



December 21, 2024

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Dear Reader:

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

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| | |
|---|-----------|
| Chapter IV - Boundaries | 3 |
| Creation of County | 3 |
| Acts of 1803 Chapter 66 | 3 |
| County Seat | 3 |
| Acts of 1804 Chapter 39 | 3 |
| Change of County Lines | 4 |
| Acts of 1807 Chapter 44 | 4 |
| Acts of 1809 Chapter 97 | 5 |
| Private Acts of 1821 Chapter 125 | 5 |
| Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 46 | 6 |
| Acts of 1855-56 Chapter 122 | 6 |
| Acts of 1871 Chapter 46 | 8 |
| Public Acts of 1877 Chapter 60 | 10 |
| Private Acts of 1915 Chapter 526 | 10 |
| Private Acts of 1937 Chapter 255 | 10 |
| Private Acts of 1937 Chapter 403 | 11 |
| Boundaries - Historical Notes | 11 |

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of County

Acts of 1803 Chapter 66

SECTION 1. That a new county by the name of Dickson, be and hereby is erected and established out of that part of the counties of Robertson and Montgomery, comprehended within the bounds following, to wit: Beginning on the south bank of Cumberland river, where the line which separates the counties of Robertson and Davidson intersects the same, running thence down said river to a point, half a mile below Fayetteville; thence southwestwardly by a line which shall intersect Barton's creek, one mile north of the forge; thence due west to a stake or point, one mile east of the east boundary line of Stewart county; thence south to the southern boundary of this state; thence east with said southern boundary to the southwest corner of Williamson county, as was established by an act of the last session of the general assembly, entitled An act to extend the jurisdiction, and to ascertain the bounds of the counties therein mentioned; thence north with the west boundary lines of the counties of Williamson and Davidson to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That the first court of pleas and quarter sessions for the county of Dickson shall be held by the justices of said county, at the dwelling house of Robert Nesbit on Barton's creek, and at such place or places as they may afterwards adjourn to; which first court aforesaid shall commence on the first Monday in February next.

SECTION 3. That elections and general musters in said county of Dickson shall be held at the place of holding the court immediately preceding the said election or musters.

SECTION 4. That the sheriffs of Robertson and Montgomery counties shall have power to collect the taxes for the present year, and all arrearages of taxes for any preceding year, due from any of the inhabitants within the present limits of either of their respective counties that may be included within the county hereby established; and that the inhabitants of said established county, now citizens of Robertson county shall be liable for the payment of their proportion of any debts now due by said county of Robertson.

SECTION 5. That James Elder be and is hereby appointed surveyor to run and mark the line between the counties of Montgomery and Dickson, who shall be allowed the sum of two and one half dollars for each and every day he may necessarily be employed therein, to be paid by the county of Dickson; and he shall employ chain carriers and a marker to assist him in running and marking said line; who shall be allowed the sum of one dollar each to be paid as above.

SECTION 6. That in elections for governor, representatives to congress, members of the general assembly, the county of Dickson shall be considered as composing a part of the electoral district of what is now Robertson and Montgomery counties, and shall be conducted under the same rules, regulations and restrictions as by law established, and the returns made by the sheriff in the manner and form as aforesaid.

SECTION 7. That the sheriffs of Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart and Dickson counties shall meet at the town of Clarksville on the Monday succeeding the election to compare the votes by them taken, and the sheriff of Montgomery County shall certify the poll for governor, representatives to congress and representatives of the assembly for the counties of Montgomery and Stewart, and also the senator for the electoral district; and the sheriff of Robertson County shall certify the poll for governor and representatives to congress and the representatives to the assembly for the county of Robertson and Dickson.

Passed: October 25, 1803.

County Seat

Acts of 1804 Chapter 39

SECTION 1. That Robert Dunning, Sterling Brewer, John Davidson, Montgomery Bell, and George Clark, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to fix on the most central and suitable situation, having due regard to good water, for the erecting of a court house, prison and stocks in said county of Dickson, whose duty it shall be to purchase forty acres of land on the most reasonable terms, having regard to

situation and water, on some part of which shall be erected the court house, prison and stocks for said county; and the said commissioners or a majority of them, shall take a deed in fee simple, in trust for the county, to themselves and their successors in office, for the use and benefit aforesaid, and shall, as soon as may be, after purchasing and obtaining a title thereto, proceed to lay off a town, to be called and known by the name of Charlotte, reserving two acres for public uses, in or near the centre thereof; which two acres shall be the public square.

SECTION 2. That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, are required to advertise and sell the lots in said town, to the highest bidder, on a credit of four and nine months, taking bond and sufficient security for the purchase money, payable to themselves and their successors in office, to and for the use of said county, which shall be good and valid in law, to all intents and purposes whatever; and the money arising from the sale of said lots, shall be applied to the payment of the land by them purchased as aforesaid, and the residue thereof, to the building of the said court house, prison and stock; and they are hereby authorized and required to contract for the building of said court house, prison and stocks, first advertising the same in the Tennessee Gazette, published at Nashville, at least two months and at the most public places in the said county of Dickson.

SECTION 3. That in case there shall not be money sufficient arising from the sale of lots, after paying for the land so purchased, the said county court of Dickson shall, and they are hereby declared to have power to lay and collect a tax, not exceeding twelve and one half cents on each hundred acres of land, six and one fourth cents on each white poll, twelve and one half cents on each black poll, one dollar on each stud horse kept for mares, five dollars on each retail store, five dollars on each pedlar and hawker, and twenty five cents on each town lot.

SECTION 4. That the said commissioners or a majority of them shall, before they enter on the duties assigned them by this act, enter into bond with approved security, in the sum of five thousand dollars, payable to the chairman of the court of said county, and his successor in office, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties enjoined on them by this act.

SECTION 5. That the said Commissioners, shall keep a fair statement of all the money they received and expended; which statement when required, shall be laid before the court of said county.

SECTION 6. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of said county of Dickson, as soon as he shall be furnished with a copy of this act, to notify the said commissioners of their appointments, requiring them to attend the county court, next following such notification, for the purpose of entering on the duties of their appointment; and in case any of them shall fail to attend agreeable to such notification, for the purpose of entering on the duties of their appointment; and in case any of them shall fail to attend agreeable to such notification, they shall, as soon as may be thereafter, assemble themselves at the then place of holding court, and proceed to the duties herein required, which duties shall be entered on in the presence of three justices of said county.

SECTION 7. That in case of death, or refusal to act, of a sufficient number of the commissioners herein appointed to do business, it shall be the duty of the court to fill such vacancies on the second day of the court next succeeding the time such vacancies shall happen.

SECTION 8. When the buildings aforesaid are completed, the said commissioners shall lay a fair statement of the money by them received and expended for the purposes aforesaid, before the court of said county; who shall allow the said commissioners a reasonable compensation for their services, provided two thirds of the justices of said county be present; and if there be any surplus money in the hands of the commissioners, it shall be paid to the county trustee, for the use of the county.

Passed: August 3, 1804.

Change of County Lines

Acts of 1807 Chapter 44

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed: December 3, 1807.

Acts of 1809 Chapter 97

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That so much of Dickson County as lies West of the Tennessee Ridge, be, and the same is a part of Humphreys county, beginning on the said ridge where the dividing line between Stewart and Humphreys counties, strikes the Dickson county line, then south along the top of Tennessee ridge so far as to include the waters of White oak creek, in Humphreys County, then west to said Dickson county line. PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of Dickson county from collecting the taxes due thereon.

Passed: November 22, 1809.

Private Acts of 1821 Chapter 125

SECTION 1. That David B. Carns, Joseph Ury, Hugh Ross, Dawsey R. Hudson and Benjamin Hudson, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners with full power and authority to employ a surveyor, out of their own body or any other person, as they or a majority of them may think proper, and employ two chain carriers, and have the lines of Humphreys county run out and marked agreeable to the before recited act, beginning at the north east corner of Humphreys county near David Wells', and runs west to the mouth of White Oak creek, crossing Tennessee river, and still running west four miles and a half, thence south forty-five degrees west ten miles and a half, thence south so far that an east course will give Humphreys county six hundred and twenty-five square miles; also to calculate and take into Humphreys county that part of the head of White Oak, that was taken off from Dickson County in the year 1809 and added to Humphreys county.

SECTION 2. That said commissioners and chain carriers, before they enter upon the duties of their office, shall taken an oath before some justice of the peace in said county, to run and mark the lines of Humphreys county, agreeable to the before recited act to the best of their skill and judgment, and said commissioners shall proceed to the duties of their appointment as soon as convenient, and the county court of said county are hereby authorized to pay said commissioners, surveyor and chain carriers, such

sums as said court may deem a sufficient compensation for their services required of them by this act, out of any monies belonging to said county, not otherwise appropriated.

Passed: October 27, 1821.

Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 46

SECTION 1. That all that portion of Dickson county lying in the following boundaries, shall hereafter be attached to and belong to the county of Humphreys: --Beginning at the south west corner of Dickson county, and thence running east with the south boundary line of said county of Dickson, to where the said line intersects the ridge that divides the waters of Hurricane creek from the waters of Garner's creek; thence with said ridge, to where said ridge intersects with the ridge that divides the waters of Hurricane creek from the waters of Garner's creek; thence with said ridge, to where said ridge intersects with the ridge that divides the waters of Cumberland and Duck rivers; thence north westwardly with said ridge, to the line that divides the counties of Dickson and Humphreys; thence south with said line to the beginning.

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

SECTION 3. That the citizens residing within the aforesaid boundaries, shall still vote with the county from which they have been attached, until the next enumeration, for members of the general assembly, members to congress, governor and electors for president and vice president; Provided, the lines hereby directed to be run, shall not run within twelve miles and a half of the present county seat of said counties; and Provided, also, the said counties shall not be reduced below their constitutional limits.

SECTION 4. That all taxes and other public dues from citizens within the aforesaid boundaries, shall be collected in the same manner as heretofore; and the county courts are hereby authorized to render up judgment for the same, in the same manner as if the territory hereby detached still remained attached to their respective counties.

SECTION 5. That all officers, civil and military, shall remain in office, within the aforesaid boundaries, until elections shall take place by law, to supply the same; when it shall be lawful for the citizens within said boundaries to vote with and in all things be considered citizens of the county of Humphreys.

SECTION 6. That John Thompson, Isaac Little, Henry Luton and William McCastland, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to survey, run out, and mark the boundaries as herein directed, and have a copy and plat of the same transmitted to the county courts of each county; which copy and plat shall be spread on the records of their county.

SECTION 7. That the said commissioners shall receive three dollars per day for each day they may be engaged in making the survey, hereby directed to be paid out of the county treasury of Humphreys county.

Passed: February 2, 1836.

Acts of 1855-56 Chapter 122

SECTION 1. That a new County shall be established, to be known and distinguished by the name of Cheatham, to be composed of parts of the Counties of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, and Dickson; beginning at a point in a line dividing the Counties of Robertson and Montgomery, eleven miles north of the mouth of Harpeth River, the above point being on James W. Moody's plantation, a south-west direction from his dwelling; running thence west, two and a half miles, to a post oak and black gum, marked with the letters, M.C.; thence south, forty degrees west, crossing the stage road leading from Nashville to Clarksville, at two miles, two hundred and four poles, and crossing Cumberland River, in all six and one-half miles, to the south bank of said river; thence up the said river, with its meanders, to the mouth of Barton's Creek; thence up said Creek, with its meanders, to the mouth of the Barren Fork of said creek; thence up said creek, with its meanders, to the road leading from Clarksville to Charlotte, by the

road; thence a due south course four and three-quarters miles, to a point in the Dickson County line; thence east with said line one mile, to a large dead red oak, and pointers one-half mile north of the Family Forge; thence south seventy-two degrees, east crossing said Barton's Creek at one hundred and twenty poles, and the road leading from said forge to Weakley's Ferry, at one mile and one hundred twenty poles, and the road leading from said ferry to Cumberland Furnace, at three miles and ninety poles, and crossing Johnson's Creek, at five miles and sixty-eight poles, continued, in all seven miles, to three hickories on the east side of a hill; thence south forty-seven degrees, east crossing the road leading from Charlotte to the mouth of Harpeth River, at ninety-eight poles, and crossing said Harpeth River, at one mile, one hundred and twenty poles, and again at two miles and eighty poles, and again at three miles, one hundred and four poles, about ten poles above the mouth of Mann's Creek; thence south, from the mouth of Mann's Creek with the Davidson County line, seven and a half miles to the Charlotte turnpike; thence east, with the pole, ten miles to a stake; thence north, in a direct line until it intersects the original line of Cumberland County heretofore established, of which this is in lieu; thence north twenty-one degrees, east crossing Big Marrow-bone, at five miles and sixty-eight poles, continues, in all, six miles to a chestnut and poplar east of the north fork of said creek, thence north, five degrees, west crossing the state road from Nashville to Clarksville, at two miles and eleven poles, and the road by the Pinnacle Bluff, on Sycamore Creek, at three miles, one hundred and fifty-one poles, and continues, in all five miles and sixty-eight poles, to a beech on the south bank of Sycamore Creek; thence down said creek, with its meanders, to the mouth of Hollis' Mill Creek; thence up said creek one hundred and forty poles, to the mouth of Jackson's Branch; thence up said branch three-quarters of a mile to a sugar-tree and hickory standing at the mouth of Edward Smith Church's Spring Branch; thence north seventy-three and one-half degrees, west two miles and thirty-four poles, to a small black walnut and red oak standing on the east side of the road leading from Springfield to the mouth of Harpeth; thence a direct course to a point one-half mile east of the point of beginning, thence west to the beginning.

SECTION 3. That all officers, civil and military, in said County shall continue to hold their offices, and exercise all the powers and functions thereof, until others shall have been elected under the provisions of the Constitution and law made in pursuance thereof; and it shall be the duty of the County Court of Cheatham County, at their first term, to appoint some suitable person to open and hold elections in each civil district in said County, on the 15th day of May, 1856, for the purpose of electing County officers; which election shall, in all respects, be conducted agreeably to the existing laws regulating elections in other Counties in this State. The officers so elected shall have the same jurisdiction, powers, and emoluments that the County officers are entitled to under the existing law; and the County of Cheatham shall be placed on an equal footing, possess equal powers and privileges, in all respects, as other Counties in this State: Provided, nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the Counties of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, and Dickson from entering up judgments, or the Sheriffs of said Counties from selling under such judgments, any lands within said County of Cheatham, for taxes, costs, or charges, for the present or any preceding year; nor to prevent the Sheriff of either of said Counties from collecting from the citizens of said County of Cheatham any taxes due for the present or any preceding year.

SECTION 5. That B. F. Binkley, of the County of Davidson, Henry Frey and Wiley Woodward, of the County of Robertson, Pleasant Bagwell, of the County of Montgomery, and Benjamin C. Robertson of the County of Dickson, be and they are hereby, appointed Commissioners, a majority of whom are hereby authorized to act; who shall, on or before the 21st day of April, 1856, proceed to fix on a suitable and eligible site for the seat of justice, and for the County Town within three miles of the centre; at which site the said Commissioners shall procure, by purchase or otherwise, at least fifty acres of land, for which they shall cause a deed or deeds to be made to themselves and their successors in office, by general warranty, and the said Commissioners shall name the County Town, and report all the proceedings relative to and concerning said County, to the County Court of said County; and it is hereby made the duty of the Clerk to record the same.

SECTION 13. That John M. Joslin, of the County of Davidson, be, and he is hereby, appointed to run and plainly mark the dividing line between the Counties of Davidson and Cheatham; between the Counties of Montgomery and Cheatham; between the Counties of Dickson and Cheatham; and he shall ascertain the number of square miles within the limits of said new County, in accordance with the boundaries as set forth in the first section of this act; and he shall further ascertain whether the line, or any one of them, approach within twelve miles of the County Seats of the old Counties from which said new County is taken, and report the same to the Governor; and he shall have full power to employ chain-carriers, who shall receive reasonable compensation for their services, to be paid by the said County of Cheatham, and the said John M. Joslin shall receive the sum of four dollars per day for each day he may be necessarily employed in the business required by this act, to be paid by the said County of Cheatham.

SECTION 18. That, on the first Saturday in April, 1956, it is hereby made the duty of the Sheriffs of

Robertson, Davidson, Montgomery, and Dickson Counties, by themselves and deputies, to open and hold elections for the purpose of receiving the votes of the qualified voters residing in each fraction taken from the several Counties to form the said County of Cheatham; at which election the polls shall be opened at ten o'clock, A.M., and close at 4 o'clock, P.M.; and no person shall vote at said election unless he has resided in the fractions in which he offers to vote, six months immediately preceding the day of said election; and those who wish to vote for the new County, shall put "Cheatham" on their tickets, and those against shall put the words, "Old County" on their tickets, and no vote shall be counted unless the above word or words be upon it; and should any person vote at either of said elections, not being a qualified voter, or residing in the fraction of which he may vote, such offender, on conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five dollars, to be recovered, before any tribunal having cognizance thereof.

SECTION 19. That the election for that fraction which is taken off of Davidson, shall be held at the houses of John Hooper and James M. Lee; for that fraction taken from Robertson, shall be held at Hudgins' Tan Yard; for that fraction taken from Montgomery, at the house of John H. Atkins' Store and Littleton Perdue; and for that fraction taken from Dickson, shall be held at the house of John J. Hinton.

SECTION 20. That immediately after the elections, the Sheriffs of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, and Dickson, shall make returns to the Governor, of a full statement of all the votes, both for and against the establishment of said County of Cheatham; and, if it shall appear that a majority of the qualified voters, voting in each fraction taken from old Counties, to form said new County; and, if it shall further appear by the report of the said John M. Joslin, that there are within the limits of said new County, three hundred and fifty square miles, and that the lines of said new County as designated in the first section of this act, do not run nearer than twelve miles to the County Seat of the old Counties from which said County of Cheatham is taken; and, if it shall further appear from the returns of said Sheriff, that there is a constitutional number of qualified voters in said County of Cheatham; then the Governor shall forthwith issue his proclamation, setting forth that said county of Cheatham has become a constitutional County; and the same shall be immediately organized, in conformity with this act: Provided, that, after a survey of Dickson, it shall be found that there will still remain to Dickson County her full constitutional territory of 625 square miles.

SECTION 21. That the act passed 3d January, 1844, establishing County of Cumberland be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

SECTION 22. That it shall be lawful for the surveyor to depart from the original line; provided, he does not approach nearer than twelve miles of each County Seat.

SECTION 26. That the act to establish the County of Cheatham, be so amended as that the lines of said County, shall be altered as follows, viz: With the proper degrees, so as to strike the mouth of Barton's Creek, in all six miles, and so as not to approach Clarksville at any point nearer than twelve miles; thence, up said creek, with its meanders, to the mouth of the Barren Fork; thence up the east fork of said Barton's Creek one mile, with its meanders; thence, south, so as not to approach Clarksville nearer than twelve miles; thence south, with the proper degrees east, so as to keep a distance of twelve miles from Charlotte, in all six miles; thence south, with the proper degrees east, so as not to approach said County Seat of Dickson, near the mouth of Mann's Creek; thence south, nine miles, to the Charlotte Turnpike near or at Ben Andersons'; thence east, with the meanders of said Charlotte pike, ten and one-half miles, so as to run north, will strike the lower point of Green's Island; thence north, in a direct line until it intersects the original line of Cumberland County, heretofore established--of which this is in lieu; thence north twenty-one degrees, east four miles to Marrow-bone Creek.

SECTION 27. That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Passed: February 28, 1856.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The Sections omitted from the above did not concern Dickson County and are therefore not published herein.

Acts of 1871 Chapter 46

COMPILER'S NOTE: Some sections were omitted, because they referred only to Houston County.

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and the same is hereby established out of the fractions of the territory composing the counties of Stewart, Humphreys, Montgomery and Dickson, to be known and designated by the name of the county of Houston, and shall be bounded as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. That the general boundaries of said county shall be as follows, to wit: Beginning at a mulberry about six poles below the mouth of White Oak Creek, on Tennessee river; running east eleven miles, with the old Stewart and Humphreys county line, to a point due north from Waverly, seven miles;

thence east six miles to the Dickson county line; thence north 21° east, by Norris' Mills, three and a half miles, to a sycamore on the right bank of Bear Creek, about three and a half miles, to a sycamore on the right bank of Bear Creek, about three hundred and fifty yards from Maj. Shelton's residence; thence north seven miles, to the Montgomery county line; thence west with said county line, four miles to the south-west corner of Montgomery county; thence north 19° west, with said county line to the Cumberland River; thence with said river and its meanders, seven miles, to the residence of Capt. Naylor, on the bank of said river, opposite the "Checkered House," and about eleven miles from Dover; thence south 70° west eleven miles, with a circle, keeping eleven miles from Dover, to a stake eleven miles due south of Dover, and about one quarter of a mile west of the last residence of John Barnes, deceased; thence north 73° west, with the same circle six and one-half miles to Leatherwood Creek; thence down said creek, with its meanders, to the Tennessee river; thence up said river, with its meanders, to the beginning, twelve and one-half miles, containing three hundred forty square miles.

SECTION 3. That for the purpose of organizing said county of Houston, the following named persons are appointed Commissioners, to-wit: John Brown, M. W. Balke and J. W. Lewis, of the county of Humphreys; Abner Skelton, A. J. Parrish and Dudley Clyner, of the county of Dickson; and Ransom Dudley, John L. McMillan and J. J. Pollard, of the county of Stewart, on the part of the several fractions in which they reside, who shall, before entering upon the duties herein specified, take an oath before some Justice of the Peace, faithfully and impartially to discharge their duties as such Commissioners and in case of vacancy from any cause, or refusal to act on the part of any Commissioner, his place shall be filled by the other Commissioners, who shall elect his successor from the fraction of the county in which the vacancy occurred. A majority of said Commissioners shall constitute a Board, competent to do all things enjoined on them as such Commissioners; and they shall elect a chairman and secretary, and keep a record of all their proceedings as Commissioners, which shall be returned by them to the County Court of said county of Houston at its first session, and the same shall be recorded by the clerk thereof, on the records of said court; and a certified copy thereof shall be evidenced in the various courts of this State.

SECTION 4. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners to designate three voting places in the Stewart County fraction; two in the Humphreys County fractions, and at least one in the Dickson County fraction; and shall have ten days' notice by written or printed circulars posted in five or more public places in each fraction taken from the respective counties of Stewart, Humphreys and Dickson, that an election will be held, in which all persons entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly, who have resided in the fraction proposed to be stricken off, for six months immediately preceding said election, shall be entitled to vote; and each voter, who desires to vote for the establishment of the new county, shall have on this ticket the words "new county;" and those desiring to vote against the new county, shall have on their tickets "old county;" and if, upon the counting of all the votes cast at said election, in that part of each of the counties of Stewart, Humphreys and Dickson, it shall appear that two-thirds of the qualified voters in each of the parts so taken off, vote in favor of being attached to the new county, then that part shall be a part of the county of Houston, and the same is hereby declared to be a county, with all the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to all the liabilities and duties with other counties in this State; Provided, however, that if there should not be a two-thirds vote in any one of the said fractions in favor of the said now county of Houston when the consent of two-thirds of the qualified voters residing in the part so taken off has been legally given; and provided, also, that the new county so formed, contains the requisite number of square miles; that said commissioners shall appoint Judges and Clerks to hold in each place designated in each fraction, who shall have all the powers and perform all the duties imposed by law upon other officers holding elections under the laws of this State; and who shall, after the polls are closed, and the votes counted, made out and certify the result and return the same with a copy of the poll books, to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, who shall, when the returns are all received, in the presence of said board, proceed to compare the vote and certify the result; of said fractions; and if, for any cause, the day appointed, the said Board shall provide for another election as herein provided in such fraction. The commissioners are hereby empowered immediately, and it shall be their duty, to mark the boundary line of said County of Houston, guided by the marks and bearings set forth in the second section of this Act; and it shall be their duty to divide the said county into such number of civil districts as the convenience of the inhabitants may require, as provided by the general laws of this State, designating the boundaries of, and giving the places of holding the elections in said district, and they shall perform such other duties as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. That the different fractions of the several counties embraced in the county of Houston, shall vote with the several counties to which they now belong, in all elections for Governor, Representatives in Congress, President and Vice-President, and members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, until the next apportionment, agreeable to the provisions of the fourth Section of the second Article of the Constitution.

SECTION 12. That the said fractions shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the several counties from

which they were stricken off, until the organization of the courts of law and equity in said county of Houston.

SECTION 15. That the fractions of Stewart, Humphreys, and Dickson, formed by this Act into the county of Houston, shall continue liable for their pro rata of all debts heretofore contracted and owing by said counties of Stewart, Humphreys and Dickson, as well as entitled to any portion of any stocks, credits and choses in action belonging to said counties; and the County Courts of the old counties, respectively, and also the County Court of Houston county, shall each appoint three suitable persons on the part of each, to apportion the public securities or stocks that may be owned by either of the old counties, and also to apportion the revenue assessed for county purposes, which may have been collected by the old counties for the year 1870; and in making such apportionment, the aggregate value of all taxable property and polls in each, shall be taken as a basis of said apportionment; and the County courts of each of said counties are fully authorized to make such orders and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, so as to effect as fair and equitable apportionment of the debts owing, stocks owned, and revenue collected by each; provided, that the Revenue Collector for the county of Houston shall collect all the taxes remaining unpaid in said fractions, after the organization of said county.

SECTION 21. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring the same.

Passed: January 21, 1871.

Public Acts of 1877 Chapter 60

SECTION 1. That section 2 of an act passed March 23, 1875, entitled "An Act to change the line between the counties of Polk, McMinn, Hawkins, Hamblen, Cheatham and Dickson," be so amended as to read, that all of that part of Dickson county east of Harpeth river below Point Rock Bluff be attached to Cheatham county, and all that part of Cheatham county west of Harpeth river below Point Rock Bluff be attached to the county of Dickson, so as to make Harpeth river the line between said counties, below the point where the line crosses said river at the bluff aforesaid.

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

Passed: March 20, 1877.

Private Acts of 1915 Chapter 526

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Dickson and Cheatham, be and the same is hereby changed by taking a small strip off the county of Cheatham and adding the same to the county of Dickson, as shown by the plat accompanying this Act, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the present pike with the old mouth of Harpeth and Charlotte road, which is about one-half mile west of the mouth of Harpeth, runs with the eastern and southern edge of the right of way of the said new pike, 8500 feet to where it intersects the Dickson line; thence north with the Dickson line 1980 feet to the old mouth of Harpeth road; thence with the said road to the beginning, containing one-fourth square miles.

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

Passed: May 15, 1915.

Private Acts of 1937 Chapter 255

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

Beginning at a stone, it being the southeast corner of Montgomery County and the northwest corner of Dickson County in the west boundary line of Cheatham County, said corner being described as a stone six feet (6') south of a sycamore marked as a pointer, said point bearing north twenty degrees (20 deg.) west from the mouth of Hagewood's Branch at a distance of forty-two (42) poles, thence with said Cheatham County line, supposedly with the main forth of Barton's Creek, on a general course of south eighteen and one half degrees (18 1/2 deg.) east forth (40) poles to a point in the center line of said

creek on the following courses and distances: South forty nine degrees (49 deg.) west twenty-four (24) poles, south forty-four and one half degrees (44 1/2 deg.) west fifty (50) poles, south sixty-five degrees (65 deg.) west forty-two (42) poles, south eighty-three degrees (83 deg.) west fifty-three (53) poles, north seventy-six and one-half degrees (76 1/2 deg.) west forty-four (44) poles, south fifty-seven degrees (57 deg.) west thirty-two (32) poles, south fourteen degrees (14 deg.) west sixty-two (62) poles, south forty-nine and one-half degrees (49 1/2 deg.) west twenty-two poles, south fifty-eight degrees (58 deg.) west forty-five (45) poles, and north sixty-four and one-half degrees (64 1/2 deg.) west fifty (50) poles to the center point in said creek at the southeast corner of the W. L. Cook farm; thence with the east boundary line of said farm north two degrees (2 deg.) east ninety-two (92) poles to a stake in the original line dividing Dickson and Montgomery counties, the said stake being the southeast corner of that portion of said Cook farm taken out of Montgomery County and placed in Dickson County by Chapter 199 of the Private Acts of 1897; thence along the original county line, present magnetic bearing, north seventy-one and one-half degrees (71 1/2 deg.) east three hundred forty-one (341) poles to the beginning, comprehending portions of the farms of H. L. Toler and John C. Weems, and the southern portion of that is known as the Jennette farm, and aggregating in the whole one hundred and sixty-two (162) acres, more or less.

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

Passed: February 22, 1937.

Private Acts of 1937 Chapter 403

SECTION 1. That the nineteen (19) acres tract of land joining and included in the Home tract of land joining and included in the Home tract of J. M. Cooksey, which nineteen (19) acres is now situated in the 6th district of Houston County, Tennessee, bounded on the north by J. R. Cooksey, west by Williamson Branch Road, and J. N. Dickson, south by No. 49 State Highway and L. J. Browning land, and east by J. M. Cooksey home tract, be and the same is hereby detached from the 6th district of Houston County, and attached to the 10th district of Dickson County.

SECTION 2. That the 150 acre tract of land belonging to J. R. Cooksey, Jr., now situated in the 10th district of Dickson County, and bounded on the north by Milan and J. M. Cooksey, on the east by J. M. Cooksey, on the south by J. M. Cooksey and J. R. Cooksey, Sr., and on the west by E. T. Stanfill and W. T. Waynick, be and the same is hereby detached from the 10th civil district of Dickson County and attached to the 6th district of Houston County.

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

Passed: March 5, 1937.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1799, Chapter 3, divided Davidson County into two counties calling one Williamson County from which Dickson County was later taken.
2. Acts of 1805, Chapter 52, appointed Henry Rutherford, as a Commissioner to run and mark the boundary lines between Williamson County, Davidson County and Dickson County. Rutherford would be paid \$2.00 per day and each chain carrier hired would get \$1.00 per day, which expense would be equally divided among the three counties. He must also be sworn in before commencing the work.
3. Acts of 1806, Chapter 22, apportioned the sum to be paid to Henry Rutherford for established and marking the lines between the counties of Dickson, Davidson and Williamson, at two-fifths for Davidson, two fifths for Williamson, and one fifth for Dickson.
4. Acts of 1806, Chapter 50, Section 3, required that the principal surveyors of the First and Second District would run and mark the county lines of Rutherford, Williamson, Dickson, and Stewart Counties extending them towards the south to the Indian Territory, or to the southern boundary of the State as the case may be.
5. Acts of 1807, Chapter 44, created Hickman County which took part of Dickson County. This Act is published herein.
6. Acts of 1809, Chapter 28, provided that the extension of the boundary lines of several counties south to the Indian Territory, or the southern boundary of the State, would be paid for by the people of the respective counties which included Dickson County.

7. Acts of 1809, Chapter 31, established Humphreys County south of Stewart County and adjoining the counties of Hickman and Dickson but there is no indication in the Act that any of Dickson County was taken to form the new County.
8. Acts of 1809, Chapter 97, which added a portion of Dickson County to Humphreys County, is published herein.
9. Acts of 1817, Chapter 14, make it the duty of the Sheriff to hold an election in the City of Charlotte at 1:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in April to elect seven Commissioners for the city, who must be sworn into office, select one of their members as the Chairman of the Commission, and appoint a Clerk and Treasurer for the city, whose primary duties were enumerated in the Act. Many of the powers of the Commission were stipulated, including the authority to levy a tax in accordance with the schedule incorporated into this law. No appropriation of money could be made unless authorized under the law and then only for the benefit of the citizens in the town.
10. Acts of 1819, Chapter 109, Section 11, provided that the boundary line run by William B. Ross as the dividing line between Dickson County and Hickman County would be and remain as the true boundary line between these two counties.
11. Acts of 1821, Chapter 125, changed the lines between Dickson County and Humphreys County. This act is printed herein.
12. Acts of 1831, Chapter 214, made it the duty of the Sheriff of Dickson County to open and hold an election at the Courthouse in Charlotte on the first Saturday in next April to elect seven Commissioners for the town of Charlotte with a majority of the Commissioners being given the power to transact the business of the town.
13. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 8, created Cumberland County out of parts of Davidson County, Robertson County, Montgomery County, and Dickson County describing the area included within the new county with a particular description. Courts were to meet at the house of James Stewart until the county seat was selected and a Courthouse was available. The Sheriff of the former counties would collect the taxes due in the portion stricken off for the current year. James Darden, of Robertson County, Allen Thompson and Samuel B. Davidson, of Davidson County, and Pleasant Bagwell, of Dickson County, were named as Commissioners to pick a county seat who would be joined by five others from the new County. Thomas Shaw, of Robertson County, would run and mark the boundary lines. All of the above was contingent upon approval by the voters in a referendum election which approval apparently never came.
14. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 49, incorporated the City of Charlotte under the Mayor-Aldermen type of government which would have the same corporate powers and privileges as were heretofore granted to Dover in Stewart County, except the ones of a purely local nature.
15. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 124, provided that the dividing lines between the counties of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, Dickson, and Cumberland would be run and marked sufficiently by the surveyors previously appointed to do so. The Surveyor must furnish to the Sheriff of each County a plat showing the area involved in Cumberland County. The Sheriff would hold an election in each precinct therein on March 10, next, except that on the southside of the Cumberland River the election would be at the house of James Lovell instead of James Hooper. The officials of the election would report the results to the Governor.
16. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 59, set up the new county of Cumberland again which action was also subject to approval by the people in a referendum election. Courts would be at home of Lyttleton J. Perdue until the Court-house was built. The act named Samuel B. Davidson, of Davidson County, James Darden and Henry Frey, of Robertson County, Pleasant Bagwell, of Montgomery County, and Benjamin C. Robertson, of Dickson County, as Commissioners to select and establish the county seat. William S. Perry was directed to run and mark the lines. This Act was repealed in Item 18 below.
17. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 193, instructed the Surveyors of Dickson County and Montgomery County to complete the unfinished line between the said counties. The Surveyors were to meet at the point where the line now ends and each one would project the line and mark the relevant parts. A plat would be made and filed with the County Courts of the respective counties. The Surveyors were to be paid \$3.00 a day for each day spent on the job.
18. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 122, formed the new County of Cheatham out of portions of the Counties of Robertson, Montgomery, Davidson, and Dickson. Portions of this Act are printed herein.
19. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 100, moved the residence and farm of Joseph Weems out of Montgomery County and placed the same wholly within Dickson County.

20. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 82, Section 7, changed the boundaries between Cheatham County and Dickson County to begin at the three-forked chestnut tree on the Dickson County line; thence down Bethaning's Creek to the Big Harpeth River; thence down the said River to the mouth of the Harpeth; thence up the Cumberland River to the Cheatham County line.
21. Acts of 1870, Chapter 72, stated that the citizens of Dickson County would hold an election on the second Tuesday in November to vote on a change of the county seat from Charlotte to either Burns, Sneedville, or White Bluff Station on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The ballot would be "for" or "against" removal. The results would be reported to the County Judge, or Chairman. If none received a majority the one with the lowest votes would be dropped and the election continued among the other two.
22. Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 46, created Houston County out of portions of Stewart County, Humphreys County, Montgomery County, and Dickson County. Pertinent portions of this act are published herein.
23. Acts of 1873, Chapter 55, provided that the citizens of Dickson County could hold an election on the second Tuesday in June, 1873, at the different voting precincts in the county on whether or not to move the county town from the city of Charlotte to the town of White Bluff, Burns, Dickson, or to the point where the dirt road crosses the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. A majority of two-thirds must approve before the change would be made.
24. Acts of 1873, Chapter 69, Section 2, provided that all of that part of Dickson County east of the Harpeth River was attached to Cheatham County.
25. Acts of 1877, Chapter 60, amended Section 2 of an 1875 act. This act is published herein.
26. Acts of 1879, Chapter 13, rearranged the boundaries between Dickson County and Cheatham County so as to include the residence and lands of J. W. Simpkins, wholly within Cheatham County.
27. Acts of 1881, Chapter 143, Sections One and Two, changed the boundaries between Dickson County and Cheatham County beginning at a hickory south of the Northwestern Railroad, running thence south 78 degrees east with the said Railroad 130 poles to a black oak, thence south 200 poles to a white hickory, thence north 87 degrees 70 poles to the bluff on Turnbull Creek, thence up the Creek with the Bluff to the county line so as to include W. G. McMillan's properties in Dickson County, and Section 2 moved that part of the land of L. D. Pack lying east of the Harpeth River into Dickson County as the same was described. (This Act was declared unconstitutional in McMillan v. Hannah, 106 Tenn 689, 61 SW 1020 (1901).
28. Acts of 1883, Chapter 87, moved the house and farm belonging to N. E. Andrews, and Clay Andrews, on Plumber's Creek in the Sixth Civil District of Hickman County out of Hickman County and into Dickson County.
29. Acts of 1883, Chapter 92, abolished the corporation of the town of Dickson on the Northwestern Railroad in Dickson County which had been incorporated under the general laws of the state by a decree of the Chancery Court at its December term in 1873.
30. Acts of 1883, Chapter 93, changed the lines between Dickson County and Humphreys County commencing at the northwest corner of A. Vetter's farm running north across the Northwestern Railroad to the county line on the top of Tennessee Ridge so that the lands of W. Beckman and the tenants of W. A. Moody were included wholly within Dickson County.
31. Acts of 1885, Chapter 69, detached the home and farm belonging to Joel N. Boze from Dickson County and attached the same entirely to Houston County.
32. Acts of 1887, Chapter 50, transferred all the properties belonging to G. W. Daniel out of Montgomery County and placed them into Dickson County.
33. Acts of 1887, Chapter 105, altered the lines between Dickson County and Cheatham County starting at Paint Rock Bluff where the Dickson County line leaves the river; thence up the river with its meanders to the mouth of Trace Creek; thence up the said Creek to the Dickson and Cheatham County line so as to include what is known as the Horseshoe in Dickson County and all that part of Dickson County east of the Harpeth River above Paint Rock Bluff was attached solely to Cheatham County. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1891, Chapter 251, below.
34. Acts of 1887, Chapter 116, made it the duty of the County Surveyors of Cheatham County, Montgomery County, and Dickson County, jointly to survey the boundary line between the said counties south of the Cumberland River. The Surveyors were to meet at a point on the south bank of the Cumberland river near the mouth of Barton's Creek where the line between Montgomery County and Cheatham County strikes the River and run the line to the intersection of

Dickson County, the run the line between Dickson County and Montgomery County to the southwest corner of the 10th Civil District of Montgomery County. A map of each section must be prepared and deposited with the County Court Clerk of each County involved who would be obligated to pay its own surveyor his reasonable compensation.

35. Acts of 1891, Chapter 251, repealed Acts of 1887, Chapter 105, above, and described the line between Cheatham County and Dickson County as beginning at Paint Rock Bluff on the Harpeth River to run with the old county line between Cheatham County and Dickson County to Tract Creek, thence down the said creek to its mouth to the Cheatham County line so as to include in Cheatham County what is known as Horseshoe.
36. Acts of 1893, Chapter 119, transferred the property known as the Horseshoe out of Cheatham County and back into Dickson County using the same property description mentioned in the preceding acts. This Act was rendered unconstitutional by the Court in Cheatham County v. Dickson County, 39 S.W. 734 (1896).
37. Acts of 1897, Chapter 199, which was cited as Chapter 200 in the earlier volume of Private Acts, moved all the possessions of Henderson Proctor, and E. T. Williams, out of Montgomery County and into Dickson County, as the same was legally described in the Act.
38. Acts of 1899, Chapter 353, incorporated the town of Dickson under the Mayor-Aldermen type of Charter, embracing the physical area described in the Act. Seven Aldermen would be elected to one year terms and the council would appoint a Recorded, Marshal, and other officers, who would exercise the powers named therein for the Mayor and Council in 32 separate paragraphs. The first election would occur on the second Monday in May, 1899. The Charter was a blueprint of most of those being enacted at that particular historical area. It is so lengthy, it is difficult to reduce it sensibly.
39. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 300, rearranged the boundary lines between Dickson County and Hickman County so that the lands of Moses Tidwell and J. L. Brown would be excluded from Hickman County and included within Dickson County.
40. Private Acts of 1905, Chapter 525, moved the residence and farm of L. W. Sullivan out of Dickson County and into Williamson County.
41. Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 57, detached the lands of L. J. Browning, as the same were described in the Act, out of Houston County and into Dickson County. A legal description of the new line between the counties was contained in the Act.
42. Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 558, transferred the lands of J. E. Lampley and G. C. Lampley, out of Williamson County and put them into Dickson County altogether.
43. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 526, is published herein. This Act concerned the boundary between Dickson County altogether.
44. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 643, changed the lines between Dickson County and Williamson County so that all the lands belonging to M. C. Lampley would be included in Williamson County.
45. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 255, effectuated a boundary change between Montgomery County and Dickson County as the same was more particularly described in the Act. This Act is printed herein.
46. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 403, moved two tracts of land out of Houston County and into Dickson County as the same were described legally in the Act which is published in this Volume.
47. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 436, took four tracts of land, known as Trust Number 2, 3, 4 and 5, of the Gleaves land, which are now owned by J. K. Simpkins out of Dickson County and placed them in Cheatham County, as the same were generally described in this statute.

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