



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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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

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Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1870 Chapter 27

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and the same is hereby established, out of fractions of the territory composing the counties of Sumner, Macon, Smith and Wilson, around the town of Hartsville, to be called "Trousdale," in honor of Governor Wm. Trousdale.

SECTION 2. That said county of Trousdale shall be bounded as follows, towit: Beginning on the north bank of Cumberland River, near the house of Dr. James Alexander, in Smith County; running thence in a northeasterly direction on an arc ten miles from Carthage to a stake on the Hartsville and Carthage turnpike, near the house of Mrs. Bradley; thence north 45 degrees east to Mou's Hill; thence with the meanderings of said hill to a stake in the Macon county line near Raglan's; thence with said line some ten miles to where said line crosses the middle fork of Goose Creek, near Ephraim Parsley's; thence with the meanderings of said creek to the mouth of the west branch of the middle fork; thence up said branch with its meanders to James Barnley's, at the mouth of "Love Hollow;" thence due west to the Macon county line; thence with said west boundary line southward to a mulberry tree, and south-west corner of Macon County; thence on a continuation of the south boundary line of Macon County, due west to where said line intersects the east fork of Bledsoe's Creek, near George Brown's; thence south to the Cumberland River, crossing the Gallatin and Hartsville turnpike ten miles from Gallatin, between Hallum's shop and the old toll-gate; thence up said river with its meanders, to David Jackson's in Wilson County; thence eastward on an arc eleven miles from Lebanon, to Cumberland River at the mouth of Everett's branch; thence up the river with its meanders to McDonald's warehouse; thence eastwardly on an arc eleven miles from Lebanon, near Fred Terry's and Whitson's, to a point in the Smith county line between James Calhoun's house and Henry Ward's; thence on an arc ten miles from Carthage, to the beginning.

SECTION 3. That for the purpose of perfecting the organization of said county of Trousdale, E. T. Seay, S. W. Lesueur, J. S. Dyer, Howard Young, Col. Jas. H. Vaughn, Robert Burford, Cyrus H. Lauderdale, John Carr and E. P. Lowe, are hereby appointed Commissioners, who shall, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, take an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties imposed on them by this Act; and all vacancies that may occur previous to the organization of the County Court of said county, shall be filled by the remaining Commissioners. A majority of said Commissioners shall constitute a board to transact all things enjoined on them, and it shall be the duty of said board to keep a true record of their proceedings as Commissioners, which shall be returned to the County Court of said county of Trousdale, at the first term, to be entered upon the record of said court, and said Commissioners shall make such other reports thereafter as said court shall require.

SECTION 4. That it shall be the duty of said Commissioners to designate three voting places in the Sumner fraction, one in the Macon fraction, four in the Smith fraction, and two in the Wilson fraction; and shall give ten days' notice by written or printed circulars, posted in five or more public places in each fraction taken from the respective counties of Sumner, Macon, Smith and Wilson, 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 his 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 Sumner, Macon, Smith and Wilson proposed to be taken off to form said county of Trousdale, 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 Trousdale, 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 the Wilson County fraction in favor of said new county, the fractions of Sumner, Macon and Smith shall constitute the county of Trousdale. Provided, the consent of two-thirds of the qualified voters residing in the part so taken off has been legally given.

SECTION 5. That said Commissioners shall appoint Judges and Clerks to hold said election, and also some suitable person as an officer 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 vote counted, make out and certify the result and return the same with a copy of the poll books to the Chairman of said Board of Commissioners, who shall,

when the returns are all received, in the presence of the said Board proceed to compare the vote and certify the result; and the election therein provided for shall be held on the same day in each of said fractions, and if, for any cause, the election as herein provided shall not be held in any of said fractions on the day appointed, said Board shall provide for another election as herein provided in such fraction.

SECTION 6. That said Commissioners shall have power, and it shall be their duty to mark the boundary lines of said county of Trousdale, guided by the marks and bearings set forth in the second section of this act before the election provided in the fourth section of this act, and it shall be their duty to divide the said county in such number of civil districts as the convenience of the inhabitants may require (but in no event shall there be less than ten civil districts in said county) designating the boundaries of and giving the place of holding in said districts, and they shall perform such other duties as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 7. That said Commissioners shall appoint such suitable persons as they think proper, to open and hold the election for said county of Trousdale, and those so appointed shall have power to appoint Deputies, Clerks and Judges, and, by themselves and Deputies, to administer all the necessary oaths, and do and perform all other duties now imposed upon officers holding similar elections, and such Deputies shall open and hold an election within thirty days after the result of the first election is known, for the purpose of electing a full quota of county officers, which election shall be held in each civil district in said county of Trousdale, and the officers so elected shall hold their offices until the next regular election of county officers takes place throughout the State; and that the Judges, Clerks and officers hereby appointed, shall hold the elections provided by law for judicial and other officers on the first Thursday in August, 1870.

SECTION 8. That said Board of Commissioners at its first meeting, shall designate a place within the limits of said county of Trousdale where said Board shall meet. They shall meet upon their own adjournment and may be convened at any time by their chairman.

SECTION 9. That the different courts of said county of Trousdale shall be held in the town of Hartsville, and all process issuing from any of said courts returnable to this place shall be legal, and such courts shall be subject to such rules and regulations, and exercise the same powers as courts of similar jurisdiction in other counties. The County Court of Trousdale shall have the powers conferred by law upon County Courts, and meet at the time prescribed by law.

SECTION 10. That when both parties to a suit at law or equity reside in the County of Trousdale, upon application of either party to the Court in which suit is pending, it shall be removed to the new county, and the Clerk of the Court in the old county shall transmit a transcript of the records in such suit to the appropriate Clerk of the new county; and when the defendant to such suit resides within the new county and the plaintiff does not, then upon application of the defendant to the Court in which said suit is pending, it shall be transferred to the appropriate Court of the new county.

SECTION 11. That all officers of the said county shall continue to hold their offices and perform the duties thereof until others are elected and qualified according to law.

SECTION 12. That it shall be the duty of the Tax Collectors of Sumner, Macon, Smith and Wilson Counties, to pay over to the Trustee of Trousdale County, when elected and qualified, that portion of the county tax of said counties which has been collected by said Tax Collectors within the boundaries of Trousdale County for 1870, and the said Trustee's receipt shall be a voucher to said Tax Collectors on settlement with the Trustees of their respective counties.

SECTION 13. That the Commissioners herein provided for shall receive such compensation as may be allowed them by the County Court after the organization of the county.

SECTION 14. That it shall be the duty of the County Court of the said County of Trousdale, within three months after their organization to submit to a vote of the qualified voters of said county the permanent location of the county site, and whatever place receives the highest number of votes shall be the county site.

SECTION 15. That no tax shall be imposed upon the people of said County of Trousdale for the purpose of building a Court-house within four years after its organization.

SECTION 16. That the fractions taken from the Counties of Sumner, Smith, Macon and Wilson, to form the County of Trousdale, shall continue liable for their pro rata of all debts contracts by their respective counties prior to their separation, and be entitled to their proportion of any stock or credit belonging to such old counties; and this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: June 21, 1870

Change of Boundary Lines

Private Acts of 1929 Chapter 707

SECTION 1. That the County line between Sumner and Trousdale Counties be changed and established as follows: Beginning at a point in the mouth of Canoe Branch where it empties into Cumberland River near Canoe Branch Ferry, and at low water mark, thence in a northerly direction with the southwest margin of the Public Road running from the River at Canoe Branch Ferry to the Castillian Springs and Hunters Point Road to a point where said road intersects with the Castillian Springs and Hunters Point Road, thence eastwardly with the Southern margin of said road about one-fourth mile to an old Oak Stump in the present county line between said Counties, said line as above designated detaches from Sumner County and attaches to Trousdale County the property of Callie Cunningham and perhaps others.

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

Passed: April 11, 1929

Private Acts of 1961 Chapter 215

SECTION 1. That a certain forty-foot roadway easement located in the Twelfth Civil District of Macon County is hereby detached from Macon County and attached to and the same shall be a part of Trousdale County. Said road is six tenths of a mile in length and begins at the Anna Rankin property line, or the present Trousdale County line, and said road and roadway easement extends in a northwesterly direction to the intersection of the Halltown road or old Lafayette Pike. Said road and roadway easement is also known as the Middle Fork road. That the above-described road and forty-foot roadway easement shall become a part of the Trousdale County road system, and the same shall be under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Trousdale County Highway Department and the same shall likewise be maintained and repaired by the Trousdale County Highway Department.

SECTION 2. That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of both the Quarterly County Courts of Macon County and Trousdale County and its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of each of said bodies having jurisdiction to approve or the reverse, and the same shall be certified by them to the Secretary of State.

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

Passed: March 8, 1961.

Private Acts of 1961 Chapter 297

SECTION 1. That a certain County forty-foot roadway, or right of way, located in the First Civil District of Sumner County, Tennessee, is hereby detached from Sumner County and the same is hereby attached to and shall become a part of Trousdale County. Said County road is known as the Canoe Branch road, and it begins at the present Sumner County boundary line at the Ed Brozier property line, and extends in a westerly and northwesterly direction for a distance of approximately .55 miles, more or less. The above-described road and forty-foot roadway easement shall become a part of the Trousdale County road system and the same shall be under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Trousdale County Highway Department and the same shall likewise be maintained and repaired by the Trousdale County Highway Department.

SECTION 2. That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both the Quarterly County Courts of Sumner County and Trousdale County, and its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of each of said bodies having jurisdiction to approve or the reverse, and the same shall be certified by them to the Secretary of State.

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

Passed: March 13, 1961.

Private Acts of 1972 Chapter 713

COMPILER'S NOTE: The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in [Tennessee Code Annotated](#).

SECTION 1. The boundary line between the counties of Smith and Trousdale is changed so as to detach from Smith County and attach to Trousdale County, the following described property:

A road and roadway easement fifty (50) feet in width, referred to as Smith County Rural Road Project R 7035-(5) beginning at the Carl Dickerson property, the present Smith County and Trousdale County line and extending in a southerly direction three tenths (3/10) of a mile to the intersection of the Young Branch Road at the property of Mrs. Gilbert Dickerson.

SECTION 2. The road and roadway easement detached from Smith County and attached to Trousdale County shall be a part of the Trousdale County Road System and shall be under the jurisdiction and supervision of and maintained and repaired by the Trousdale County Highway Department.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 30, 1972.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 60, altered the line between Wilson and Trousdale Counties so as to include all the lands of David G. Jackson in Wilson County.
2. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, Section 14, detached from Wilson County all the lands belonging to E. B. Marshall, C. W. Brantley, James Johnson, Clay Massey, T. L. Webster, Pleasant Turner and R. S. Badgeth and attached all of them to Trousdale County.
3. Public Acts of 1885, Chapter 146, moved the property of E. B. Marshall, which was located within the boundaries of Wilson County, about 88 acres, out of Wilson County and into Trousdale.
4. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 118, recited that the lands of Green Williams were partly located in the Counties of Macon, Sumner and Trousdale. This Act transferred the portions in Macon and Sumner Counties into Trousdale County so that the entire Williams property was located in Trousdale County. The county surveyor of Trousdale County was directed to run and mark the boundaries in accordance with the directives of this Act.
5. Private Acts of 1905, Chapter 86, changed the boundary lines between Smith County and Trousdale County so that all the lands of G. W. Evitts was moved out of the Fourth Civil District of Smith County and into the Second Civil District of Trousdale County.
6. Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 514, transferred a 77 acre tract of land belonging to W. A. Jackson into Wilson County from the 8th Civil District of Trousdale County.
7. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 787, changed the boundary lines between Macon and Trousdale Counties so that all the lands of those named were moved into Trousdale County. The lands belonged to Albert Creasey, Jeff Carr, B. P. Carr, H. W. Griggs, B. J. Coker, Dan Carr, Henry Hall, William Cook, J. W. Thompson, E. T. Story, and John Seath.

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