



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 the County

Acts of 1779 Chapter 29

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sullivan County was created by the legislature of North Carolina while what was later to be Tennessee, was a part of North Carolina. The statute set out here is from the acts of North Carolina. The reader should note that there were other acts altering the boundaries of Sullivan County while Tennessee was part of North Carolina but which are not included in this compilation.

SECTION 1. That whereas by the great extent of the said county of Washington, and the great number of inhabitants therein, it becomes highly necessary that the said county should be divided into two distinct and separate counties, by a line beginning at the Steep Rock; thence running along the dividing ridge that divides the waters of the great Canawee and Tennessee, to the head of Indian Creek; thence along the ridge that divides the waters of Holston and Wataga, to the mouth of Wataga, thence a direct line to the highest part of the Chimney Top Mountain, at the Indian boundary; and that all that part of said county of Washington, which lies northwardly of said dividing line, shall be erected into a new and distinct county by the name of Sullivan County, and that all that other part of said county which lies southwardly of said dividing line, shall continue and remain a distinct [sic] county by the name of Washington.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1804 Chapter 18

SECTION 1. That the said line shall be as follows, beginning where the Sullivan & Carter County line crosses the road leading from Little's ford on Holston river to Dungines ford on Wataga, thence a line to include Righleys and Plumleys plantations in Sullivan county thence a straight line to the rich but of the Iron mountain leaving all the inhabitants north of said mountain in Sullivan county except George Neighaver, thence along the left arm of the mountain aforesaid to the Virginia line so as to include the beaver dams in Carter county.

SECTION 2. That John M'Cay be appointed surveyor to run said line, and shall be allowed two dollars per day for his services to be paid by the county Treasurer out of the county money upon the certificate of the Chairman of the court of Carter county.

SECTION 3. That the aforesaid John M'Cay is hereby authorised and required when entering on the business as contemplated by this act, to appoint some suitable person to mark and designate the line as by him ascertained, who shall be allowed for such services, one dollar per day, to be paid by the county aforesaid upon the certificate of the surveyor specifying the number of days he was by him so employed.

SECTION 4. That this act shall be in force from and after the passing thereof. August 4th 1804.

Acts of 1805 Chapter 46

SECTION 1. That the said line shall be as follows: Beginning near the first ford of Indian creek, above the widow Plumly's, and running thence on the north side of said creek to the fork thereof, on which George Neighaver lives; thence up said fork to the head thereof; thence a straight line to the top of the mountain; thence along the top of said mountain, and the left arm thereof, till it intersects the line run under the directions of an act passed August the fourth, one thousand eight hundred and four, and with said line to the Virginia line, so as to include what is called the Beaver Dam settlement.

SECTION 2. That a surveyor to run said line, may be appointed by the county court of Sullivan, as well as such other persons as may be necessary, and the expence thereof shall be defrayed out of the treasury of the said county of Sullivan.

October 24th 1805.

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1794, Chapter 16, appointed Joseph M'Min of Hawkins County and George Rutledge of Sullivan County, to run and mark the line between the said counties.

2. Acts of 1797, Chapter 12, appointed Nathan Shipley of Sullivan County to run and mark the line between Sullivan and Washington County.
3. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 192, attempted to create Powell County which would have been formed out of parts of Sullivan, Hawkins, Washington, and Greene counties had the majority of the people in the affected areas voted to leave their respective counties.
4. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 200, Section 4, altered the boundary line between Sullivan and Powell County so as to exclude the long islands from Powell County and to leave them in Sullivan County.
5. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 15, was yet another attempt to form Powell County out of Sullivan, Hawkins, Washington, and Greene counties, the formation of which was subject to approval by a majority of the voters in the affected area.
6. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 97, altered the boundary line between Sullivan and Washington County so as to place the farms of James Heltern and James Meredith in Sullivan County.
7. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 80, Section 2, appointed William Blevins, Esq., Dr. M. A. W. Willoughby, George Hannah, Roly P. Chase, James G. Eames, John Thomas, Jacob Crumly and William Jones as commissioners to select and designate by actual survey the county site of Sullivan County.
8. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 89, attempted to create Powell County out of portions of Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins and Greene counties, subject to the approval by referendum of the people living in the affected areas.
9. Public Acts of 1865-66, Chapter 12, provided for the removal of the county seat of Sullivan County from Blountville to Bristol.
10. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 20, Section 3, appointed John Anderson and John Welsh, of Sullivan County, and James G. Smith and William C. Emmett, of Carter County, to resurvey and establish the boundary line between Sullivan and Carter County.
11. Public Acts of 1869-70 (1st Sess.), Chapter 30, again sought to create Powell County out of portions of Sullivan, Washington, Hawkins and Greene counties, all subject to the approval by referendum of the people living in the affected areas.
12. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 1, altered the boundary line between Sullivan and Washington counties so as to place the farms of A. R. Moulton, T. H. Reeves, W. A. Keene, P. C. Morrison, Sarah Vincent, George Vincent, John Hunt, Vanzant Morgan, Eli Keene, Mr. Ballard, and J. H. Crouch in Washington County. This act was ratified and confirmed by Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 93.
13. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 41, appointed John Wolf, R. P. Fickel of Sullivan County, the surveyor of Sullivan County, James G. Smith, William C. Emmert and Samuel A. Cunningham, of Carter County, and G. W. St. John of Washington County to resurvey and establish the boundary line between Sullivan and Carter County.
14. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 61, appointed T. A. Faw, E. F. Akard and John Hardin of Washington County to ascertain the true and original corner of Sullivan and Carter County.
15. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 159, appointed the county surveyors of Sullivan and Hawkins County, along with David Sevier of Sullivan County, and J. E. Denney of Hawkins County, to re-run and re-mark the county line between the two counties from the top of Chimney Top Mountain to the mouth of the north fork of the Holston River. This act was repealed by Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 239.
16. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 21, appointed William H. H. Gains of Sullivan County, J. O. Robertson of Washington County and Nat Hyder of Carter County to ascertain the true and original corner of Sullivan and Carter County.

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