



November 24, 2024

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Dear Reader:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Chapter IV - Boundaries 3
Creation of the County 3
Acts of 1807 Chapter 28 3
Change of Boundary Lines 3
Acts of 1809 Chapter 79 3
Acts of 1813 Chapter 71 5
Acts of 1905 Chapter 450 5
Private Acts of 1911 Chapter 579 5
Private Acts of 1931 Chapter 774 6
Boundaries - Historical Notes 6

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1807 Chapter 28

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.

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.

3. That the courts in said county of Warren, shall be held by commission, to justices of the peace, under the same rules and restrictions as are prescribed for the several counties in this state. And for the due administration of justice, in said county.

4. That the courts of said county of Warren, shall be held on the first Mondays of February, May, August and November, in each year, at the house of Joseph Westmoreland, on the east side of Barren Fork of Collen's river, near a big spring, where Looney's trace crosses the said fork, and shall continue to be held at said place, until otherwise provided by law.

5. That the sheriff of said county of Warren, shall on the constitutional days of holding elections in this state, hold an election at the place of holding court in said county, for the purpose of electing a governor, member to congress, members of the General Assembly, and shall on the Monday succeeding said election, meet the sheriff of Jackson county at the court house, and compare the polls so taken; and the sheriff of Jackson shall give a certificate to the person or persons elected, and where it shall be necessary, the sheriff shall hold an election for electors of president and vice president, under the same restrictions as to the other counties in this state, and make return agreeable to law.

6. That the county of Warren shall compose a part of the district of Winchester, and shall send three jurors to the superior courts of said district.

7. That the militia of said county of Warren, shall constitute the twenty-ninth regiment, and shall hold regimental musters on the fourth Thursday of September in each year, and the colonel or commanding officer of said regiment, shall issue his writ, and appoint the place where elections shall be held for the election of company officers.

8. That the election for field officers for said county of Warren, be held at the place of holding court of said county, on the first Thursday in March in the succeeding day, one thousand eight hundred and eight.
Passed: November 26, 1807.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1809 Chapter 79

1. That from and after the passing of this act, the bounds of Warren county shall be as follows, to wit: Beginning on Cumberland mountain at the south west corner of White county, thence westwardly along the top of said mountain to a point just twenty poles further than a place opposite where Avent, a son-in-law of Thomas Vining now lives, thence a direct course by the house spring on the head of Stones river, to the east boundary line of Rutherford county, thence along the lines of Rutherford, Wilson, Smith and White counties, to the beginning; and that the country taken from Warren county by the reduction of it as aforesaid, shall be and the same is hereby declared to be attached to and held to be a part of Franklin county, any former law to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. That the sheriff of Warren county shall hold an election on the second Monday in March next, at the court house in said county; for the purpose of electing five commissioners to fix on a suitable place for the permanent seat of justice in said county, at which said election every free man of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, who may have been a resident of the county for the space of three months, immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to a vote, and five persons thus elected, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, and they or a majority of them, are authorised to purchase forty acres of land, on the most reasonable terms, having special regard to situation, water and timber, for the purpose of erecting a courthouse, prison and stocks for the use of the county, and the said commissioners or a majority of them, shall take a deed in fee simple, intrust for the said county of Warren, 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 as aforesaid, proceed to lay off a town thereon, to be called and known by the name of M'Minnville, reserving two acres for public use in or near the centre thereof, which shall be denominated the public square.

3. That the said commissioners or a majority of them, be, and they are hereby authorised and required to advertise and sell the lots in said town to the highest bidder, on a credit of twelve months for one half of the purchase money, and eighteen months for the other half, taking bond with good and sufficient security from each and every purchaser, to themselves and their successors in office, to and for the use of the said county, and they are hereby authorised to execute deeds to the purchasers, which shall be good and valid in law to all intents and purposes, and the money arising from the sale of said lots shall be applied to the payment of the land as by them purchased as aforesaid, and the residue thereof to the building of the said court-house, prison and stocks, and they are hereby authorized and required, first advertising the same in the Carthage Gazette, and at the court-houses of Warren, White, Jackson, Smith, Overton and Franklin, at least thirty days, to proceed to let out the building of the court-house, prison and stocks, to the lowest bidder, on such condition as may be approved of by said commissioners.

4. That in case there shall not be money sufficient arising from the sale of the land so purchased, that the county court have power to lay a tax not exceeding twelve and an half cents on each hundred acres of land, six and one fourth cents on each white poll, twelve and an 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 or hawker selling goods in said county, and not exceeding twenty-five cents on each town lot; and in case the tax aforesaid for one year shall not be sufficient to complete the said buildings, it shall and may be lawful for the said county court to continue the same tax from year to year until the same are completed, which tax shall be collected by the sheriff of the said county of Warren, under the same rules, regulations and restrictions, as other taxes are and shall be by him paid to said commissioners, to be applied as aforesaid.

5. That said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall before they enter on the duties assigned them by this act, take in open court the following oath or affirmation:

"I, A. B. do solemnly swear (or affirm as the case may be) that in fixing on a suitable place for the permanent seat of justice in Warren county, I will faithfully endeavor to have it as near the centre of the county as a due regard to situation, water and timber will permit, and that I will not be influenced by any private interest in fixing the same: Provided, in my opinion it does not accord with the interest of the county, and that I will to the best of my judgment perform from time to time, all other duties enjoined upon me by the act appointing me commissioner, SO HELP ME GOD."

6. That the said commissioners shall at the same time of being qualified as aforesaid, enter into bond to the chairman of Warren county court, and his successors in office in the sum of five thousand dollars, conditioned for the due and faithful performance of the duties enjoined upon me by this act, which bond shall be deposited in the clerks office of said county.

7. That the said commissioners shall keep a fair and regular statement of all money by them received and expended in the execution of their official duties, which statement shall be laid before the county court at least once in every twelve months without being required to do so, and oftener if required by the court.

8. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of Warren county, as soon as he shall be furnished with a copy of this act, to notify the aforesaid commissioners of their appointments, requiring them to attend at the next succeeding court after such notification, for the purpose of being qualified, and in order that they may proceed to the discharging of the duties herein assigned to and required of them.

9. That in case of refusal to act, death, resignation, or the happening of a vacancy in any other manner, such vacancy shall be filled by the county court at their succeeding term, which appointment shall be made on the second day of such term, and the vacancy filled by a person residing within five miles of where the former commissioner resided.

10. That when the buildings aforesaid are completed, the said commissioners shall lay a fair statement of

the money by them received and expended for the purpose aforesaid, before the court aforesaid, who shall allow the commissioners a reasonable compensation for their services: Provided, two-thirds of the justices of said county be present, and if after the completion of the said buildings there be any surplus money in the hands of said commissioners, it shall be paid to the county trustee for county purposes.

11. That the sheriff or collector of Warren county shall be permitted to collect any taxes now due him from any person or persons who may reside within the former bounds of the said county of Warren, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

12. That the court of Warren county shall be held at the present place of holding it, until a majority of the magistrates of the county in court may think the improvements at M'Minnville have so far progressed as to afford sufficient accommodations for holding court there, at which time they may adjourn there, and forever afterwards the town of M'Minnville shall be the place of holding court for Warren county.

13. That all laws or parts of laws, coming within the purview and meaning of this act, be, and the same hereby are repealed.

14. That this act shall be in force from and after the passing hereof. Passed: November 22, 1809.

Acts of 1813 Chapter 71

COMPILER'S NOTE: This Act was subsequently amended by Acts of 1815, Chapter 86, which substituted John M'Gowan, of Warren County, in the place of Alexander Perryman, who failed to carry out his assignment as set forth above.

1. That from and after the passage of this act the dividing line between the counties of Franklin and Warren, shall be continued from the place where the present dividing line between said counties crosses the main road leading from Winchester to M'Minnville, near Henry Avants, in a direct course until it strikes Bedford county line, at the place where said Bedford county line crosses the old Nickejack trace, thence this boundary line of Warren county, shall run with the boundary [sic] lines of Bedford and Rutherford counties, until it intersects the present boundary line of Warren county, and all that part of Franklin county, stricken off by the before mentioned lines, shall be attached to, and become a part of Warren county: Provided, that nothing herein contained, shall be so construed as to prevent the sheriff of Franklin county from collecting any arrearages of taxes which may be due to county of Franklin, within the before described bounds.

2. That Alexander Perryman is hereby appointed to run and plainly mark the said dividing line agreeably to the course described in the first section of this act, who shall be allowed the sum of three dollars per day, for each day he may be necessarily employed in said service, by the county court of Franklin county, and paid by the trustee of said county, who shall be allowed a credit for the same, on the settlement of his accounts.

Passed: November 9, 1813.

Acts of 1905 Chapter 450

SECTION 1. That the unknown and the uncertain line between the counties of Van Buren and Warren Counties be fixed and established as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Rocky River, running thence southwardly up said Rocky River, with its various meanderings, to the mouth of Crain or Dry Hollow; thence up said Crain or Dry Hollow southwardly 1.25 miles to the mouth of the branch known as Jessie Martin's Spring Branch; thence south two degrees east 6.5 miles, crossing Dyers Gulf to head of said Dyers Gulf; thence south thirty-eight degrees east 6.125 miles to the corner of Sequatchie and Grundy Counties.

SECTION 2. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed; and that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 14, 1905.

Private Acts of 1911 Chapter 579

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of White and Warren be, and the same is, hereby changed so that the line between said counties shall follow the center of the Caney Fork River at low water mark from the point in said river just below the mouth of Rocky River where the two lines now intersect to the point in said river just above the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway bridge where the two county lines again intersect.

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

Passed: June 30, 1911.

Private Acts of 1931 Chapter 774

SECTION 1. That the lands of W. M. Wanamaker, O. C. Wanamaker and A. H. Coppinger, described as follows: Beginning in the center of Collins River in Warren County line north of the mouth of Boss Creek running thence up Boss Creek with its various meanders to a large elm, G. W. Wimberly's and A. H. Coppinger's corner on west bank of said creek; thence south 6½ degrees west 30 poles to Boss Creek; thence up said creek as it meanders to a stake in said creek, Wiley Coppinger's and A. H. Coppinger's corner; thence south 33 degrees west with Wiley Coppinger's line 8 4/5 poles to the mouth of a ditch; thence up ditch with said Coppinger's line north 77 degrees west 38 poles to O. C. Wanamaker's southeast corner and A. H. Coppinger's southwest corner; thence north 76 degrees west with O. C. Wanamaker's line 26¼ poles; thence north 75 3/4 degrees west with said line 30 2/3 poles; thence on with said line north 81 degrees west 22 2/3 poles; thence north 3 degrees west 3 poles; thence north 31 degrees east 8 poles; north 19 degrees east 12 poles; north 17 degrees east 14 poles; south 64 degrees east 6 3/5 poles; thence north 8 degrees east 39 4/25 poles to Jim Woodlee's and W. M. Wanamaker's corner in O. C. Wanamaker's west boundary line; thence south 77 degrees west with Woodlee's and Wanamaker's line 24 poles; thence north 50 degrees west 24½ poles to a holly, Woodlee's and Wanamaker's corner; thence south 62 degrees west passing a Sugar tree, Wanamaker's corner; at 15 poles, in all 16 poles to a stake; thence north 52 degrees west 18 poles; north 34 degrees west 6½ poles; north 58 west 8 poles; north 42 west 5 poles; north 58 west 12 poles; north 14 east 30 poles; north 8 east 30 poles; to Wanamaker's branch at a point which bears south 50 degrees east from the center of Mrs. Nancy Stoner's residence; thence down said Winemaker's branch and Warren County line to Collins River; thence up said river and Warren County line to the beginning. Be and the same is hereby, detached from Grundy County and attached to Warren County, and said above described land shall become a part of the Sixth Civil District of said Warren County.

SECTION 2. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it, and that all laws and parts thereof in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Passed: July 1, 1931.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1809, Chapter 41, appointed Turner Lane, of White County, and John A. Wilson of Warren County, as commissioners, to run and mark the dividing line between their respective counties from the mouth of Rocky River to the top of Cumberland Mountain taking care to run and mark the same as near along the middle of the dividing ridge between the said Rocky River and the Caney Fork.
2. Acts of 1821, Chapter 167, recited in the preamble that both Alexander Perryman, who had moved away, and John M'Gowan, who had not done so, were appointed to survey the portion of Franklin County annexed to Warren and neither had complied therewith, therefor, John B. Rogers, Warren County, would be assigned to the task, under the same terms and conditions as the earlier acts provided.
3. Acts of 1827, Chapter 211, again authorized John A. Wilson, of Warren County, and Leroy May, of Franklin County, to run and mark the boundary between the two counties, and be paid at the rate of \$1.50 per mile, half to be paid by each one of the named counties.
4. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 33, primarily created or established the new county of Cannon, to be located east of Rutherford County, northwest of Warren County and south of Wilson and Smith Counties, and to be composed of parts of said counties of Warren, Rutherford and Smith. The new county was more particularly described therein, and the counties of Warren, Rutherford and Smith were to continue to exercise jurisdiction over the territory composing the county of Cannon and the citizens thereof until an election of county officers was held under the amended constitution of the State.
5. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 36, established the new county of Coffee, located east of Bedford County, west of Warren County and north of Franklin County, adjoining and being composed of parts of said counties. A metes and bounds description of the new county was provided, as was the provision that the counties of Bedford, Franklin and Warren were to exercise jurisdiction over the territory composing said county of Coffee and the citizens thereof until the election of county officers was held under the amended State constitution.
6. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 39, was a supplement to Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 33, which appointed

- commissioners to run and mark the dividing line between the counties of Cannon and Rutherford, and the line between Cannon and Warren, specifically describing where to run the lines.
7. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 79, changed the lines between Warren and Grundy Counties so as to include all the lands of William Kelton, Wilson S. Kelton, Ely Hanby, and Jacob Wagoner in Warren County and the lands of Elizabeth Tate, Peter Countis, and Jacob Warmamaker [sic] in Grundy County.
 8. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 262, Section 4, altered the boundaries with DeKalb County so that the farm of J. N. Murphey would be included in DeKalb and the south boundary line of Murphey's farm would be the dividing line between Warren and DeKalb Counties.
 9. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 122, Section 23, transferred the farm belonging to John Martin, Jr., from Warren into DeKalb County.
 10. Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 69, Section 58, annexed all the lands and possessions of John B. Rodgers, including Rock Island, to Warren County.
 11. Acts of 1871, Chapter 91, Section 4, changed the lines between Warren and Van Buren Counties so as to place the lands of J. Wiley Miller, H. L. Moffet, Wm. L. Stickley, and John C. Miller in Warren County. This Act was partly repealed by Acts of 1879, Chapter 58.
 12. Acts of 1872, Chapter 19, Section 4, made the exact same changes as did the previous act. The only difference between the two was the addition of a Section 6 to this act, which section had no effect on Warren County.
 13. Acts of 1879, Chapter 58, repealed Acts of 1871, Chapter 91, thus restoring the lines as they formerly existed between Warren and Van Buren Counties, except that the lands of Wm. L. Steakley were to remain in Warren County. The Act further transferred the lands and estates of Goodbar Mills, which belonged to Harmon York and George E. Kell, and the estate of O. C. Craine into Van Buren County.
 14. Acts of 1883, Chapter 66, moved the farm belonging to S. G. Hawkins out of DeKalb County and into Warren County.
 15. Acts of 1883, Chapter 244, transferred the land belonging to Elijah Grissome, which formerly was the property of W. L. Steakley, back into Van Buren County, and repealed that portion of Acts of 1879, Chapter 58, which had not been repealed previously, and had left this farm in Warren County.
 16. Acts of 1885, Chapter 136, altered the boundaries of Van Buren, White, and Warren Counties so that all the lands of John B. Rodgers, deceased, as they are described in the Act, would be included in Warren County.
 17. Acts of 1889, Chapter 57, moved the properties of Warren Cummings, known as the Gordon Farm, from Warren County into Cannon County. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1899, Chapter 305.
 18. Acts of 1889, Chapter 110, transferred the farm of C. S. Campbell from Cannon County and attached it to Warren County.
 19. Acts of 1897, Chapter 136, changed the lines between Warren and DeKalb Counties so as to include all the land of Mrs. Laura Northcut in DeKalb County.
 20. Acts of 1899, Chapter 84, transferred all the lands included in the Baloff mill tract, belonging to Smallman and Swann, from White County into Warren County.
 21. Acts of 1899, Chapter 305, specifically repealed Acts of 1889, Chapter 57, so that the "Old Gordon Farm" was returned to Warren County from Cannon County.
 22. Acts of 1899, Chapter 342, transferred the properties belonging to James Roller from Warren County into DeKalb County.
 23. Acts of 1899, Chapter 344, changed the lines so as to include the farm of H. G. Stevens from DeKalb County in Warren County.
 24. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 444, detached the lands belonging to R. E. Summers from the 5th Civil District of Cannon County and attached them to the 11th Civil District of Warren County. This Acts was repealed by Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 266.
 25. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 478, moved the properties belonging to the concern of J. R. Hinton and Brothers, from the 10th Civil District of Coffee County into the 10th Civil District of Warren County.
 26. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 337, provided that all the land of H. L. Elam, lying partly in the 10th

Civil District of Warren, and partly in the 10th Civil District of Coffee County, would all be included in Warren County.

27. . Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 530, detached the lands of R. P. Kirby from the 21st Civil District of DeKalb County and attached the same to the 16th Civil District of Warren County.
28. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 579, transferred the lands of J. R. Hinton and brothers, C. C. Snipes and Horace Rogers from the 10th Civil District of Coffee County into the 10th Civil District of Warren County.
29. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 750, changed the lines between Warren and Coffee Counties by placing all the lands of H. E. Ramsey in Coffee County.
30. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 756, moved the farm of F. M. Holder from the 9th Civil District of Cannon County to the 12th Civil District of Warren.
31. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 435, detached about 45 acres of land in the 11th Civil District of Warren County belonging to Thelia Cotton, and attached the same to the 9th Civil District of Cannon County.
32. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 266, detached from Warren County about 250 acres composing the R. E. Summers farm, belonging to Alonzo Hayes, Lilburn Todd, and Stanley Lewis, as three tracts in the 11th Civil District, and attached the same to Cannon County. The Act expressly repealed Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 444 (Item 24, herein).
33. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 562, transferred a 75-acre tract owned by F. E. Bradshaw, and another 75-acre farm owned by J. P. Whitlock, from Coffee County into the 10th Civil District of Warren County.
34. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 629, transferred 100 acres, more or less, owned by Tom Pointer, out of the First Civil District of Grundy County and into the 8th Civil District of Warren County.
35. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 180, detached the lands of L. D. Burks and wife, Thelma Burks, and Coy Dennis, from the 10th Civil District of Coffee County and attached them to Warren County.
36. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 573, took the lands of John Burger which were in the 11th Civil District of Warren County, and placed them in the 8th Civil District of Cannon County.
37. Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 103, transferred 9 acres, more or less, as described in the Act and being owned by Marshall Smith and wife, Beulah Smith, from the 11th Civil District of Warren County into the 8th Civil District of Cannon County.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-iv-boundaries-29>