardly Course to the Virginia Line, at a point that will leave Red River, old Station, one mile to the East; and all that part of Davidson that lies to the West of the said Line, shall continue and remain the County of Davidson; and all that Part of the said County of Davidson that lies East of the said dividing Line, shall thenceforth be erected into a new and distinct County by the Name of Sumner.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining sections of this act related to Sumner County or to a subject other than boundaries and are not reprinted.

Acts of 1788 Chapter 28

Whereas, the great extent of the County of Davidson renders it inconvenient to the inhabitants thereof to attend courts, general musters, and elections:

SECTION 1. That from and after the passing of this act, the said county of Davidson shall be divided by a line beginning on the Virginia line, running south along Sumner County to the dividing ridge between Cumberland River and Red River, then westwardly along the said ridge to the head of the main south branch of Sycamore Creek, then down the said branch to the mouth thereof, then due south across Cumberland River to Davidson County Line; and all that part of Davidson County that lies to the east of the said Line, shall continue and remain the County of Davidson; and all that part of the said County of Davidson that lies west of the said Line, shall be erected into a County by the name of Tennessee.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remainder of the act related to Tennessee County administration and is not reprinted.

Acts of 1799 Chapter 3

SECTION 1. That the county of Davidson be divided by a line as follows, viz. Beginning at a point 40 poles due north of the dwellinghouse of Thomas McCroy, on the waters of Little Harpeth, running thence East, two miles and one hundred and four poles, thence South 70 degrees East, sixteen miles and two hundred and seventy poles, thence due South to the Indian boundary line, then with said line Westwardly to the Robertson county line, thence with said Robertson county line, North to a point due West from the mouth of Little Harpeth, thence a direct line to a point on South Harpeth, South-West from the mouth of said Little Harpeth, thence north east to the mouth of said Little Harpeth, thence a direct line to the beginning; and that county, so laid off on the South, be known and distinguished by the name of Williamson.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining sections of this act related to Williamson County and subjects other than boundaries.

Passed: October 26, 1799.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/creation-county-15>