



March 29, 2025

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Dear Reader:

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

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

Sincerely,

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Private Acts of 1823 Chapter 108

SECTION 6. That a new county, to be called and known by the name of Dyer County, be and the same is hereby established on the west side of the Tennessee River, and shall be bounded as follows, to wit: beginning at the north-west corner of the first county west of Carroll county, running thence south with the first range line, to the south boundary of the thirteenth district; thence west with the district line, to the western boundary of this state; thence on said western boundary, to the fifth sectional line; thence east with the said line, to the beginning.

SECTION 7. That for the due administration of justice, the courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions shall be held at the house of John Warrens, in said county, on the fourth Mondays in December, March, June, and September; the circuit courts shall be held at the same place, on the first Mondays of June and December, until otherwise provided for by law.

SECTION 8. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of said county, on the first Thursday and Friday of February next, to open and hold an election for field officers in the regiment of militia in said county, which shall compose the regiment and be attached to the brigade, and said election shall be held under the same rules and regulations as are by law provided in similar cases.

Passed: October 16, 1823.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The other sections of this Act did not concern Dyer County and are not repeated here.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1877 Chapter 43

SECTION 1. That the line between Dyer and Lauderdale counties be so changed as to transfer from Lauderdale to Dyer county all the territory of Lauderdale county north of the following line: Beginning in the county line in the middle of the channel of Forked Deer river, opposite the old shingle yard below Key Corner, running thence due south to the centre of the road leading to Hale's Point from Double Bridges; thence eastwardly along said road to the centre of the road leading from Key Corner to Ripley; thence southwardly along said road to the centre of the channel of Mill Creek; thence down said creek as it meanders to the county line, to-wit, the south fork of Forked Deer river.

SECTION 2. That the passage of this Act shall in no wise exempt any of the citizens or property within the territory above mentioned from any liability already lawfully incurred either to Lauderdale county or for any railroad subscription.

SECTION 3. That the County Court of Dyer county shall provide for the assessment and collection of taxes in said territory for the year 1878, and shall provide for the election of Justices of the Peace and Constables in said territory, as soon as they see proper, looking to the public welfare.

SECTION 4. That the Justices of the Peace and Constables who are at present in office within the above described territory, shall serve as officers of Dyer county until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

SECTION 5. That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to reduce Lauderdale county below her constitutional limits; and this Act shall become a law as soon as two-thirds of the qualified voters residing in the territory proposed to be added to Dyer county, shall so express their desire at an election to be held by the sheriff of Lauderdale county, who is hereby authorized and instructed to hold such election in the mode and manner prescribed by law, within six months after the passage of this Act, first giving thirty days' notice of said election; the polls shall be open as the law provides, in two of the most convenient places in the territory mentioned above, and the said sheriff shall make known the result of the election in writing to the Clerks of the County Courts of Dyer and Lauderdale counties, who shall publish the same: Provided, that an accurate survey shall first be made to ascertain if said proposed change will reduce the county of Lauderdale below its constitutional limits.

SECTION 6. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 20, 1877.

Acts of 1893 Chapter 120

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Dyer and Lauderdale is hereby so changed as to embrace in the county of Dyer the point of land called "Tiger Tail," at the junction of the Forked Deer River with the old channel or the Mississippi River, through which Obion River now runs. This change of the line between the counties of Dyer and Lauderdale is to begin at a point in the Forked Deer River about one-fourth of a mile above its junction with the old channel of the Mississippi River, and thence with the center of the channel through which the waters of the Obion and Forked Deer Rivers flow to the Mississippi River, called Obion River, to the Mississippi River.

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

Passed: February 1, 1893.

Public Acts of 1877 Chapter 43

SECTION 1. That the line between Dyer and Lauderdale counties be so changed as to transfer from Lauderdale to Dyer county all the territory of Lauderdale county north of the following line: Beginning in the county line in the middle of the channel of Forked Deer river, opposite the old shingle yard below Key Corner, running thence due south to the centre of the road leading to Hale's Point from Double Bridges; thence eastwardly along said road to the centre of the road leading from Key Corner to Ripley; thence southwardly along said road to the centre of the channel of Mill Creek; thence down said creek as it meanders to the county line, to-wit, the south fork of Forked Deer river.

SECTION 2. That the passage of this Act shall in no wise exempt any of the citizens or property within the territory above mentioned from any liability already lawfully incurred either to Lauderdale county or for any railroad subscription.

SECTION 3. That the County Court of Dyer county shall provide for the assessment and collection of taxes in said territory for the year 1878, and shall provide for the election of Justices of the Peace and Constables in said territory, as soon as they see proper, looking to the public welfare.

SECTION 4. That the Justices of the Peace and Constables who are at present in office within the above described territory, shall serve as officers of Dyer county until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

SECTION 5. That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to reduce Lauderdale county below her constitutional limits; and this Act shall become a law as soon as two-thirds of the qualified voters residing in the territory proposed to be added to Dyer county, shall so express their desire at an election to be held by the sheriff of Lauderdale county, who is hereby authorized and instructed to hold such election in the mode and manner prescribed by law, within six months after the passage of this Act, first giving thirty days' notice of said election; the polls shall be open as the law provides, in two of the most convenient places in the territory mentioned above, and the said sheriff shall make known the result of the election in writing to the Clerks of the County Courts of Dyer and Lauderdale counties, who shall publish the same: Provided, that an accurate survey shall first be made to ascertain if said proposed change will reduce the county of Lauderdale below its constitutional limits.

SECTION 6. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 20, 1877.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 256, appointed Abel H. Pope, of Lauderdale County, to run and mark the dividing line between Haywood and Lauderdale Counties so as to reduce Haywood County to its constitutional limits of 625 square miles, and, further, to run and mark the line between Dyer and Lauderdale Counties. The County Court of Lauderdale County would pay the surveyor for his services.
2. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 83, changed the boundary line between Gibson County and Dyer County so as to include in Gibson County the territory lying between the North Fork and the Little North Fork of the Forked Deer River to the end that the line would run with the Forks of the said River to their junction.

3. Acts of 1865-66, Chapter 19, concerned the creation of Crockett County which was formed by taking fragments from Haywood, Madison, Gibson, and Dyer counties.
4. Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 26, stated that the Act which established Crockett County would not infringe upon the constitutional size of Madison, Gibson, and Dyer Counties, but this Section would not be construed to invalidate any past Act or Acts of the commissioners of the said Counties.
5. Acts of 1883, Chapter 97, rearranged the boundary lines between the counties of Lake and Dyer so as to include within Lake County all the area within two miles south of the present line.
6. Acts of 1887, Chapter 194, changed the lines between Dyer County and Crockett County where the line crosses the lands of J. A. Sudberry and John Hall, near Chestnut Bluff, so as to include all of the home tract of Sudberry in Dyer County and to include all the land of Hall in Crockett County. All the laws defining the boundary between the counties of Crockett and Dyer were amended to that effect.
7. Acts of 1889, Chapter 32, transferred all the properties belonging to John Barham out of Gibson County and into Dyer County.
8. Acts of 1889, Chapter 108, moved the residences and lands belonging to J. W. Bell, Mrs. Churchman, and R. K. Harwell, out of Crockett County and into Dyer County.
9. Acts of 1893, Chapter 22, changed the lines between Crockett County and Dyer County so as to include all the lands of J. W. Clark's heirs in Dyer County, detaching the same from Crockett County and causing the new line to run from the southwest corner of Ben Bell's tract of land in the Crockett County line south between A. E. Taylor and H. Stallings on the east, and J. W. Clark's heirs, on the west, to the southwest corner of the said Clark's heir's land, thence west with the south boundary of J. W. Clark's heirs to their southwest corner, thence north with the said Clerk's heir's line to the Crockett County line.
10. Private Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 67, realigned the boundaries between Dyer County and Gibson County where the said line crosses the Newbern and Neboville public road after it leaves the Huey lands where it now runs due south across the A. L. McCorkle and Mrs. Allie Spence land, so as to cause the line to run, when it touches A. L. McCorkle's north line, directly west to McCorkle's north west corner; thence due south with the McCorkle and Spence west line to Spence's southwest corner; and then go east to where the said county line now crosses the Spence's south line and thence south, as it now runs, which places the McCorkle farm and the Spence farm entirely within Gibson County.

Change of Boundary Lines

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