



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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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 County

Private Acts of 1823 Chapter 111

SECTION 1. That a new county to be called and known by the name of Gibson county, in honor of, and to perpetuate the memory of Col. John H. Gibson, shall be, and is hereby, established west of Carroll county; beginning at the north-west corner of Carroll county, running thence west on the fourth sectional line, to a point four miles west of the second range line in the thirteenth district; thence north, to the fifth sectional line; thence west on said sectional line, to the fifth range line; thence south with the said range line, to a point two and a half miles south of the line separating the tenth and thirteenth districts; thence east parallel with said line, to a point directly south of the south-west corner of Carroll county; thence north, 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, until otherwise provided for by law, shall be holden at the house of Luke Biggs, under the same regulations and restrictions, and shall have and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, as are, or shall hereafter be, prescribed for the several counties in this state.

SECTION 3. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of said county of Gibson, to hold an election at the place of holding courts in said county, on the third Thursday and Friday in January next, for the purpose of electing field officers for said county, which shall be conducted under the same rules and regulations as are prescribed by law in similar cases; and the militia of said county shall compose the regiment, and be attached to the brigade.

SECTION 4. That the election for company officers for said county, shall be held at such places as the commandant of the militia of said county may think proper to appoint, which said elections shall be held on the third Monday in February next, under the same rules, regulations and restrictions, as are prescribed in like cases.

SECTION 5. That the sheriff of said county, on the days prescribed by law, shall hold an election at the place of holding court, for the purpose of electing a Governor, members of the State Legislature, members to Congress, and electors to vote for a President and Vice-President of the United States, under the same rules and regulations as prescribed by law.

SECTION 6. That a majority of the justices of the peace for said county shall have power to adjourn said court to any other place within said county, that would suit their convenience.

Passed: October 21, 1823.

County Seat

Private Acts of 1824 Chapter 132

SECTION 1. That the commissioners in Haywood heretofore appointed to fix on a suitable site for the seat of justice in Haywood county, be, and the same commissioners hereby are, vested with full power and authority to determine on the size of the public square in said town, and the width of the streets of said town, any law heretofore passed to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 2. That said town, when established, in pursuance of the acts of assembly heretofore passed, shall be called and known by the name of Brownsville, in honor of Major-General Jacob Brown, of the army of the United States.

SECTION 3. That the commissioners, when appointed by the county courts of Gibson, Dyer, Hardeman, Tipton, Fayette, Weakley, Obion, and McNairy counties, to lay off and sell the lots in the seats of justice for counties, shall have, exercise and posses, respectively, all the powers extended by this act to the commissioners appointed to fix the seat of justice for Haywood county.

SECTION 4. That the seat of justice for the county of Gibson shall be called by the name of Gibsonport; the seat of justice for the county of Dyer shall be called by the name of Dyersburgh; the seat of justice for the county of Weakley shall be called by the name of Dresden; the seat of justice for the county of Obion shall be called by the name of Troy; the seat of justice for the county of Hardeman shall be called by the name of Hatchee; the seat of justice for the county of McNairy shall be called by the name of Purdy; the seat of justice for the county of Fayette shall be called by the name of Sommerville, in honor and to

perpetuate the memory of Robert M. Sommerville, who fell at the battle of the Horseshoe; the seat of justice for the county of Tipton shall be called by the name of Covington.

SECTION 5. That if it should so happen, that the commissioners appointed to fix on sites for the permanent seats of justice in the Western district, cannot complete their business within the time prescribed by law, it shall be lawful for the commissioners to have the further time of one month to complete the same.

Passed: October 16, 1824.

Name Changed

Private Acts of 1825 Chapter 146

SECTION 1. That the name of the town of Gibsonport, in the county of Gibson be, and the same is, hereby changed, and the said town shall hereafter be known and called by the name of TRENTON.

Passed: November 2, 1825.

Change County Lines

Acts of 1837-38 Chapter 245

SECTION 1. That all that portion of Weakley county, which lies south of the South Fork of [sic] Obion river, shall hereafter be attached to and constitute a part of the county of Gibson, and that all that portion of Gibson county, which lies north of the South Fork of Obion river, shall be attached to and constitute a part of the county of Weakley, and that said river shall hereafter be the dividing line between said counties.

SECTION 2. That that part of Weakley county hereby attached to the county of Gibson, shall be attached to and compose a part of civil district number fourteen in said county of Gibson, and that portion of Gibson county attached to Weakley county, shall be attached to and compose a part of civil district number twelve in said county of Weakley.

As amended by:

Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 265

SECTION 3. That the citizens living in that part of Weakley county hereby attached to Gibson county, and that the citizens living in that part of Gibson, which is by this act attached to Weakley county, shall vote with the county to which they are by this act attached, for electors of president and vice president, for members of congress, for governor of the state, for members of the general assembly of the state, and for all county officers both civil and military.

Passed: November 4, 1837.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Public Acts of 1821, Chapter 32, authorized the establishment of several new counties west of the Tennessee River. Section 4 of that act set the boundary of an unnamed county to be relocated west of Carroll County, which county was established and named Gibson County by Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 111.
2. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, changed the line between Gibson and Crockett counties to place in Crockett county all the lands of James Lewis, the Thermon Jones heirs, William Bell, Needham Moore, W. G. Jones, J. W. Porter, O. B. Clark, R. J. Williams, and D. H. Jones.
3. Public Acts of 1881, Chapter 108, changed the line between Gibson and Crockett counties to place in Crockett county all the lands of R. J. Williams lying south of the Middle Forked Deer River.
4. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 121, changed the line between Gibson and Crockett counties to place in Crockett county all the lands of James Lewis.
5. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 119, changed the line between Gibson and Madison counties to place in Madison county all the lands of J. M. Simpson and R. H. Simpson, and in Gibson county all the lands of J. G. Fulghum.
6. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 128, changed the line between Gibson and Crockett counties to place in Crockett county all the lands of L. H. Harris, and in Gibson county all the lands of W. S. Moore and E. D. Harris.

7. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 32, changed the line between Gibson and Dyer counties to place in Dyer county all the lands of John Barham.
8. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 50, changed the line between Gibson and Crockett counties to place in Gibson County the lands of J. H. Blackmoore lying on the west side of the Forked Deer River.
9. Private Acts of 1897, Chapter 137, changed the county line between Crockett and Gibson to include in Crockett County the entire tract known as the Bell farm.
10. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 796, changed the line between Gibson and Madison and Gibson counties to place in Madison county the lands of R. H. Simpson.
11. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 848, changed the line between Gibson and Madison counties to straighten the county line, by moving land owned by R. T. Lewis, six acres from Gibson to Madison county and six acres from Madison to Gibson county.
12. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 230, changed the boundary between the 13th and 15th Civil Districts of Gibson County from the meanders of the old river to the drainage ditch.
13. Private Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 67, changed the County line between the counties of Gibson and Dyer to include in Gibson County the entire A. L. McCorkle farm and Mrs. Allie Spence's farm.
14. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 740, changed the line between Gibson and Madison counties to place in Gibson county the lands acquired by W. A. Birdsong from R. H. Simpson, being the same lands placed in Madison county by Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 796.

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