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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 the County

Public Acts of 1875 Chapter 68

SECTION 1. That a new county is hereby established, to be composed of fractions taken from Madison, Henderson, McNairy and Hardeman counties, to be known and designated by the name of Wisdom.

SECTION 2. That the county of Wisdom shall be bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning at a point south, $12\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ west 13.30 miles from the city of Jackson, runs east 3.05 miles; thence north 61.05 miles, east, 17.88 miles; thence with the arc of a circle with the radius of 11 miles from the town of Lexington, 8.965 miles; then east 1 mile; thence south 7.95 miles; thence west 8 miles; thence with the arc of a circle with the radius of 11 miles from the town of Purdy 13.863 miles: thence west 5.10 miles; thence north $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ west 9.30 miles; thence north 2.22 miles to the beginning, 278 square miles.

SECTION 3. That for the purpose of organizing the county of Wisdom, J. N. Hunter, W. L. Stegall, J. M. Simmons, James Pedy, J. F. Hamlet, M. L. Cherry, J. H. Mitchell, R. T. McAntyre, B. J. Young, J. W. Perkins, William Rush, H. Murley and Ingraham Wilson shall be, and are hereby, appointed Commissioners on the part of the several fractions in which they reside, who shall before entering on the discharge of their duty, take an oath before some Justice of the Peace, faithfully and impartially to discharge all the duties incumbent upon them in this Act, and in all cases of vacancy that may occur among said Commissioners previous to the organization of the County Court of said county of Wisdom, the same shall be filled by the remaining Commissioners, and all vacancies occurring after the organization of such Court shall be filled by said Court of the county of Wisdom. The said Commissioners shall enter into such bond and security as may be required by the said County Court of Wisdom, and payable to the Chairman thereof, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, as required by this Act. A majority of said Commissioners shall constitute a Board competent to do all things herein enjoined on them. They shall keep a record of all their proceedings as Commissioners, which shall be returned to the County Court of Wisdom at its first session, and the same shall be recorded by the Clerk thereof, on the records of said Court, and the shall make such returns after the organization of said Court, as shall be directed thereby.

SECTION 4. That it shall be the duty of said Commissioners, first giving thirty days' notice in one public place or more, of the time and place to open and hold an election, in one place or more, in each of the fractions proposed to be stricken off from the counties of Madison, Henderson, McNairy and Hardeman, in order to ascertain whether two-thirds of the voters residing in each of the said fractions, are in favor of, or opposed to, the formation of said new county of Wisdom, and all persons qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, residing in said fractions, shall be entitled to vote in said election, and each voter who is in favor of the formation of the new county shall have on his ticket, "new county," and each voter opposed to the formation of said new county of Wisdom, shall have on his ticket "old county," and if after counting the vote cast in said election it shall appear that there are two-thirds of the legal votes cast in each of said fractions in favor of the new county, then, in that case, the county of Wisdom shall be, and is hereby, declared a County, with all the powers and privileges, and advantages, and subject to all the liabilities and duties, with other counties in the State.

SECTION 5. That in order to carry into effect and make certain and accurate to the provisions in the fourth Section of this Act, said Commissioners are hereby empowered and authorized to canvass and take the census of the qualified voting population in the bounds of the several fractions, proposed to be stricken off from the counties of Madison, Henderson, McNairy and Hardeman.

SECTION 6. That for the due administration of justice, the different Courts to be holden in the said county of Wisdom shall be held at such place or places, as may be designated by the said Commission, until the seat of justice shall be located, and all writs and other process issuing from said Courts, returnable to the place shall be legal, and the Courts of the county of Wisdom shall be under the same rules regulations and restrictions, shall have, exercise, and possess the same power and jurisdiction as prescribed by law, for holding Courts in other counties, and said county shall be attached to the eleventh (11th) Judicial Circuit, and the first Circuit Court shall be held at the time designated by the judge of said Circuit, and shall be attached to the 10th Chancery District, and the Chancery Court shall be held on the first Mondays in June and December.

SECTION 7. That all officers, civil or military, now holding office in said county, shall continue to hold their offices, and exercise all the functions and powers thereof, until others are elected and qualified according to this Act; Providing, that nothing in this Act shall deprive the counties from which the fractions have been taken from having, exercising, and holding jurisdiction over the county of Wisdom, and the

citizens thereof, in as full and ample a manner as they now have, until the election of county officers takes place according to this Act.

SECTION 8. That said Commissioners are hereby empowered, and it shall be their duty, to appoint five qualified and suitable persons to divide said county into not less than ten civil districts, designating boundaries and places for holding elections in said district, and perform all the duties relating thereto, which by the laws of the State such Commission are required to do.

SECTION 9. That the Commissioners appointed by this Act shall appoint such person or persons, as they think proper, to open and hold the elections for county officers for said county of Wisdom, and such person or persons so appointed shall have power to appoint deputies, clerks and judges, and by himself and deputies, to administer all the necessary oaths, and perform all other duties now made the duties of Sheriffs or other officers holding similar elections, and it shall be the duty of such persons, so appointed, together with their deputies, after giving fifteen days' notice, to open the polls and hold an election in each civil district in said county, for district and county officers, and the officers so elected shall hold their offices until the next regular election for the different officers so elected takes place in other counties in the State.

SECTION 10. That it shall be the duty of the above named Commission, so soon as convenient, after the full and complete organization of the said county of Wisdom, to select and put in nomination two or more suitable locations for the seat of justice of the said county of Wisdom, having a due regard for health and convenience of a majority of the citizens of said county, neither of which places shall be more than three miles from the supposed or probable center of said county of Wisdom, which places shall be voted for by the legal voters of said county, and the site nominated receiving the largest number of voters, shall be and is hereby declared to be the seat of justice of the said county of Wisdom.

SECTION 11. That it shall be the further duty of said Commission to superintend the erection of such public buildings as the County Court of said county may direct to be built, and shall let the same out, and shall take bonds with ample security, payable to themselves and their successors in office, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or their contract. The proceeds of the sales of all donations, lands, town lots, or other gifts that may be made, in consideration of the location of the seat of justice for said county of Wisdom, or otherwise, shall be a fund in their hands, to pay the necessary expenses in organizing said county, and paying for the erection of public buildings, ordered to be built by the County Court, and should any surplus remain in their hands, it shall be their duty to pay over the same to the Trustee, to be accounted for by him as other funds in his hands.

SECTION 12. That said Commission of Wisdom county, be and they are hereby authorized to exercise all powers and privileges conferred on them by this Act, and any and all other powers, not in violation of the Constitution of the State, that may be necessary and proper for the complete setting up and organization of said county of Wisdom.

SECTION 13. That the fractions composing said county of Wisdom, shall be liable for the pro rata of the debts contracted, and owing by the counties from which they were taken, and shall also receive their portion of any stocks or credits belonging to said old counties.

SECTION 14. That in conformity to the fourth Section of the 10th Article of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, a new county be and the same is hereby established, to be composed of fractions, to be taken from the counties of Washington and Carter, to be known and designated as the county of Unicoi.

SECTION 15. That the boundaries of the county of Unicoi shall be as follows, viz.: Beginning at the State line, on the top of Iron Mountain, where Rictless's Ridge joins the same; thence a north course, including Samuel McKinney, the Honeycomb Rock on Stone Mountain; thence to the Muddy Spring, near Dry Creek; thence crossing Buffalo Creek at the Big Spring, lying at the lower end of Ellis' farm, nearly twelve miles from Elizabethton; thence to the top of the Haynes Knob; thence to the top of the pinnacle of the Buffalo Mountain; thence with said mountain (so as not to approach the town of Jonesborough at any point nearer than eleven miles), to the Stoney Point, on Nolachucky River; thence crossing said river; thence a direct course to the old furnace stack in Bumpass' Cove; thence to the old furnace on Clark's Creek; thence a direct course to where the counties of Washington and Greene join the North Carolina State line; thence with the State line nearly an east course to the beginning.

SECTION 16. That for the purpose of organizing the county of Unicoi, William Tilson, Esq., Charles Bean, Josiah Sams, James V. Johnson, William McInterf, David Bell, Franklin Hannum, Richard N. Norris, and Thomas Wright shall be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners on the part of the several fractions in which they reside.

SECTION 17. That said county shall be attached to the first Judicial Circuit, and the first Circuit Court shall be held at the time designated by the Judge of said Circuit, and shall be attached to the first Chancery District, and the Chancery Court shall be held at the time designated by the Chancellor.

SECTION 18. That all the rights, powers and privileges granted in this Act to the county of Wisdom, wherever applicable, be, and the same are hereby granted to and conferred upon the county of Unicoi, and they are hereby authorized to exercise all powers and privileges conferred on the Commissioners in the above Act establishing the county of Wisdom, and all other powers not in violation of the Constitution of the State, that may be necessary and proper for the complete setting up and organization of said county of Unicoi.

SECTION 19. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: March 19, 1875

Change of Boundary Lines

Public Acts of 1883 Chapter 201

SECTION 1. That the county line between the counties of Carter and Unicoi be so changed as to run as follows: Beginning at the State line between North Carolina and Tennessee on the top of Rickers Ridge; thence with the top of the Dividing Ridge to the top of Stone Mountain; thence a direct line to the top of the Honey Comb Mountain.

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: March 27, 1883.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 48, provided that the lines between Washington County and Unicoi County be established by the surveyor of Washington County.
2. Public Acts of 1881, Chapter 147, changed the boundary line between the counties of Washington and Unicoi so as to place the farms of James E. Deakins, A. E. Jackson and James Luttrell in Washington County.

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