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# Court System - Historical Notes

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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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# Court System - Historical Notes

## **Board of Jury Commissioners - Jurors**

The following acts once affected jurors or boards of jury commissioners in Pickett County, but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 160, exempted Pickett County from the requirements of the general law that Criminal Judges appoint foremen of grand juries. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 156, re-established the provisions of the general law for Pickett County. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 932, repealed this provision.
2. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 353, was the first private act setting up a Board of Jury Commissioners for Pickett County, with provisions similar to those now found in the general law. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 735, repealed this Act and mandated that Jurors be appointed by the Quarterly County Court.
3. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 734, provided that in Pickett County the Foreman of the Grand Jury would be appointed by the Judges of the Circuit or Criminal Courts from the venire made up by the Quarterly County Court.
4. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 251, was the last private act creating a Board of Jury Commissioners for Pickett County before it became subject to the general law cited above.

## **Chancery Court**

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Pickett County, although they no longer have the force of law since they have either been superseded by general law, repealed, or failed to receive local ratification.

1. Acts of 1885, Chapter 12, set the time for holding Chancery Court in Pickett County on the second Mondays in April, August and December.
2. Acts of 1890, Chapter 19, changed the time for holding Chancery Court to the third Mondays in May and November.
3. Acts of 1897, Chapter 294, set the terms of Chancery Court in Pickett County on the second Mondays in April and October.
4. Acts of 1903, Chapter 97, changed the beginning date of Chancery Court terms in Pickett County to the first Thursday after the second Monday in April and the second Monday in October.
5. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 40, provided that Chancery Court in Pickett County would be on the third Monday in March and September.

## **Chancery Court - Clerk and Master**

Listed below is an act which once applied to the clerk and master in Pickett County.

1. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 73, provided that the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Pickett County would receive an annual salary of \$600, provided that he filed an annual statement of the fees received by his office.

## **Circuit Court**

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Pickett County but now have no effect, having been repealed, superseded, or having failed to win local approval.

1. Acts of 1885, Chapter 12, set the time for holding Circuit Court in Pickett County on the second Mondays of April, August and December.
2. Acts of 1897, Chapter 294, changed the time of Circuit Court terms in Pickett County to the second Mondays in April and October.
3. Acts of 1901, Chapter 232, set the Circuit Court terms in Pickett County on the third Monday in February, the second Monday in June and the fourth Monday in October of each year.
4. Acts of 1905, Chapter 359, created a Criminal Court for the counties of Anderson, Campbell, Morgan, Scott, Pickett, Fentress and Union, and provided that in Pickett County its terms would be on the second Mondays in February, June and October. The Criminal Court would exist until September 1, 1906, thereafter criminal jurisdiction would vest in and be exercised by the Circuit Courts of said counties.
5. Acts of 1907, Chapter 85, created a court to have criminal jurisdiction in the Counties of White,

Putnam, Cumberland, Overton, Pickett, Clay, Jackson, Smith, Macon, Trousdale and Smith, and provided that the judge of this court would also preside over the circuit court in Pickett, Trousdale and Macon Counties. In Pickett County court would be held the second Monday in February, June, and October. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 629, amended the 1907 Act to require the Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to preside.

### **Circuit Court - Clerk**

The following acts have no current effect, but once applied to the Pickett County Circuit Court Clerk. They were repealed, superseded, or never received local approval. Also referenced below is an act which repealed prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 258, set the annual salary of the circuit court clerk in Pickett County at \$600, provided that an annual statement of the fees collected by that office was filed with the County Judge. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 111.

### **District Attorney General - Assistants and Criminal Investigators**

The following acts once affecting Pickett County are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes. Also referenced below is an act which repealed prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1907, Chapter 381, created the office of Assistant Attorney General for the Fifth Circuit. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 166, repealed this Act.
2. Public Acts of 1970, Chapter 537, and Public Acts of 1976, Chapter 563, provided for additional Assistant District Attorneys General for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Pickett County is now in the Thirteenth Judicial District according to T.C.A. 16-2-506, which also stipulates the number of judges, Assistant District Attorneys General and Investigators for the District.

### **General Sessions**

The following act once affected the general sessions court of Pickett County, but is no longer in effect and is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 146, set an additional compensation which was to be paid to the Circuit Court Clerk for his duties as the General Sessions Court Clerk for Pickett County.

### **Juvenile Court**

The following act once affecting juvenile courts in Pickett County is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1982, Chapter 237, gives the General Sessions Court of Pickett County exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile matters.

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