



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

July 22, 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 1823 Chapter 114 3
Change of Boundary Lines 3
Public Acts of 1869-70 Chapter 30 3
Acts of 1870 Chapter 103 3
Acts of 1893 Chapter 173 4
Private Acts of 1925 Chapter 548 4
Boundaries - Historical Notes 4

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1823 Chapter 114

SECTION 1. That a new county, to be called and known by the name of Obion County, be, and is hereby, established, and shall be bounded as follows: beginning on the north-west corner of a county already laid off west of Henry County, running thence south with the west line of said bounds, to the fifth sectional line in the thirteenth district; thence west with said sectional line, to the middle of the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of said river, to the northwest corner of the state; thence east with the north boundary line of the state, to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That for the due administration of justice, the courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and circuit courts, for said county, shall be holden at the house of William M. Wilson.

Passed: October 24, 1823.

Change of Boundary Lines

Public Acts of 1869-70 Chapter 30

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and the same is hereby established out of that portion of Obion County which lies west of low water mark of Reel Foot Lake, which shall be called the County of Lake.

SECTION 2. That the County of Lake shall be bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a stake at low water mark on the west bank of Reel Foot Lake, at a point where the dividing line between Kentucky and Tennessee crosses said west bank; running thence in a southern direction with the meanderings of said western bank, at low water mark, to the Dyer County line; thence west with the Dyer County line to the State line; thence with said line up the Mississippi River, in a northern direction, to an intersection with the Kentucky line; thence east with the Kentucky and Tennessee line to the beginning.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 3 through 8 related only to Lake County. Therefore, they were omitted.

SECTION 9. That all officers, civil and military, now holding office in said county, shall continue to hold their offices and exercise all the powers and functions thereof, until others are elected and qualified according to this Act, and nothing in this Act contained shall deprive the county of Obion from having, exercising and holding jurisdiction over the county of Lake, and the citizens thereof, in as full and ample manner as they now have, until the election and qualification of county officers for said Lake County takes place according to this Act; Provided, That it shall be the duty of the present Tax Collector of Obion County, to pay over to the Trustee of Lake County, when elected and qualified, that portion of the county tax of Obion County, which shall have been collected by such Tax Collector within the boundaries of said Lake County for the year 1870, and said Trustee' receipt shall be a voucher to said Tax Collector on settlement with the Trustee of Obion County.

SECTION 10. That all offenses, misdemeanors, crimes and felonies which have been committed in said county of Obion before the passage of this Act, and which before the passage of this Act, were presentable and indictable in and by the Circuit Court of said county of Obion, held and to be holden in the town of Troy, shall still be the subject of presentment, indictment, trial, conviction and judgment by and in said Circuit Court at Troy, in the same manner and to the same extent as if this Act had not been passed.

SECTION 11. That this Act take effect, the public welfare requiring it, from and after its passage.

Passed: June 9, 1870

Acts of 1870 Chapter 103

SECTION 1. That the boundary line between the counties of Weakley and Obion, be, and the same is hereby so changed as to run and be established as follows: The said dividing or boundary line shall run northwardly, as at present established, to a stake in the middle of the channel of the north fork of Obion river; thence up said north fork of Obion river along the middle of the channel of the same, eight miles and ten poles, to a stake in the middle of the said channel; thence northwardly four miles and fifty-one poles, to a stake in the Clinton road; thence north sixteen degrees, west two miles one hundred and eighty-eight poles, with said road to a stake in the line which separates the States of Kentucky and Tennessee; and that portion of

Weakley County lying north and west of the line hereby established, is hereby detached from the county of Weakley and attached to the county of Obion, and shall hereafter form a part of said county of Obion, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the County Court of Obion County, and to the jurisdiction of the Common Law and Chancery Courts, at Union City, from and after the passage of this act; but the Chancery and Circuit Court of Weakley County, respectively, shall have jurisdiction to try, hear and determine all suite now pending in either of said courts, as fully in all respects as if this Act had not been passed.

SECTION 2. That the Revenue Collector of Weakley county shall collect the State and county taxes in that part of Weakley County which is hereby attached to Obion County, for the year 1870, and pay the same over to the same authority, and in the same manner as if this Act had not been passed; and this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: June 18, 1870.

Acts of 1893 Chapter 173

SECTION 1. That the present boundary line between the counties of Lake and Obion be so changed as to read as follows: Beginning at a point in the present boundary line of said counties, on the west bank of Broad Slough, at the commencement of what is known as the Scatters, or Main Slough, draining Reelfoot Lake, at a large double leaning willow tree, marked with maple pointers twenty feet south-west of same, and an ash and three small cypress trees fifteen feet south; thence north 28 degrees east to what is known as "Willow Bar Tow-head;" thence north 31 degrees east to the head of Rag Point (an island of green cypress trees) in the lake; and thence due north to the southern point of Horse Island, intersecting again the Lake and Obion County line.

SECTION 2. That all of said portion of Reelfoot Lake, and all territory therein included west of the above described line, and cut off from Obion County, by said survey, be added to Lake County; and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 10, 1893.

COMPILER'S NOTE: This Act was challenged in State v. Hoffman, 210 Tenn. 686, 362 S.W.2d 231 (1962).

Private Acts of 1925 Chapter 548

SECTION 1. That Chapter 176, House Bill No. 25 of the Acts of 1897 be amended as follows by striking out all of Section One and inserting the following, "Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the following line, be and the same shall constitute the boundary line between certain portions of the Counties of Lake and Obion; Beginning at a large double leaning willow tree on the west bank of Broad Slough, it being the beginning corner of the boundary line, established by the Act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee of 1893; running thence in a westerly direction with the center of Dredge Ditch to a stake in the center of the "Spillway"; thence southwardly with the center of Free Bridges Dredge Ditch to the Dyer County line.

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 4, 1925.

COMPILER'S NOTE: This Act was mentioned in the case of State v. Hoffman, 210 Tenn. 686, 362 S.W.2d 231 (1962).

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1824, Chapter 167, appointed Rice Williams, as a Surveyor to run and to mark the dividing boundary line between Obion County and Weakley County. Williams would be paid a reasonable compensation which would be shared equally by both counties, and he must be sworn according to law before beginning his task.
2. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 211, required the Surveyors of the Counties of Obion and Dyer to run and mark all the range and section lines in their respective counties which have not been heretofore run for which the Surveyors would be entitled to such fees as are provided by law. The Entry Takers of said Counties would pay the Surveyors their fees out of any funds in their hands which might belong to the State. If no State funds were available, then the Counties would pay

the Surveyors.

3. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 13, Section 5, rearranged the boundary lines between Obion County and Weakley County beginning on the County line where it crosses the North Fork of the Obion River, running up the said River with its meanderings to Davis' Mills; thence north with the road leading from the Mill with the line of the Civil District until it reached the State line; thence west with the State line to the Obion County line; thence south to the point of the beginning.
4. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 20, Section 6, amends Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 13, by changing part of the description to read, so as to run up the North Fork of the Obion River with its meanderings to one mile above Davis' Mill; thence north to the Clinton Road; thence with the Clinton Road to the State line. Section 6 was expressly repealed by Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 5.
5. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 82, Section 4, changed the boundary line between Obion County and Weakley County starting from the north bank of the North Fork of the Obion River and running with it east of Davis' Mill, running in a northerly direction, so as to leave the land belonging to A. H. Walker in Obion County; thence in a northerly direction so as to strike the Clinton Road opposite G. W. Cannon's gate; thence with the Clinton Road to the State line.
6. Acts of 1889, Chapter 76, changed the lines between Obion County and Weakley County so that the lands of J. W. Boyd and Company would be included wholly within Obion County, commencing at a point where the present County Line Road strikes J. W. Boyd's north boundary line and running thence north with Boyd's north line one-half mile to the State Line Road, which separates Tennessee and Kentucky; thence with the said State Line Road onequarter of a mile to where the present County line now strikes the State line.
7. Acts of 1897, Chapter 176, recited that a Commission had been appointed to determine the line between Obion County and Lake County according to the Constitutional provision and the legislative Act creating Lake County, Acts of 1870, Chapter 30, and that the line had been determined by L. Donaldson of Lake County and S. F. Howard of Obion County. A lengthy metes and bounds description of the line is set out in this Act which constituted the work of the above named individuals. This particular Section was amended by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 548. This Act is referred to in the case of State v. Hoffman, 210 Tenn. 686, 362 S.W.2d 231 (1962).
8. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 445, altered the lines between Obion County and Weakley County from the meanderings of the North Fork of the Obion River to the canal recently cut to straighten the said River's course, and the said Canal would henceforth be the north boundary of Weakley County and the south boundary of Obion County.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-iv-boundaries-59>