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Chapter IV - Boundaries

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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 3
Creation of the County 3
Acts of 1817 Chapter 42 3
County Seat 3
Private Acts of 1819 Chapter 127 3
Change of Boundary Lines 4
Acts of 1822 (Ex. Sess.) Chapter 96 4
Acts of 1843-44 Chapter 38 5
Acts of 1853-54 Chapter 89 5
Boundaries - Historical Notes 6

Chapter IV - Boundaries

Creation of the County

Acts of 1817 Chapter 42

SECTION 1. That the Territory, south of Hickman and Maury, and west of Giles county, shall constitute a county to be known by the name of Lawrence County.

SECTION 2. That said county of Lawrence, shall be bounded as follows, to wit: beginning on the south boundary line of the state, where the west boundary line of Giles county intersects the same; then west with the state line so far, that by running north to the Duck river ridge, then eastwardly with the top of said ridge to the north west corner of Giles county, will include a constitutional county and no more.

SECTION 3. That for the due administration of justice, the court of pleas and quarter sessions, and the circuit court in said county, shall be holden at the house of Doctor Joseph Farmer, until otherwise provided for, under the same regulations and restrictions, and shall exercise and possess the same power and jurisdiction, as possessed by said courts in other counties in this state.

SECTION 4. That the sheriff of Lawrence county, shall hold an election at the place appointed for holding courts in said county, on the first Thursday and Friday in March next, for the purpose of electing Field officers for said county of Lawrence, under the same regulations and rules as are prescribed by law in similar cases, and the militia of said county of Lawrence, shall constitute the fifty-seventh regiment, and shall be attached to, and become a part of the fifth brigade.

SECTION 5. That it shall be the duty of the commandant of said fifty-seventh regiment, having been first commissioned and sworn agreeable to law, to divide the militia of said regiment into at least eight companies, and it shall be the duty of said commandant to issue writs of election for company officers in said companies, giving at least fifteen days notice, in the company; which election shall be conducted in the same manner as in other cases for company officers.

SECTION 6. That said county of Lawrence shall be a part of the district for electing a Governor, representative or representatives to congress, elector to elect a President, and Vice President of the United States, and members to the general assembly, to which the county of Giles now belongs, and that elections be held at the place of holding courts in said county, at the time, and in the manner by law directed and the sheriff or returning officers of said county shall make return of the polls of said election to the sheriff of Giles county, in the town of Pulaski, on the day next succeeding each election, and upon comparing the votes they shall declare the candidate for the representatives of said counties of Giles and Lawrence, who may have the highest number of votes, and give a certificate accordingly, and it shall be the duty of the sheriff of Giles county, to make the return of votes in said counties of Giles and Lawrence, for senator of said district, member of congress, governor, etc., as heretofore directed by law.

SECTION 7. That it shall, and may be lawful for any justice of the peace for Giles county, to attend at the place appointed by law, for holding court in Lawrence county, at the first court of pleas and quarter sessions, appointed to holden for said county, for the purpose of administering to the justices of said county the necessary oaths.

Passed: October 21, 1817.

County Seat

Private Acts of 1819 Chapter 127

SECTION 1. That Josephus Irvine, Henry Phenix, Enoch Tucker, David Crockett and M. H. Buchanon be and they are hereby appointed commissioners who, or a majority of them, shall as soon as may be, fix on a place for the permanent seat of justice of Lawrence County as near the centre of said county as an eligible site can be procured, and after agreeing on the place, the said commissioners shall proceed to purchase or otherwise procure not less than fifty acres of land for which they shall cause a deed or deeds to be made to themselves and their successors in office by general warranty, on which they shall cause a town to be laid off with necessary streets and alleys, reserving two acres, as near the centre as may be, on which the court house, prison and stocks shall be erected, which town shall be known by the name of Lawrenceburg, in honor and to perpetuate the memory of Captain James Lawrence deceased, late of the navy of the United States.

SECTION 2. That when the town shall be thus laid off, the aforesaid commissioners are further required, to advertise for sale, to the highest bidder in some newspaper printed in Columbia and three of the most public places in said county, on a credit of twelve months, giving sixty days previous notice, and shall take bonds to themselves and successors in office, and shall make titles to the purchasers in fee simple.

SECTION 3. That it shall be the further duty of the said commissioners to contract with suitable workmen to build a court-house, prison and stocks, and the monies arising from the sale of said lots after paying for the land so purchased, shall be applied to pay for said court-house, prison and stocks.

SECTION 4. And whereas it has been represented to this General Assembly, that it would tend much to the advancement of the said town of Lawrenceburg hereby established, and to the amelioration of the citizens of said county of Lawrence, to authorize and empower the commissioners aforesaid to locate six hundred and forty acres of ground for the use and benefit of said town; therefore,

BE IT ENACTED, That the aforesaid commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to locate, enter and have granted to them six hundred and forty acres of land, by virtue of good and valid warrant, for the use and entire benefit of said town, the proceeds of the sales of which shall be applied to defray the expense of building the court house, prison, and stocks for the said town of Lawrenceburg; provided always that the said entry and location shall be made upon unappropriated land, and in the neighborhood of the centre of the said county of Lawrence; and provided also that if the said commissioners should locate and enter and have granted to them six hundred and forty acres of land as aforesaid, or a less quantity, upon a good and valid warrant they shall be, and are hereby authorized to fix the seat of Justice aforesaid upon such tract of land thus located and entered.

SECTION 5. That before the said commissioners enter upon the duties of their appointment they shall enter into bond with sufficient security payable to the Governor for the time being and his successors in office in the sum of four thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of their duties as herein expressed; which bonds shall be attested by, and lodged in the office of the county court clerk of the county of Lawrence.

SECTION 6. That so soon as the public buildings shall be completed the aforesaid commissioners shall lay before the court of Lawrence county a just and fair statement of all the monies by them received as well as those by them expended, by virtue of their appointment with sufficient vouchers for the same, and the said court shall make them a reasonable compensation for their services, provides a majority of the acting Justices of said county shall be present when such allowance is made; and provided also that said commissioners shall make out a fair statement of their accounts at any time when called upon by the county court of Lawrence; but such call shall not be oftener than once in each year.

SECTION 7. That so soon as the court house hereby authorized to be built shall be in a situation that the Courts of Lawrence county can be held therein; the said commissioners shall certify the same to the county court of said county, whereupon it shall be the duty of the several courts of Lawrence county to adjourn from the present place of holding courts in said county to the town of Lawrenceburg without delay, and all writs subpoenas and other process made returnable to the present place of holding the courts of said county, shall be returnable to the court house in the town of Lawrenceburg and shall be as good and available in law as if they had been originally made returnable to the court house in the said town of Lawrenceburg.

SECTION 8. That the said commissioners before entering on the duties enjoined on them by this act; shall before some acting Justice of the Peace for Lawrence County take an oath well and truly, faithfully and impartially, to perform all the duties required of them to do and perform by the provisions of this Act.

Passed: November 23, 1819.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1822 (Ex. Sess.) Chapter 96

SECTION 1. That all that tract of country lying North of the following described bounds shall be, and remain a part of Hickman County (to wit) beginning at the south east corner of Hickman County made by the commissioners on the old Natchez Road, and running with said road to Grinder's old stand on said road, thence eastwardly on the top of said ridge, with its different meanders between the head waters of Swan and Buffaloe, and extending on with said ridge between the head waters of Cane Creek and Trace Creek; thence with a ridge so as to include Racoon Creek in Hickman County, to the east boundary line of Perry County; thence north with Perry County line to the north-west corner of Hickman County.

SECTION 2. That all the balance of territory being north of Lawrence County and south of (the) aforesaid described line shall be and remain a part of Lawrence County.

SECTION 3. That all the remaining part of said territory lying north of Wayne County and south of said before described line of Hickman shall be and remain a part of Wayne County.

SECTION 4. That the county court of Wayne and Lawrence shall appoint one or more commissioners to run and mark the lines as far as respects Lawrence and Wayne counties.

SECTION 5. That all and every person or persons whatsoever, falling into the bounds of either of the aforesaid counties, shall, and they are hereby vested with all the rights and privileges that they would have had in case they had been originally attached or belonged to said counties, and that this act shall be in force from and after the passing thereof, and that all laws or parts of laws coming within the purview and meaning of this act shall, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Passed: August 17, 1822.

Acts of 1843-44 Chapter 38

SECTION 1. That a new county be, and the same is hereby established, to be composed of fractions taken from the counties of Maury, Lawrence, Wayne and Hickman, and to be known and designated by the name of Lewis County, in honor of Captain Merrewither Lewis, who has rendered distinguished services to his country, and whose remains lie buried and neglected within its limits, and shall be bounded as follows:

SECTION 2. Beginning on the South bank of Duck river, at a point twelve miles on a straight line West from Columbia, and running in a South direction, leaving Columbia twelve miles to the East, to the Turnpike leading from Mount Pleasant to Tennessee River, thence with said turnpike road to the Wayne County line, running thence in a Northerly direction, leaving Waynesboro to the West twelve miles, thence in a North-East direction through Hickman County, leaving Centreville twelve miles to the West to Duck River, thence up said river to the beginning.

SECTION 3. That John Aiken and Albert G. Cooper of the county of Maury, Shadrick Morris and James Voss of the county of Lawrence, James Gullett and David Voorhies of the county of Wayne, Hugh B. Venable and John Clayton of the county of Hickman, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, with authority to employ a competent surveyor to run out and designate the boundaries of said county, and also to employ a competent surveyor to ascertain by actual survey of the several counties, from which the county of Lewis is to be composed, and if upon such survey there shall be territory and population sufficient to meet the requirements of the constitution, without infringing upon the constitutional territory or population of either of the counties, from which said county of Lewis is to be composed, then said county of Lewis is hereby established upon the following conditions:

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remainder of this Act affected only Lewis County and is omitted.

December 21, 1843

Acts of 1853-54 Chapter 89

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining portions of this Act do not apply to Lawrence County and are not reproduced herein.

SECTION 10. That the dividing line between Lawrence and Lewis counties be so changed, that all of that part of the north-western portion of the county of Lawrence, lying immediately south of and adjoining the county of Lewis, which may be left after surveying out and setting apart to said county of Lawrence its constitutional territory, as hereinafter mentioned, shall be included in and attached to the county of Lewis. Provided, it shall not appear that the county of Lewis, as enlarged, is not a constitutional county.

SECTION 11. That before any such change shall take place, the county court of Lewis county, a majority of the acting justices of the peace being present and voting in the affirmative, shall pass an order notifying the county court of Lawrence county, that they desire to have said county of Lawrence surveyed out, and it constitutional territory set apart to it, as hereinafter mentioned.

SECTION 12. That it shall be the duty of the county court of Lawrence county, on receiving the above mentioned notice, to appoint some competent and suitable person to make said survey, who shall have power to employ at the expense of said county of Lewis, chain carriers, a marker, flag bearer, a pack horse man, and such other persons as may be necessary to assist him in making said survey, and who shall together with said chainers and marker before commencing said survey, take and subscribe an oath before some justice of the peace in the county of Lawrence, faithfully, honestly, and correctly to perform the duties imposed upon them by this act, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

SECTION 13. That said survey shall begin at the south-east corner of the county of Lewis, on the north boundary of Lawrence, and run thence eastwardly with the north boundary of said county of Lawrence to the north-east corner of the same; thence southwardly with the west boundary of Giles county, the

Alabama State line; thence westwardly, with the same to the south-east corner of Wayne county; thence northwardly with the same so far, that by running east and north to the beginning, will include in the county of Lawrence six hundred and twenty-five square miles, its constitutional territory.

SECTION 14. That said survey when made shall be returned to the next quarterly term of the county court of Lawrence County, and the change in the dividing line between Lawrence and Lewis counties as herein mentioned, shall take effect from and after the time said survey is received and approved by said county court of Lawrence County.

Passed: March 2, 1854.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1817, Chapter 174, established Wayne County and mentioned Lawrence County several times in the boundary description of Wayne County but did not appear to take any area away from Lawrence County. In Section 6 was a provision that the Clerks of the Counties from which Lawrence, Morgan, Marion, and Wayne were formed would furnish those counties with copies of the laws in force in those areas.
2. Acts of 1819, Chapter 127, established Lawrenceburg as the county seat of Lawrence County. This Act is published in full herein.
3. Acts of 1819, Chapter 149, added all that part of the country directly north of Lawrence County and south of Hickman County to Lawrence County.
4. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 80, Section 6, realigned the boundaries between Wayne County and Lawrence County so that all the lands of William Hollis would be placed in Lawrence County and the boundary line so changed.
5. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 55, changed the boundaries between Wayne County and Lawrence County moving the line as follows: starting at the State line dividing Tennessee and Alabama in the middle of the channel of Shoal Creek, and run up said creek with the middle of the channel thereof to the mouth of Holly Creek; thence up Holly Creek with its meanders to the original county line dividing Wayne County and Lawrence County; thence north with the said line as before.
6. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 367, redescribed portions of the boundary lines of Lewis County from which it is difficult to tell whether or not Lawrence County was affected.
7. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 130, moved the residence and lands belonging to Felix Carroll which were registered in his name and on which he now lives out of Giles County and into Lawrence County.
8. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 136, Section 4, changed the lines between Lawrence County and Lewis County so as to make the Lewis County line begin on the south boundary of Lewis, at the northwest corner of Lawrence County, running thence southwestwardly with the west boundary of the same far enough to include old man Brewer's premises, on the head of the west prong of Brush Creek; thence in a northeasterly direction, running east and north so as to include all of the Brush Creek settlers in the county of Lewis, to a point where the old Natchez Trace road crosses Little Buffalo, just above William Pollock's; thence with the said Natchez Trace road to the south boundary of Lewis County.
9. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 135, Section 9, transferred the home and lands owned by James C. Hollins out of Wayne County and into Lawrence County.
10. Acts of 1865-66, Chapter 76, Section 4, detached the portions of lands located in Lawrence County which belonged to William Hollis and Jasper Hollis from Lawrence County and attached them to Wayne County.
11. Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 13, changed the lines between Lawrence County and Wayne County so that the lands owned by John D. Wade, G. R. Reynolds, Jesse Bradley, Henry Mourton, James Wade, R. Hamm, Isaac Mourton, John W. Mourton, Alex G. Mourton, W. B. Richardson, William Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Robert Johnson, W. B. Smith, Edmund Smith, W. C. McDougal, and James Liles, would all be wholly within Lawrence County.
12. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 31, returned all the territory taken from the counties of Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Wayne, and Perry to form Lewis County to those respective counties. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 30, thereby reestablishing Lewis County.
13. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 39, rearranged the boundary lines between Giles County and Lawrence

- County so that all the lands and the residences of W. H. Hagan, James W. Hagan, William H. Hagan, and Sinia Garner, would be located wholly within Lawrence County.
14. Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 43, changed the county line between Giles County and Lawrence counties so as to include the lands of James Hogan, W. H. Hogan and Sirend Garner in the county of Lawrence.
 15. Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 18, Section 5, altered the line between Giles County and Lawrence County to include the 90 acres of land belonging to Emery Hughes within Lawrence County, the same being contiguous to the county line.
 16. Acts of 1877, Chapter 62, provided that the residence of N. F. Morrow and all the farm on which he now resided would be included wholly within Lawrence County and not in Wayne County, but Wayne County was not to be reduced below its constitutional limits nor the line, as revised, be nearer than eleven miles to the Court House of Wayne County.
 17. Acts of 1877, Chapter 155, realigned the boundaries between Giles County and Lawrence County so as to include within the Fourth Civil District of Lawrence County the lands in the 18th Civil District of Giles County which belonged to James Harwell, Thomas M. Kelly, Catherine Hughes, Elvira Scott, and John M. Berry, plus a 100 acre tract owned by A. J. Hannah, provided all of the above did not bring the boundary line nearer than eleven miles to the Court House of Giles County.
 18. Acts of 1877, Chapter 157, changed the county line between Wayne County and Lawrence County as follows: beginning at a point where the Lawrenceburg, Wayland Springs, and Florence road crosses the line between the said counties of Wayne and Lawrence, thence in a southwesterly direction with the center of the said road to the north boundary line of the State of Alabama, so as to include within the limits of the said County of Lawrence all the territory south and east of the said road lying in the State of Tennessee.
 19. Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, Section 15, moved all the lands belonging to Berry Brashears out of Giles County and into the 9th Civil District of Lawrence County.
 20. Acts of 1885, Chapter 127, transferred all the lands of William C. Napier, known as the Napier Furnace lands, out of Lawrence County and placed them in Lewis County.
 21. Acts of 1887, Chapter 204, took all the lands owned by John Bromley and James V. Gallaher out of Lawrence County and put them into the limits of Wayne County.
 22. Acts of 1889, Chapter 217, rearranged the boundary lines between Lawrence County and Lewis County so that all the properties belonging to the Laurel Hill Manufacturing Company and the Napier Iron and Mining Company would be wholly situated within Lewis County.
 23. Acts of 1901, Chapter 257, detached the lands of J. L. Ball from Lawrence County and attached the same to Giles County, as the involved area was more particularly described in the Act.
 24. Acts of 1903, Chapter 320, took the properties belonging to E. W. Faremen out of Lawrence County and placed them into Maury County. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1907, Chapter 484.
 25. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 763, amended the description of the boundary lines running between Lawrence County and Lewis County, as established by Acts of 1885, Chapter 127, and Acts of 1889, Chapter 217, by definitely locating the boundary lines relative to the W. C. Napier lands.
 26. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 632, transferred all the lands belonging to J. Monroe Carson out of Wayne County and into Lawrence County.
 27. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 262, changed the boundary lines between Wayne County and Lawrence County so that the lands of Cager McGee would no longer be in Wayne County but would be situated wholly within Lawrence County.

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