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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

Creation of the County

Acts of 1806 Chapter 36

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and is hereby established on the south and adjoining the aforesaid counties of Wilson, Smith, Jackson, and Overton, by the name of White, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning in the late Indian boundary line, at the south west corner of said Wilson county; thence eastwardly with the said counties of Wilson, Smith, Jackson and Overton, to the west boundary of Roane county; thence southwardly with the line of said Roane county, to the south boundary line of this state; thence with the said south boundary line to the south east corner of Rutherford county; thence north with the east boundary line of Rutherford county, to the beginning aforesaid.

SECTION 2. And for the due administration of justice, BE IT ENACTED, That the first court, and all subsequent courts of the county of White, shall be held by the justices of the same, at the house of Joseph Terry, near Rock Island, until otherwise altered or provided by law; and all courts held in and for said county of White, 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 the courts of the several counties in this state.

SECTION 3. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of the said county of White, to hold an election, at the place of holding courts in the same on the first Thursday in November next and the succeeding day, for the purpose of electing one colonel and two majors for the said county of White, under the same rules, regulations and restrictions as are prescribed by law in similar cases.

SECTION 4. That the election for company officers for the county of White shall be held at such places as the commandant of said county may think proper to appoint, which said elections shall be held on the third Saturday in December next, under the same rules, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed in like cases.

And elections of members of the General Assembly, the governor and members of congress, shall be held at the place of holding court in said county of White, on the same days on which elections for the same purposes are authorized to be held; and the sheriff of said county of White, shall meet the sheriff of Jackson county on the succeeding Monday, at the place of holding court in said county of Jackson, and with him examine the respective polls of election for both counties, and declare the persons having the greatest number of votes duly elected, and give certificates accordingly.

SECTION 5. That the county of White shall, in all cases be considered a part of the district of Winchester; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed: September 12, 1806.

Change of Boundary Lines

Chapter 1807 Chapter 28

SECTION 1. That the county of White shall be divided into two distinct counties, as follows, to wit: Beginning on the Caney Fork, where Smith county line crosses the same; running up the channel of said river to the mouth of Rocky river; thence along the top of the dividing ridge between the Caney Fork and Rocky river, to the top of Cumberland mountain; thence along the extreme height of the mountain, eastwardly, until it strikes the wilderness road; then with said road, to the Jackson county line, including Daniel Alexander's dwelling house, in White county; then with the line of Jackson and Smith counties to the beginning. And all that part of White county, lying within the described bounds, be and remain the county of White; and that the courts in the said county of White, shall hereafter commence on the second Mondays of February, May, August and November, and shall be held at the house where Caleb Friley now lives, until otherwise provided for by law.

SECTION 2. That there be a new county laid off, by the following boundary, to wit: Beginning on Cumberland mountain, where the line of White county strikes the same; thence westwardly, with said mountain to the Indian boundary line; then along said line to the most eastwardly branch of Duck river; thence north, to the east boundary of Rutherford county; thence with the lines of Rutherford, Wilson, Smith and White, to the beginning. Which last mentioned

bounds shall compose a new county, by the name of Warren.
Passed: November 26, 1807.

Act of 1813 Chapter 97

WHEREAS it appears to this General Assembly that the citizens residing in the south east corner of the county of Jackson labour under great inconveniency in consequence of their remote situation from the seat of justice in said county; for remedy whereof,

SECTION 1. That all that part of Jackson lying east and south of the following lines to wit: Beginning where the eastern boundary line of Jackson county, and the northern boundary line of White county intersect each other on the Walton road at the White Plains, thence westwardly along the dividing ridge that divides the waters of Roaring river and Falling water, until it strikes the main branch of Cane creek, thence down said creek including the dwelling house of Smith Hutchins in White county, to where the dividing line between Jackson and White crosses the same, leaving said Walton's road and all the waters of Roaring river in Jackson county, and that the same is hereby stricken off the county of Jackson, and is hereby attached to, and shall become a part of the county of White; PROVIDED nothing herein contained shall deprive Jackson county of its constitutional limits.

SECTION 2. That the sheriff of Jackson county shall collect all arrearages of taxes already laid by any order or orders of the county court of Jackson, and all state taxes already due and uncollected in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as he could have done if this act had not passed.

SECTION 3. That this law shall take effect from and after the first day of December next.
Passed: November 16, 1813.

Acts of 1815 Chapter 182

SECTION 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 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.

SECTION 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.

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

SECTION 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.

Passed: November 6, 1815.

Acts of 1819 Chapter 63

WHEREAS by an act of the General Assembly, passed 1813, a certain portion of Jackson county was attached to White county, which by actual admeasurement has been found to reduce Jackson county below her constitutional limits, for remedy whereof:

SECTION 1. That the dividing line between the counties of White and Jackson shall be as follows, to wit: Beginning at or near the White plains where the former line of Jackson county crosses the Cumberland road; thence south twenty three degrees east, about two miles to an Elm, black gum, hickory, and two dogwoods at a large sink hole, on a spur of Cumberland mountain; thence south forty two degrees west, five miles to three white oaks and two red oaks on the east bank of Hutchens' creek; thence west fourteen miles one hundred and sixty poles to the south west corner of Jackson county, which line as hereby designated shall be the true jurisdictional line between the said counties forever.

SECTION 2. That all civil officers as well as military, that now live in said territory intended to be re-attached to Jackson county, shall hold, occupy, exercise and enjoy said offices, in as full and ample a manner in the county of Jackson as they now enjoy the same in the county of White, provided nevertheless, if there be any constable, heretofore appointed, by the authority of White county whose

term is not expired, he shall give new and additional security to the county court of Jackson, for the faithful discharge of his duties for the time unexpired.

SECTION 3. That all judgments rendered and executions issued to, for or against any person or persons residing in said territory so attached, shall be proceeded upon and collected in the same manner they could or would have been, in case this act had never been passed; and nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of White county, from collecting any taxes, public dues, or monies due upon executions in his hands against any person resident therein.

SECTION 4. That John Murry is appointed to run and mark that part of the southern boundary line of Jackson county, and the northern boundary of White county, in a plain and distinct manner, where the same has not been heretofore done, and the commissioners of the town of Gainsboro', shall allow the said Murry such compensation as they may think proper, out of any monies that may remain in their hands not otherwise appropriated. And for the prevention of disputes between the citizens of Morgan and Overton counties, in regard to their boundary:

SECTION 5. That the following shall be the dividing line between said counties until otherwise provided for by law, (to wit:) beginning at Johnson's stand on the great Cumberland Turnpike road; thence a direct course to the house now occupied by Joseph French on Pile's road; thence a direct course to the extreme height of the ridge, that divides the waters of Wolf river from the waters of White Oak creek; thence a due north course to the Kentucky line. Which said lines shall be the jurisdictional lines, in all respects whatever.

SECTION 6. That this act shall be in force from and after the first day of January next.
Passed: November 11, 1819.

Acts of 1837-38 Chapter 65

SECTION 1. That a part of the dividing line between the counties of White and Bledsoe, be so altered, as to leave the line, at present dividing the said counties, at the point where said line crosses big Laurel creek, running thence down Laurel Creek, so far that a parallel line with the present county line, running from said Laurel creek to Bee creek, and thence up Bee creek, or down the same as the case may be, to the mouth of Glade creek, thence up Glade creek to the present county line, will include the plantations or farms, on which Thomas F. Barnett, Jonathan Acuff, William Campbell, George Gregory and William Graham now live. And the surveyor of Bledsoe county, is hereby authorised and directed, to run and plainly mark the said line between Laurel and Bee creeks, for which the county court of Bledsoe county is authorised to make him a reasonable compensation, to be paid out of any money in the county treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the line so designated and marked shall be the true dividing line between the said counties, and the territory lying, between the said line and the old one shall be attached to and considered a part of Bledsoe county, Provided, that the plantation of John Mitchell, shall be attached to, and constitute a part of White county; Provided, also, that nothing in this act contained, shall be so construed, as to include any other person or persons in the said county of Bledsoe, other than those mentioned in this Act, or to prevent the sheriff and other officers of White county from collecting taxes and other debts in their hands for collection at the passage of this act, from those persons attached to Bledsoe county.

Passed: December 16, 1837.

Private Acts of 1915 Chapter 477

SECTION 1. That the County line between said Counties be changed as follows: Beginning at a white oak and marked on the North side of the Sam's Gap Road, and in the South boundary line of the 1000 acres lying in the Northeast corner of a 5000 acre tract granted by the State of Tennessee to Francis Church, July 14th, 1831, being Grant No. 2137, based on White County Entry No. 2032, said 1000 acres having been conveyed by said Francis Church to D. S. Bedford and more recently by H. C. Snodgrass, et al., to the Bon Air Coal, Land & Lumber Co., said white oak being a corner of Cumberland and White Counties, and running thence North 77 " West to a rock where the West boundary line of said Grant No. 2137 crosses the line between Putnam and White Counties, as now located; giving to White County all the land lying South of said line as hereinbefore described, including about 340 acres now lying in the 4th Civil District of Putnam County and giving to Putnam County all of the land north of said line and Eastward to the West boundary line of Cumberland County, as now established, including about 360 acres now lying in the 13th Civil District of White County, being in the Northeast corner of said County.

SECTION 2. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: May 14, 1915.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The validity of this act and the right of the General Assembly to change county boundary lines were both sustained by the Supreme Court in Putnam County v. White County, 140 Tenn. 19, 203 S.W. 334 (1918).

Private Acts of 1915 Chapter 542

SECTION 1. That the line between White and DeKalb Counties be changed by taking from DeKalb County and adding to White County a strip of land bounded and described as follows:

Beginning in the center of the Caney Fork River at a point where said river in its downward flow leaves the line between said Counties, runs thence down the center of said river to a point in the center of the river two miles below Sligo Ford, thence at right angles Easterly 350 feet to a point, thence, southernly and parallel with the meanders of the river to a point in the present White County line, thence Westerly 350 feet to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: May 17, 1915.

Private Acts of 1961 Chapter 220

SECTION 1. That the line between the Counties of Putnam and White be, and the same is hereby changed so that the county line between the counties of Putnam and White will be located in the following manner: Starting at a point where the present Putnam County-White County line intersects Taylor's Creek at Fanchers Falls; thence down Taylor Creek with the meanders of the creek to the center of Falling Water River at the mouth of Taylor's Creek; thence up Falling Water River with the meanders of the River to Burgess Falls; thence from Burgess Falls southwardly to the Power House Road to a point of intersection with the present County line. There is excluded however, from the above described lands a tract of approximately one hundred fifty (150) acres, said lands being owned by the City of Cookeville and which are fully described in Chapter 698 of the Private Acts of 1925, all of which said lands shall remain and be a part of the County of Putnam.

SECTION 2. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: March 8, 1961.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1809, Chapter 11, authorized William Phillips, now of Overton County, to employ some surveyor to run a line beginning at a point in the present dividing line of the two counties which point shall be east of the said Phillips land, ten poles, thence north ten poles to a point, thence west 40 poles to a point, thence south to the present dividing line between the two counties, so as to include the present farm and dwelling belonging to Phillips in White County.
2. Acts of 1809, Chapter 41, appointed Turner Lane, of White County, and John A. Wilson, of Warren County, to run and mark the line between the said counties from the mouth of the Rocky River to the top of the Cumberland Mountain taking care to mark the same as near along the middle of the dividing ridge between the Rocky River and the Caney Fork River as possible. They may hire a suitable person to mark the line and each Commissioner named above shall have \$2 per day for each day worked.
3. Acts of 1819, Chapter 63, described a new dividing line between Jackson and White Counties beginning where the old line crossed the Cumberland Road and running as the line was described in the Act. All officers, civil and military, residing in the area added to Jackson County will continue in their respective offices and capacities. All judgments rendered but unsatisfied would continue in full force and effect. John Murry would be responsible for running and marking the said line.
4. Acts of 1825, Chapter 281, made it the duty of the Surveyor of Jackson County to run and mark the line, described below, and to complete the same by January 20, next, beginning at three white oaks and 2 red oaks on the east bank of Hutchen's Creek, one of the corners on the line running west, fourteen miles and 160 poles to the southwest corner of Jackson County, which line, when run and marked, shall be the official dividing line between the two counties. Jackson County must pay the Surveyor a reasonable price for his services.
5. Acts of 1826, Chapter 153, stated that the Quarterly Court at its first session in January next would appoint some suitable person to run the line between White and Bledsoe Counties

- beginning at the ford of Oby's River on the old Cumberland Road, running thence in a direct line to George Dawson's at the Cross Roads on the road leading from Sparta to Crab Orchard, including Dawson's house in Bledsoe County, thence a direct line to a point two miles northwest of Phillip Hoodenpyle's old place on the road between Sparta and Pikeville; thence a direct line to the ford of Brush Creek where Madison Road crosses so as to include Archibald Board's old place in Bledsoe County. The two counties would share the cost.
6. Acts of 1829, Chapter 257, made it the duty of the Surveyor of Jackson County to run and mark the line beginning at the southeast corner of Smith County and running thence a direct line to the place where the Jackson County line, as run by William W. Woodfork, crosses Cane Creek, which line, when so run, shall be the dividing line between Jackson and White Counties. All entries made prior to the running of this line, as it is described herein, shall be as valid as if they had been made after the running of the line.
 7. Acts of 1833, Chapter 301, required the Surveyor of Jackson County to run and mark the line beginning at the southeast corner of Smith County and running thence a direct line to the place where the Jackson County line, as run by William W. Woodfolk crosses Cane Creek and, when this line is so run, it shall be the official line dividing the two counties. All land entries which may have been made in either county and which, by the establishment of this line may be in another county shall be as valid and binding as if located in that county from the beginning.
 8. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 199, changed the dividing line between White and Dekalb Counties, running north from the four mile tree, on Dibrell's Road, so as to run with the line of the 8th District to the Jackson County line, leaving all the citizens residing in the 8th District in White County.
 9. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 181, moved all the lands and possessions of Charles Denney out of Dekalb County and into White County. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 211.
 10. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 173, changed the line between White and Putnam Counties so that the line runs from J. B. Lowry's Mill on the Falling Water southward to Cole's Branch, leaving the said Lowry house in which he now lives in White County where he must pay all present and future taxes. Another Section of the same Act changed a portion of the line with Putnam County to run northwest from Emory Pennington's to strike the northeast corner of John H. Robison's farm; thence with Robison's line to the old line, so that all the lands of Gideon Brown would be located in White County.
 11. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 47, detached the residence and lands belonging to William S. Mitchell from Van Buren County and attached them to White County.
 12. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 100, provided that all the lands belonging to James M. Anderson be attached to White County but doesn't say from whence they came.
 13. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 135, changed the lines between Putnam County and White County so as to place the home and the farm of Dudley Hunter wholly into White County. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1871, Chapter 74.
 14. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 211, repealed Acts of 1853-1854, Chapter 181, which placed the lands of Charles Denney in White County. Section 5, same Act, transferred the property of Thomas C. Welch from White County to Cumberland County.
 15. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 12, moved the lands and residences of Lafayette Jones and Andrew J. Jones out of Dekalb County and into White County.
 16. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 5, repealed the second section of an Act passed December 2, 1867 which changed the line between White and Dekalb Counties except for the lands of Hiram Morris, George W. Darting, and A. P. Midenix. The only Act between Dekalb and White in 1867 is shown above which did not contain those names.
 17. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 36, transferred the properties of Edward Blankenship out of White County and into Van Buren County.
 18. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 43, moved the home and farm belonging to David Worley out of Dekalb County and into White County.
 19. Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 48, changed the lines between White and Dekalb Counties so as to include the properties of George W. Hutchings and John Edwards wholly in White County.
 20. Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 104, transferred the lands and residence of Asa Frazier out of Van Buren County and wholly into White County.
 21. Acts of 1871, Chapter 74, repealed Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 135 in its entirety and restored the line between White and Putnam County at that point to its original status, as if that Act had never

- been passed.
22. Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, changed the line between White and Van Buren Counties so that the farm and home of A. J. McElroy were included wholly in Van Buren County.
 23. Acts of 1881, Chapter 165, moved all the property belonging to Herd Cope out of White County and into Dekalb County.
 24. Acts of 1883, Chapter 45, detached the residence and farm belonging to John Parks from Cumberland County and attached them to White County.
 25. Acts of 1885, Chapter 136, altered the lines between White and Van Buren Counties so as to include wholly within Van Buren County the old Lem Mitchell place and the lands of William Mooneyham, William Lawson, and the Widow Sparkman place on the Fork Mountain.
 26. Acts of 1887, Chapter 193, transferred the home and land of John Eldridge out of Dekalb County and into White County.
 27. Acts of 1887, Chapter 203, changed the line between White and Putnam Counties to commence on a bluff a few rods east of the mouth of Pigeon Roost Creek and to run east up the Falling Water River to where the said county line crosses the Falling Water River, making the bed of the river the dividing line.
 28. Acts of 1889, Chapter 113, changed the lines between Putnam and White Counties so that all the properties belonging to Silas Howell and William Howell were included wholly within White County.
 29. Acts of 1889, Chapter 264, moved the lands belonging to F. Rigsby and William Stratten out of White County and into Dekalb County.
 30. Acts of 1897, Chapter 306, changed the boundary lines between White County and Putnam County so that the land of D. S. Officer, as it was described by metes and bounds in the Act, became wholly a part of White County.
 31. Acts of 1897, Chapter 318, shifted the boundary lines between White and Warren Counties so as to include wholly within one of those Counties (the Act doesn't say which one) the Balif Mill tract of land which now belongs to Smallman and Swan. 32. Acts of 1899, Chapter 84, cleared up the discrepancy mentioned above by moving all of the Baloff Mill Tract of land out of White County and into Warren County.
 32. Acts of 1899, Chapter 226, detached a portion of the lands belonging to H. Little which was situated in Cumberland County and attached it to White County so that the entire tract would be located in White County.
 33. Acts of 1899, Chapter 366, relocated that part of the lands of H. C. Snodgrass, which was formerly a part of Cumberland County, into White County so that the whole parcel was situated now in White County.
 34. Acts of 1909, Chapter 62, moved the lands of W. L. Goldston and Peter Sparkman out of Van Buren County and into White County.
 35. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 579, changed the line between White County and Warren County so that the line shall follow the center of the Caney Fork River at low water mark from the point in said river just below the mouth of the Rocky River where the two lines now intersect to the point in said river just above the N. C. & St. L. Railroad bridge where the two lines again intersect.
 36. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 656, recited in the preamble that a dispute had arisen between White County and Putnam County as to the location of the boundary line dividing them at certain places, and, litigation has been threatened in order to determine the same, this Act fixes the lines of land, now the property of Ed Nowlin and Jack Duncan, the lands known as the Simp Saylor's Falls, or Lowery tract, now the property of Alonzo Burgess, and the lands of Silas Howell and William Howell, shall all be included within the territory of White County. This act declared unconstitutional in Putnam County v. White County, 140 Tenn. 19, 203 SW 336 (1918).
 37. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 698, rearranged the boundary lines between White County and Putnam County so that the farm of Alonzo Burgess, which was conveyed to Cookeville, Tennessee as a site for a hydro-electric plant and is now being used for that purpose, consisting of some 90 acres, becomes a part of Putnam County, and the line of the Falling Water River moving eastwardly from the said farm with the south bank of the high mark of Falling Water River to the east end of the John Jones farm, being about 150 acres in all, designates the other acreage moved.
 38. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 82, detached the lands of F. C. Henderson, bounded on the north by Keathly, on the east by Thurman, on the south by Hutchings, and on the west by Hutchings, from

Dekalb County and attached the same to White County.

39. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 147, is an exact duplicate of Chapter 82, above.
40. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 562, moved the land owned by Fate Weaver, which is now located in the Fourth Civil District of Putnam County, out of that County and into the Eleventh Civil District of White County. This Act was repealed by the one below.
41. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 62, repealed Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 562, above.

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