



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

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Dear Reader:

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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.

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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

### Creation of County

#### Acts of 1855-56 Chapter 6

**SECTION 1.** That a new county is hereby established by the name of Cumberland: beginning at Jack Officer's in Putnam County, running thence a south direction to the thirteen mile tree, on the turnpike road leading from Sparta, in White County, to Kingston, in Roane County; thence, continuing in the same direction, to the Bledsoe County line, by way of the Tarken Ford on the Cany Fork river, and so as to include the place where George Thomas lives, in the new county; thence, running eastwardly to Hiram Stone's; thence, to Lollett's Mill, on the head of the Sequatchee valley; thence to Thompson's Mill, on the stock road in Rhea County; thence, to C. G. Gibson's; thence, northwardly to the Turnpike road before mentioned, leading from Sparta to Kingston, at where the same crosses Mammy's Creek; thence, to the head of Island Creek on the Crab Orchard Mountain; thence, to Davis' Bridge on Daddy's Creek; thence to Davis' Ford, on Obed's River; thence, up Obed's River with its meanderings, to the mouth of Otter Creek; thence, to the mouth of the Wolf-Pen Branch at Clear Creek; thence, up Clear Creek, including T. Tabor's place, and to the Emory Road west of Brice's Creek, and east of Lee Taylor's stand; thence, with said road to the Beginning:--including portions of White, Bledsoe, Rhea, Morgan, Fentress, and Putnam Counties.

**SECTION 2.** That the said county of Cumberland shall have all of the powers and privileges, and be subject to all the restrictions of the other counties in this State, and the citizens thereof shall vote with the counties from which they are taken, for members of Congress, Governor, and members of the General Assembly, until the next apportionment, agreeable to the provisions of the fifth section of the tenth article of the amended Constitution.

**SECTION 3.** That for the due administration of Justice, the different courts to be held in the said county of Cumberland, shall be holden at the house of James Scott, of Crossville, until the seat of justice for said county shall be located, and a suitable house erected for the purpose of holding the courts in; and the county courts shall, in the intermediate time, have full power to adjourn the courts to said other place in the said county, as they may deem better suited for the holding of the same, and to adjourn to the seat of justice when, in their judgment, the necessary arrangements are made for holding the said courts; and all writs and other process returnable to either place, shall be returned to the place to which said courts may have been adjourned by the County Court as aforesaid; and the said courts to be holden in and for the county of Cumberland aforesaid, shall be under the same rules, regulations, and restrictions, and shall have, hold and exercise, and possess, the same powers and jurisdiction as are possessed by said court in any other county in this State.

**SECTION 4.** That all officers, civil and military, in said county of Cumberland, shall continue to hold their offices, and exercise all powers thereof; have the same jurisdiction as other officers in this State, as they had before the said county was established, until others are elected under the provisions of the Constitution; and the said county of Cumberland shall be placed upon an equal footing, possess equal powers and privileges, in all respects, as other counties in this State: Provided, that nothing in this act shall prevent the counties of White, Rhea, Bledsoe, Morgan, Fentress and Putnam, from having and holding the jurisdiction they now have over the territory composing said county, and the citizens thereof, until the said county of Cumberland is organized, and have elected their officers.

**SECTION 5.** That the Circuit Courts shall be held for the county of Cumberland, by the Judge of the fourth circuit, on the first Mondays in September, January, and May, and shall hold its terms at the house of James Scott, at Crossville, until notified that the Justices of said county have removed the holdings of the courts of said county to the seat of justice, and shall adjourn to the seat of justice.

**SECTION 6.** That it shall be the duty of the County Court of said county, so soon as the Commissioners appointed by this act shall designate a suitable place for the seat of justice for said county, which shall be within five miles of the centre of said county, to appoint five commissioners to whom the said commissioners appointed by this act, shall convey the land acquired for the use of the county aforesaid, on which it shall be the duty of the commissioners appointed by the county court to cause a town to be laid off, with as many streets, and of such width as they may deem proper and necessary, and with such sized lots as they think proper, reserving three acres for a public square, upon which a court house shall be erected, and a lot shall be reserved, sufficient for a jail, and shall reserve such lots for churches as they may see proper; and said town, when laid off, shall be known by such name as the commissioners so appointed by the County Court may give it; and the said commissioners shall proceed to sell the lots upon at least twelve months' credit. They shall reserve a lot suitable for a County Academy, and shall give due

notice of the time and place of sale, which shall be on the premises, and shall take bond with sufficient security, from the purchasers of said lots, payable to themselves and successors in office, and shall make titles in fee simple, as commissioners, to the respective purchasers.

**SECTION 7.** That the proceeds of the sale aforesaid, shall be a fund, in the hands of said commissioners, for defraying the expenses incurred in the purchase of the land on which the county seat is erected and located, and also of erecting a court house and jail for said county; and the said commissioners shall superintend the building the court house and jail, and other necessary public buildings; and shall let out said buildings as the County Court may order, upon such terms as said Court may order, and shall take bond with sufficient security from the persons to whom the same is let, payable to themselves and successors in office, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the contracts.

**SECTION 8.** That said commissioners shall, before they enter upon the duties of the appointment, shall take an oath that they will truly and faithfully perform the different duties by this act enjoined upon them, according to their best judgment, and shall enter into bond and security, in the sum of five thousand dollars, to the Chairman of the County Court of Cumberland aforesaid, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, as conferred upon them by this act, which bond shall be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of said county; they shall keep a regular account of all moneys by them received and expended, and make due return of the same to the County Court of said county, and shall, in all things, be subject to the order of said Court in relation to the buildings and funds, and shall account for all moneys and funds in their hands when required by said court; and shall be entitled to such compensation as the County Court may think reasonable.

**SECTION 9.** That the first County Court for said county, shall be held on the first Monday in April next, 1856, and shall perform all the duties of other county courts; and the first Circuit Court shall be held on the first Monday in May thereafter, and shall have all the jurisdiction of other circuit courts.

**SECTION 10.** That Thomas Frazier, of Bledsoe County, David Snodgrass, of White County, and Isaac Van Winkle, of Morgan County, Daniel Clark, of White, and John Johnson, of Putnam, are hereby appointed commissioners to locate the seat of justice in said county of Cumberland. They shall, so soon as the County Court shall notify them, proceed to locate the seat of justice for said county; purchase the land and convey the same to the commissioners, as directed in this act. Should any of them fail to attend, the County Court shall appoint others to fill their place. This act shall take effect, provided the same does not violate the Constitution in reducing the counties from which they are taken; and the County Court of said county shall cause the same to be surveyed and plat thereof to be filed in the Clerk's office of said court.

**SECTION 11.** That there shall be an election held at the several districts and precincts in said county of Cumberland, on the first Saturday in March, 1856; at which election, the qualified voters of said county shall vote to elect a Sheriff, Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts, a Register and Trustee, who shall, when elected, be qualified at the first term of their respective courts. And the County Court shall elect the county officers which they are entitled to elect, at their first session, and all elections thereafter for county officers shall take place at the times fixed by law for the elections of such officers in other counties in this State. And it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of Morgan County, to give the notice required by law, and by his Deputies, to hold the elections provided for in this section, and to make the same returns and certificates for said county of Cumberland, which are by law required to be made in other counties.

**SECTION 12.** That a County Academy is hereby established in said county, known by the name of Webster Academy, and shall be located in or near the county town of said county, which said Academy shall be entitled to all the rights and emoluments as other county academies are entitled to; and the Clerks of said courts, and Justices of the Peace, shall be entitled to such books as other clerks and justices are entitled to in this State.

Passed: November 16, 1855.

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The act creating Cumberland County was cited in the case of Hubbard v. Godfrey, 100 Tenn. 150, 47 S.W. 81 (1898), a suit to quiet title to land. It was mentioned again in Kobbe v. Harriman Land Co., 139 Tenn. 251, 201 S.W. 762 (1918).

## Change of Boundary Lines

### Acts of 1857-58 Chapter 36

**SECTION 2.** That the line between the counties of Fentress and Cumberland be so changed as to run as follows, to wit: Beginning at the ford of Rice's creek, where Officer's turnpike road crosses the same on

the line between Morgan and Cumberland, thence down Rice's creek to the mouth, thence up Clear creek to where the road crosses leading from French's old stand to Crossville, thence with said road to French's old stand on Officer's turnpike road; and that the land and citizens included in said attachment be, and the same are hereby attached to the county of Fentress; and that the citizens thereof shall have all the rights and privileges of other citizens of said county of Fentress.

Passed: February 17, 1858.

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** Sections 1 and 3 of the Act concerned other counties and are not reprinted herein.

## Acts of 1873 Chapter 76

**SECTION 1.** That the boundary line separating the County of Roane from the Counties of Cumberland and Morgan, be so changed as to run as follows: Beginning at the point on the east side of White's Creek where the said Creek now intersects the line between the Counties of Roane and Cumberland; thence up said White's Creek to the mouth of Piney Creek; thence up said Piney Creek to the point where said Creek crosses the turnpike, or main road, running between Knoxville and Nashville, and continuing up said Piney Creek to the point where said Creek leaves the present lands of the "Roane Iron Company;" thence along the present line of the said "Roane Iron Company's" land to Clifty Creek; thence down Clifty Creek to Emory River; thence down Emory River to where it intersects the present line between the Counties of Roane and Morgan.

**SECTION 4.** That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 22, 1873.

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** Sections 2 and 3 of this Act did not affect Cumberland County and are not reprinted herein.

## Private Acts of 1951 Chapter 243

**SECTION 1.** That the boundary line between the Counties of Fentress and Cumberland be and the same is hereby changed so as to include in Cumberland County that portion of the land owned by R. L. Maddox in the Fourth Civil District of Fentress County which lies South of Clear Creek, containing approximately five hundred (500) acres more or less, same being known as the Erwin Jones farm.

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

Passed: February 21, 1951.

## Public Acts of 1972 Chapter 554

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated.

**SECTION 1.** The tract of land now situated in the 2nd civil district of Cumberland County, hereunder described, is removed from Cumberland County into the 14th civil district of Putnam County, and the county line between Cumberland County and Putnam County at this place shall hereafter run with boundaries of said tract so as to exclude said lands from Cumberland County and include the same in Putnam County. The tract of land is generally bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at United States Geological Survey Triangulation Station Putnam No. 2034; thence south 1,150 feet to the present county line between Cumberland and Putnam Counties; thence with Cumberland and Putnam County line north 85 degrees west, 2,000 feet to a point in the east right-of-way line of State Route No. 24; thence south with the east right-of-way line of State Route No. 24 to a point in the east right-of-way line 200 feet north of the point of intersection of the east right-of-way line of State Route No. 24 with the north right-of-way line of Interstate Route 40; thence 400 feet more or less in a westerly direction along a line perpendicular to the east right-of-way line of State Route No. 24 to a point in the north right-of-way line of Interstate Route 40; thence then in a northerly direction with the right-of-way line of Interstate Route 40 to the present county line between Cumberland and Putnam Counties; thence north 8 degrees east 11,250 feet more or less to a point; thence south 79 degrees east 650 feet to a point; thence south 4 degrees west 10,400 feet to a point in the Cumberland and Putnam County line; thence south 85 degrees east 1,500 feet to a point; thence south 4 degrees west 10,400 feet to a point in the Cumberland and Putnam County line; thence south 85 degrees east 1,500 feet to a point; thence north 1,150 feet to United States Geological Survey Triangulation Station Putnam No. 2034 the point of

beginning.

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 16, 1972.

## Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 8, established the County of Cumberland out of parts of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery and Dickson Counties. Provision was made for an election in January, 1938 for the voters in this area to decide if they wished to form a new county. Cumberland County was not formed and this territory later became part of Cheatham County.
2. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 124, required that the dividing lines between the counties of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, Dickson, and Cumberland be surveyed and marked. A referendum election was to held to approve the establishment of Cumberland County.
3. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 69, established Cumberland County out of parts of Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery and Dickson Counties. An election was to be held in January, 1844 to approve the establishment of the new county. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 122.
4. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 83, Section 4, changed the boundary lines between Cumberland and Bledsoe Counties so as to include those lands belonging to Mark Stephens and William Moss in Bledsoe County.
5. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 211, Section 1, detached all of the lands belonging to the estate of Thomas J. Gillespie from Cumberland County and attached them to Rhea County.
6. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 211, Section 5, moved the land of Thomas C. Welch from White County into Cumberland County.
7. Acts of 1871, Chapter 104, altered the lines between Cumberland County and Putnam County so as to place all the farm of John H. Officer into Putnam County.
8. Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, Section 2, changed the line between Cumberland and Bledsoe Counties so as to include all the properties of Mark Stephen, E. F. Patton, J. M. Thorm, and the Stephen's heirs in Bledsoe County. Section 8, of the same act, moved the farm of William Powell from Cumberland County into Roane County.
9. Acts of 1883, Chapter 45, transferred the land of John Parks from Cumberland into White County.
10. Acts of 1883, Chapter 58, amended Acts of 1879, Chapter 137, to change the spelling of Thorm to Thurman, so that the land of J. N. Thurman went into Bledsoe County.
11. Acts of 1883, Chapter 109, moved the tract of land known as the Alred and Gore grant, and two tracts belonging to James Bartlett from Cumberland County into the Fourteenth Civil District of Putnam County.
12. Acts of 1889, Chapter 115, changed the lines between Cumberland and Morgan Counties so that the lands of Solomon Norris, Thomas Norris, and Daniel Hall were included in Morgan County, to begin at a point on Big Clear Creek at or near the mouth of Elizabeth Hall's spring branch and thence running up Big Clear Creek to the Fentress County line.
13. Acts of 1897, Chapter 149, moved the land of E. T. Patton from Cumberland to Bledsoe County which land was bounded on the north, south, and west by Stephens, and on the east by Brown.
14. Acts of 1899, Chapter 226, transferred that portion of the land belonging to H. Little which lie in Cumberland County to the remainder of his lands which were located in the 13th Civil District of White County.
15. Acts of 1899, Chapter 366, changed the lines between Cumberland and White Counties so that the portion of lands belonging to H. C. Snodgrass, lying in Cumberland County would be included in White County.

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