



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 1799 Chapter 2

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That the county of Sumner shall be reduced to constitutional limits, to wit: Six hundred and twenty five square miles, exclusive of such part of Cumberland river as shall be contained therein, and shall be bounded on the west by a line beginning upon the south bank of the said river, at low water mark, immediately opposite the mouth of Mansker's creek, thence directly across the river to the mouth of said creek, and up the same with the line of the county of Davidson to the line of the county of Robertson, and with that line to the northern boundary of the state; on the south, by the south bank of the said river Cumberland according to its meanders; on the north by the northern boundary of the state, and on the east by a north and south line extended from the northern boundary of the state, to the said south bank of the river Cumberland.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That Wallace Harris and Edward Guinn, are hereby appointed with power to both or either to ascertain by actual survey, the eastern boundary of the said county, from the northern boundary of the state, to the south bank of Cumberland river, and mark it, also to extend and mark a north and south line through the said county, from the said northern boundary to Cumberland river, so as to leave as near as may be, one moiety of the said county to the west, and the other moiety to the east of said line, for which service they shall be paid by the county, each two dollars per day, and each chain carrier and marker by them employed, one dollar per day.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That a new county be established by the name of Smith, to be contained within the following described bounds; beginning upon the south bank of Cumberland river, at the south end of the eastern boundary of Sumner county, thence north with the said eastern boundary, to the northern boundary of the state, and with the said boundary, east to whether it is intersected by the Cherokee boundary, run and marked agreeably to the treaty of Holston, thence with that boundary, to the Canyon (sic) Fork of Cumberland river, thence with the said fork according to its meanders, to the mouth thereof, thence down the south bank of Cumberland river according to its meanders, to the beginning.

BE IT ENACTED, That courts of pleas and quarter sessions shall be held in the county of Smith, and the county of Wilson, with the same power and authority of the courts of pleas and quarter sessions of the counties heretofore by law established. The courts of the county of Smith shall commence on the third Mondays of the months of December, March, June and September; and the courts of the county of Wilson shall commence on the fourth Mondays of the months of December, March, June and September, with authority to continue by adjournment, from day to day, until the succeeding Saturday inclusive.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That the first court for the county of Wilson shall be held at the house of Captain John Harpole, and after at such place as the court shall adjourn to; and for the county of Smith, at the house of Major Tilman Dixon; and after at such place as the court shall adjourn to.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That elections for members to the General Assembly, the Governor and member of Congress, shall be held at the court houses of the counties of Smith and Wilson, on the days on which elections for such purposes are authorized to be held; and the sheriffs of the counties shall meet the sheriff of Sumner county, at the court house of said county, on the succeeding Monday, and with him examine the respective polls of election for the three counties, heretofore the county of Sumner, and declare the persons duly elected members to the General Assembly, and give certificates accordingly to the persons duly elected; and it shall be the duty of the said sheriff to transmit a statement of the poll of election for Governor and

member of Congress to the Speaker of the Senate, in the same manner as directed by law, as the duty of sheriffs of counties heretofore established.

BE IT ENACTED, That it shall be the duty of the sheriffs of the counties of Wilson and Smith, each to hold an election at the place of holding court in their respective counties, on the first Thursday and the succeeding day of February next, for the purpose of electing one Colonel and two Majors for their respective counties, under the same rules, regulations and restrictions as prescribed by law for the election of such officers.

BE IT ENACTED, That the elections for company officers for the counties of Smith and Wilson, shall be held at their respective company muster ground, on the third Thursday in February next, in the same manner and form as appointed by law for electing company militia officers.

BE IT ENACTED, That the counties of Smith and Wilson, shall be in all cases whatsoever, considered as a part of the district of Mero.

Passed: October 26, 1799.

Change of Boundary Lines

Acts of 1801 Chapter 48

SECTION 1. That the bounds of Smith county shall be as follows, viz. Beginning one mile due west of the south east corner of Sumner county, on the south bank of Cumberland river, thence south, twenty three degrees east, to the Indian boundary, thence along the same until it intersects the Caney Fork road, thence along the dividing ridge between Martin's creek and Flinn's creek to the river, thence up the river one half mile above the ferry landing at Port Blount, thence a due north course until it strikes the state line, thence west along the state line, to the corner of Sumner county, thence south along the Sumner line to the river, thence down the same to the beginning.

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining sections of the act are not applicable to Smith County and are not reprinted.

Acts of 1805 Chapter 67

SECTION 1. That the county of Smith shall be reduced to constitutional limits, viz. six hundred and twenty-five square miles, and bounded as follows: by Sumner and Wilson counties on the west; by the northern boundary of the state on the north; by a parallel with the upper boundary of Sumner county, to Cumberland river, and from thence a parallel line with the upper boundary line of Wilson county, to the Indian boundary line, and with the same south, forty-five degrees west to the south east corner of Wilson county.

SECTION 2. That Willis Jones, and Lee Sullivan, are hereby appointed with power, both or either of them, to ascertain by actual survey the eastern boundary of said county, to the Indian boundary, and that said surveyors shall have power to employ two chain-carriers, and two markers, and shall cause the upper boundary of Smith county to be well marked, and shall cause the upper boundary of Smith county to be well marked, and all that part of the county of Smith, after being reduced as aforesaid, lying east of the upper boundary of said county, ascertained as aforesaid, be, and the same is hereby annexed to the county of Jackson.

SECTION 3. That it shall be lawful for the sheriff of Smith county to collect the taxes in all that part of the county of Smith now annexed to the county of Jackson, for the present year, together with all arrearages of taxes due the county of Smith, in the same manner, and under the same rules and restrictions as if this act had never been passed, and that all expenses incurred in ascertaining and marking said lines, shall be paid by the said counties of Smith and Jackson, that is to say, each county to pay one half the expenses: And that said surveyors shall each be allowed two dollars for each day they may be necessarily employees in running said lines as aforesaid, and each chain carrier and marker shall be allowed one dollar for each day they may be employed as aforesaid; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed: October 28th, 1805.

Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 33

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 1 and 14 of the act are the only sections that apply to Smith County. The other sections are not reprinted.

SECTION 1. That a new county is hereby established, to be called and known by the name of Cannon; east of Rutherford, north west of Warren and south of Wilson and Smith counties, and composed of parts of the said counties of Warren, Rutherford and Smith; beginning of the ridge, the dividing line between Bedford and Rutherford counties, where Trott's survey strikes the same, near the house of Thomas Bruce; running from thence north to the twelve mile tree marked by Joseph Fowler, near Readyville, in Rutherford county, and continuing the same course to the Wilson county line; thence northeast with the several lines of Wilson county, to the line between Smith and Wilson; thence with the line between Wilson and Smith, four miles to a point on the line heretofore run by Henry Trott, jr.; thence north eighty degrees east, with said line, seven and a half miles to the line between Smith and Warren; thence north eighty degrees east, nine and a half miles, to the Smith county line; thence the same course seven and a half miles, to the line between Warren and Smith counties; thence with the line dividing Warren and Smith counties, seven miles to the Caney fork of Cumberland river; thence up the meanders of the Caney fork to the mouth of Lick creek; running from thence to Perry G. Magnus's, leaving the dwelling house of said

Magnus in the county of Warren; thence to a point a westwardly course, so as to run not nearer than twelve miles of McMinville; thence to John Martin's esq. on a line heretofore run by Henry Trott; thence south, thirty degrees west, seven miles and one hundred and ninety two poles; thence south, twenty degrees west, two miles; thence south five miles and one hundred and eighty six poles; thence south, seventy one degrees west, six miles and seventy poles; thence north, eleven degrees west, three miles and seventy poles; thence with the dividing ridge between Rutherford and Bedford counties, to the beginning.

SECTION 14. That the surplus territory in the southern part of the county of Smith, shall be attached to and made a part of the county of Cannon, on the following conditions, to wit: -- Abraham Overall, Moses Allen, Leonard Lamberson, John Fite and Joel Cheatham, are hereby appointed commissioners, who, or a majority of whom, shall proceed, on or before the first day of May next, and ascertain, by actual survey, the territory attached to the southern extremity of the county of Smith, over and above six hundred and twenty-five square miles, excepting the fifteen square miles above included in Cannon; not running the line nearer than within twelve miles of the town of Carthage; so soon as said fact shall be ascertained, it is hereby made the duty of said commissioners, to hold an election at some suitable time and place, to be designated by the commissioners, and advertised at four of the most public places, at least ten days in said surplus territory, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a majority of the citizens in such surplus territory, are willing to be attached to the county of Cannon; and if upon counting the votes it shall appear that a majority of all the voters, competent to vote for members of the general assembly, have voted to be attached to the county of Cannon, then the said commissioners shall report the fact to the first term thereafter, of the county court to be held for the county of Cannon; which report shall be entered on the minutes of said county court; and in that event said territory shall be attached to and form a part of the county of Cannon; the citizens thereof shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, immunities and exemptions conferred by this act on the citizens of Cannon.

Passed: January 31, 1836.

Private Acts of 1835-36 Chapter 39

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining sections of the act do not apply to Smith County and are not reprinted.

SECTION 10. That in addition to the fifteen square miles taken from the county of Smith and attached to the county of Cannon, by the act to which this is a supplement, the following territory shall also be attached; beginning at a stake in the line dividing the counties of Smith and Wilson, four miles from the southwest original corner of Smith county, running thence north twenty-three degrees west eight and one fourth miles, to an elm tree in said line; thence south eighty degrees east sixteen miles, to the Caney Fork river; thence up said river with the meanders, intersecting at that point the eastern boundary of said county of Cannon; and the inhabitants included in said boundary shall have all the rights, privileges and immunities, that the inhabitants of said county of Cannon have conferred on them by the act to which this is a supplement.

SECTION 11. That in addition to the commissioners appointed by joint resolution of both houses of this Legislature to lay off Smith county into civil districts, Jacob Fite and John Fite shall, and they are hereby appointed; and it is hereby made the duty of said commissioners, or any three of them, forthwith to lay off that part of Smith county which, by this act, is attached to the county of Cannon, into civil districts and designate the places of holding elections in such districts; which districts shall be added to the number of districts for Cannon county, and shall be laid off as near as may be convenient, with not less than one hundred free voters to one district; and they shall also regulate and lay off the districts in Smith county, adjoining its south boundary line, as established by this act, so as to suit the convenience of the citizens, and to return ideal plats with certificates for Cannon county, to the county court of Cannon, and for Smith, to the county court of Smith, and one for each to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 12. That so much of the act to which this is a supplement, as requires the commissioners who were appointed by said act to ascertain the surplus territory in Smith county, and hold an election to ascertain the consent of the inhabitants within said surplus territory to be attached to Cannon county, to report their proceedings to the county court of Cannon county, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Passed: February 19, 1836.

Acts of 1853-54 Chapter 320

SECTION 10. And whereas, a small fraction of the north east corner of DeKalb county, adjoining the county of Putnam, and a small fraction of the eastern boundary of the county of Smith, has by the citizens of said fractional parts of DeKalb and Smith county, prayed this Legislature by petition to be attached to said county of Putnam; therefore Be it enacted, That so much of the county of DeKalb, as lies north of the south boundary line, of the county of Putnam as described in the second section of this act, be and the same is hereby attached to the county of Putnam, to wit: beginning at the north-east corner of said DeKalb county, and running south with the east boundary line of said county, crossing the Falling Water near the falls, and with said line one mile and a half to a corner on the White county line, thence in a north western direction, crossing the Falling Water between the mouth of Cane Creek and Riley Medlin's old place; and crossing Mine Lick Creek, bearing twelve miles from Smithville to the north boundary line of DeKalb county, and said last described line shall be regarded as the line dividing the county of DeKalb and Putnam counties, and the said county of Putnam shall have and exercise jurisdiction over the fraction north of said line, and which shall hereafter be and constitute a part of the county of Putnam, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. And be it further enacted, That so much of the fractional part of the county of Smith as lies east of the Caney Fork river, and a line running from the mouth of Rock Spring Creek in a northern direction to the eastern boundary line of said county of Smith as described in the second section of this act establishing the boundary line of the county of Putnam, is hereby established as a part and parcel of the said county according to the prayer of the petitioners, and said Caney Fork river and line as above described, shall be the boundary line between the counties of Smith and Putnam counties; and all the citizens east of said river and line shall be subject to the authority, and under the jurisdiction of the county of Putnam, any former law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding; and it shall be the duty of the surveyor that surveys the county of Putnam, to include said territory in the county of Putnam as described by the second section of this act.

SECTION 11. Be it enacted, That as soon as the survey of Putnam county is completed, and the center of the county found and shown to the commissioners by the said surveyor, and a plat of the same furnished them by the said surveyor, they shall deposit (sic) the same in the Clerk's office of the County Court, and it shall be the duty of said County Court to appoint at least nine commissioners to lay off said county, into not less than nine nor more than twelve civil districts of as near an average number of voters as practicable, and to suit the convenience of the citizens, and designate the place of holding the elections in each district describing the boundary, and the number of each civil district; the center district being (No. 1) And it shall be the duty of said County Court to appoint three of said commissioners from the fractional part of Jackson county, and two from the fraction of Overton, and two from the fraction of White, and one from the fraction of DeKalb, and one from the fraction of Smith, and one from the fraction of Fentress county, and if any of said commissioners fail or refuse to act, the vacancy may be filled by the appointment of another commissioner in said fraction by any three of the board, and any five shall constitute a quorum, and do the business and report to the next County Court.

SECTION 12. Be it enacted, That Joshua R. Stone, and Doctor Green H. Baker, of White county; Austin Morgan, and Maj. John Brown, of Jackson; and William Davis, and Isaiah Warthon, of Overton county; and William B. Stokes, and Bird S. Rhea, of DeKalb county; and Benjamin A. Vaden, and Nathan Ward, of the county of Smith, be and the same are hereby appointed commissioners to locate the seat of Justice for the county of Putnam, any five of whom shall have the power to act as a body. [The remainder of this section was not applicable to Smith County and therefore is not repeated herein.]

COMPILER'S NOTE: The remaining sections do not apply to Smith County and are not reprinted. This act was cited in a case involving a boundary dispute between Putnam and White Counties: Putnam County v. White County, 140 Tenn. 19, 203 SW 334 (1918).

Private Acts of 1859-60 Chapter 135

SECTION 1. That the county line between DeKalb and Smith counties be changed as follows: beginning at Benj. Thomason's land, running north with the county line, forty-two poles to his N. W. corner; thence east, ninety-eight poles; thence north twenty-five degrees east twenty-six poles; thence north with James Jones', sixty-two poles; thence east thirty poles; thence north fourteen degrees east eighty-eight poles; thence west thirty poles; thence north forty poles; thence east thirty poles to Andrew Williams' line; thence north with his line, one hundred and ten poles; thence east one hundred poles to Asa Washer's line; thence north twenty-three poles; thence sixty-five degrees east seven poles; thence north fifty-five poles; thence east sixteen poles; thence north fifty-six poles; thence east sixty poles; thence north eighty-four poles; thence east one hundred and eighteen poles; thence south fifty-eight poles; thence south seventeen degrees west twenty-six poles, to Granderson Hardcastle's line; thence south forty degrees east twenty-six poles; thence south sixty-two degrees east twenty-six poles; thence south sixty-two degrees east fourteen poles to a beech corner belonging to the heirs of James Arniert; thence east with the line seventy-six poles to John Helmontuller's line; thence north his line fifty-four

poles; thence east with Young Malone's line one hundred and fifteen poles; thence north twenty poles; thence south sixty-five degrees east thirty-six poles, to B. Malone's line; thence north with his line forty-five degrees east twenty-two poles; thence east eighty poles; thence north, thirty-four poles; thence south thirty-seven degrees east forty-four poles; thence east with C. Deuny's line eighty poles to Daniel Driver's west boundary line; thence north with his line one hundred and thirty-four poles; thence east one hundred and thirty-five poles; thence south ninety-four poles; thence south forty-six degrees east twenty poles; thence south eighteen degrees east forty-six to Charles Washer's line; thence south eighty-five degrees east twenty-two poles; thence south sixty-five degrees east forty-eight poles; thence north fifty degrees east forty-two poles; thence east fourteen poles; thence south fifty-five east twenty-eight poles to Thos. Drivers's line; thence north fifty-two degrees east one hundred poles; thence north fifty-seven degrees east forty-two poles; thence north sixty-five degrees east fifty-four poles; thence north sixty-five degrees east fifty-four poles; thence north sixty degrees east eighty poles; thence forty degrees east eighty poles; thence seventy degrees east one hundred and twenty poles; thence south twenty poles; thence south seventy degrees east ninety poles; thence south thirty degrees east twenty poles; thence south seventy five degrees east forty poles; thence south eighty degrees east one hundred and seventy-six poles; thence south five degrees east ninety-four poles to Smith's Fork, at the mouth of a gully, near John Lamberson's fence; thence up the creek, north sixty-five degrees west eighty-four poles; thence up said creek, twenty degrees west one hundred poles; thence east, crossing Smith's Fork, forty poles; thence south fifty poles; thence south sixty-one degrees east one hundred and sixteen poles; thence east with Kelly's line, sixty-six poles, to the road leading from Smithville to Lancaster, near John Rody's house; thence with said road south thirteen degrees east sixty poles; thence south forty-five east one hundred poles; thence south sixteen degrees east thirty poles; thence with said road south eight degrees east six poles; thence south forty-two degrees east forty-two poles to the DeKalb county line, near said road; thence north with the various corners of said line to the beginning.

SECTION 10. That the line between the counties of Smith and Wilson be changed so as to include the lands of James Holmes upon which he lives, in the county of Wilson.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 1 and 10 of the act apply to Smith County. The remaining sections are not reprinted.

PASSED: March 18. 1860

Private Acts of 1859-60 Chapter 196

SECTION 1. That the county line between the counties of Putnam and Smith, in this State, be, and the same is hereby so altered or changed as to run as follows, to wit: Beginning at a sycamore on the south bank of Cumberland river, running thence south fifty-four poles, and thence meandering eastwardly with the said river three and three-fourths miles and thirty-one poles, to a beech tree near the mouth of the Indian Creek thence south sixty-five degrees east forty-five poles to an ironwood on the east bank of the creek; thence south two degrees east seventy-two poles to a stake; thence south twenty-three degrees west seventeen poles to a hickory; thence south seventy degrees west forty-one poles to a stake; thence south forty three degrees west one hundred and forty-nine poles to a locust; thence south twenty-three degrees east twenty-one poles to a birch; thence south eight degrees west thirty-eight poles to a stump; thence west forty-six poles to a stake; thence south twenty-seven degrees west twenty poles to a stake thence north seventy-four degrees west sixty-two poles to a sugar tree; thence south one hundred and thirty-two poles to a stake; thence south eighty degrees east twelve poles to an ash; thence south thirty-six degrees west twenty-eight poles to a buckeye; thence south fifty-six degrees west twenty poles to a beech; thence south twenty-six degrees west twenty-three poles to a sugar tree thence south sixty-three degrees west thirty-one poles to an ironwood in the south county line.

SECTION 2. That if at any time hereafter any question shall arise, so as to involve the said county of Putnam in a contest as to the constitutionality upon the extent or amount of area necessary to the existence of said county, and it shall turn out that the said county of Putnam has not the requisite constitutional area or territory without the fraction stricken off by the first section of this act, then in that case, the said first section of this act shall be held void, and the aforesaid change of lines shall be inoperative and void.

SECTION 3. That the residences of D. Robeson, H. B. Clark, be, and the same is hereby embraced in the change of line, and that the line aforesaid be so modified or changed in its boundaries as to embrace them in Smith county.

COMPILER'S NOTE: Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the act apply to Smith County. The remaining sections are not reprinted

Passed: March 23, 1860

Acts of 1907 Chapter 29

SECTION 1. That the line between the counties of Putnam and Smith be changed as follows:

Beginning in the line between said counties at a stake, at low-water mark, on the south bank of Caney Fork River, the northwest corner of J. C. Barnes' tract of land, running thence south 12 degrees east 211 poles to a stake on the south side of the railroad right of way; thence north 60 degrees east 40 poles to a stake; thence north 70 degrees east 23 poles to a stake, at a low- water mark, on the west bank of Caney Fork River, so as to detach all the lands within said boundary from Smith County and attach them to Putnam County.

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

Passed: January 29, 1907.

Private Acts of 1965 Chapter 147

SECTION 1. That the boundary line between the counties of Jackson and Smith is changed by detaching the following described tract of land from Jackson County and attaching same to Smith County.

Beginning at a pin in the center of State Highway 85, where the same is intersected by the eastern boundary of Smith County and running from there as follows: North 5 degrees 12 minutes East a distance of 1274 feet with the Smith-Jackson County line the same being the east boundary of the Cook and Collier farms to an elm in fence; thence South 80 degrees 44 minutes East a distance of 765 feet with the fence (Hudson south boundary) to an iron pin in fence corner; thence North 85 degrees ten minutes East a distance of 659 feet with the fence (Hudson south boundary) to an iron pin in fence corner at the west boundary of Martin farm; thence South 17 degrees 35 minutes West a distance of 200 feet with the fence (Martin West boundary) to an iron pin in fence; thence South 3 degrees 00 minutes West a distance of 907 feet with the fence (Martin West boundary) to an iron pin in center of Salt Lick Creek; thence North 74 degrees 00 minutes East a distance of 342 feet down the creek with Martin line to an iron pin in center of creek; thence South 19 degrees 10 minutes East a distance of 220 feet with the fence (Martin line) to a hackberry south of highway 85; thence South 70 degrees 15 minutes East a distance of 128 feet with the fence (Martin line) to fence corner; thence South 11 degrees 00 minutes East a distance of 188 feet with the fence (Martin line) to a hackberry in fence; thence South 3 degrees 50 minutes West a distance of 821 feet with the fence (Martin line) to fence corner; thence South 79 degrees 50 minutes East a distance of 336 feet with the fence (Martin line) to an iron pin in fence corner at Browns line; thence South 4 degrees 10 minutes West a distance of 687 feet with the fence (Brown line) to fence corner; thence North 78 degrees 30 minutes West a distance of 232 feet with the fence (Brown and Williams line) to an elm in fence in low gap; thence North 43 degrees 00 minutes West a distance of 341 feet with the fence (Williams line) to fence corner thence South 76 degrees 15 minutes West for a distance of 738 feet with the fence (Williams line) to fence corner; thence South 25 degrees 40 minutes West for a distance of 581 feet with the fence (Williams line) to fence corner; thence South 48 degrees 55 minutes West for a distance of 938 feet with the fence (Williams and Franklin line) to fence corner; thence North 58 degrees 45 minutes West for a distance of 628 feet with the fence (Franklin line) to an iron pin in the present Smith-Jackson line; thence North 12 degrees 57 minutes East for a distance of 2,559 feet severing the Butler Farm with the Smith-Jackson County line to the point of beginning and containing 143.44 acres, more or less.

SECTION 2. That this Act shall take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 16, 1965.

Private Acts of 1972 Chapter 713

SECTION 1. The boundary line between the counties of Smith and Trousdale is changed so as to detach from Smith County and attach to Trousdale County, the following described property:

A road and roadway easement fifty (50) feet in width, referred to as Smith County Rural Road Project R 7035-(5) beginning at the Carl Dickerson property, the present Smith County and Trousdale County line and extending in a southerly direction three tenths (3/10) of a mile to the intersection of the Young Branch Road at the property of Mrs. Gilbert Dickerson.

SECTION 2. The road and roadway easement detached from Smith County and attached to Trousdale County shall be a part of the Trousdale County Road System and shall be under the jurisdiction and supervision of and maintained and repaired by the Trousdale County Highway Department.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 30, 1972

Boundaries - Historical Notes

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

1. Acts of 1801, Chapter 37, changed the boundary lines of Smith, Wilson, Davidson, Williamson, and Robertson Counties to extend their east and west boundaries to the southern border of the State.
2. Acts of 1803, Chapter 74, stated that nothing in the act, which reduced Wilson County to its constitutional limits of six hundred twenty-five square miles, would be so construed as to prevent the Sheriffs of Davidson and Smith Counties from collecting taxes and arrearages as fully as if the act had not been passed. Section 3 appointed William Minor Quesenbury as Commissioner to run the lines between Wilson, Davidson, Rutherford, and Smith Counties at Wilson County's expense.
3. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 61, established and declared the boundary line between Smith County and Macon County, as described in the act creating Macon County in 1842, to be the permanent line between those two counties.
4. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 80, altered the line between Smith and Jackson Counties so that it ran from the point where said line crossed Hurricane Creek, the same running with said creek to the Cumberland River, thence with said River northwardly to where the county line crossed said River and from thence north as the line then currently ran.
5. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 139, transferred the farms and residences belonging to Nicholas Smith, Andrew Vantreece, John Robinson, and John F. Goodner from Smith County to DeKalb County.
6. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 262, changed the line between Smith and DeKalb Counties to include wholly within DeKalb County the lands of H. H. Sullivan, John Corley, and William H. Christian. The Smith County Surveyor would run and mark the line as changed and the County would pay the Surveyor.
7. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 83, contained a general description of the land involved when the entire farms belonging to J. F. Goodner, James Goodner, Louisia D. Dowell, William Floyd, Lucy Preston, Jacob Measles, William Grindstaff, and Martin Foutche, were moved out of Smith County into the first Civil District of DeKalb County.
8. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 100, transferred the lands of James Holmes out of Smith County into Wilson County.
9. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 135, was a duplicate of the act transferring the land of James Holmes from Smith County to Wilson County.
10. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 23, transferred the residence, farm, and citizenship of Mitchell M. Crowell from Putnam County to Smith County.
11. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 82, changed the boundaries between Smith and Putnam Counties to run as follows: "Beginning at a point in the line of Smith and Putnam Counties, where it crosses the ridge near M. M. Crowell's; thence, running along said ridge, so as to include the lands of M. M. Crowell, Mary Brown, Susan F. Cardwell, J. C. Apple; and with G. W. Apple's line to Young's Fork of Indian Creek; and thence down Young's Fork of Indian Creek; and with said creek to the Smith County line, near Dr. Wm. Robinson's, including all North and West of said line, in Smith County." All persons whose property was transferred by the act would pay their 1868, 1869, and 1870 taxes to Putnam County. Section 2 of the act moved the lands of R. G. Davis from DeKalb County into Smith County.
12. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 20, changed the lines between Smith and Putnam County to include wholly within Smith County the residence and farm of F. M. Goolsby. Taxes on the property would be paid to Putnam County for the next three years.
13. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 43, transferred the lands of J. C. Fletcher, O. P. Apple, H. B. Clark, and F. M. Goolsby from Putnam County to Smith County. 1869 and 1870 taxes on the properties were to be paid to Putnam County. Section 3 of the act transferred the properties of H. B. Clark from Jackson County to Smith County.
14. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 48, detached the lands belonging to Thomas Watts from Putnam County and attached them to Smith County.
15. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 84, changed the line between Putnam and Smith Counties as follows: the line would "run with the Road and Young's Fork of Indian Creek, instead of running

- altogether with Young's Fork, including all the road in Putnam County, and that the road and Young's Fork be the boundary line between the counties".
16. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 12, transferred the properties belonging to John Jones from Smith County to the First Civil District of DeKalb County.
 17. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 66, detached the part of the tract of land on which Samuel Fitz Patrick lived that was in Putnam County from Putnam County and attached it to Smith County. Nothing in the act was to be construed to reduce Putnam County below its constitutional limits or bring the county line nearer than eleven miles to the Courthouse.
 18. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 115, changed the boundary lines between Putnam and Smith Counties to include in Smith County that portion of lands belonging to Thomas L. Watts and lying in Putnam County, making the county line follow the boundary between the lands of G. B. Thompson and Thomas L. Watts.
 19. Public Acts of 1881, Chapter 142, transferred, the farms of G. B. Thompson, A. J. Clark, L. D. Apple, and the balance of the lands of S. B. Lee from Putnam County to Smith County.
 20. Public Acts of 1881, Chapter 164, transferred the lands belonging to John Rollins and Thomas Oakley from Smith County to DeKalb County.
 21. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 99, transferred approximately twenty acres of land belonging to J. M. Ballard from Putnam County to Smith County. The land adjoined that of T. D. Sexton, J. C. Fletcher, and C. F. Burton. The lands of Purlina Evans were transferred from Smith County into Putnam County, so that the county line would be between her land and that of Stephen Petty and Mary Ballard.
 22. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 53, changed the lines between Smith and DeKalb Counties to include wholly within DeKalb County all the properties belonging to John Rollins.
 23. Public Acts of 1893, Chapter 20, transferred the lands belonging to H. S. Gill, which were bounded on the north by Robinson and Warford, on the south by the DeKalb County line, on the east by the Caney Fork River, and on the west by John Williams, from Smith County to DeKalb County.
 24. Public Acts of 1893, Chapter 73, changed the line between Smith and DeKalb Counties to run from the northwest corner of the T. J. Fisher tract on Smith Fork Creek, south with the west boundary of the said tract and the east boundary of P. L. Reynolds along the fence between said parties to the southwest corner of the Fisher tract, then east with the line between Fisher and Reynolds to the county line.
 25. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 82, transferred all the lands of W. R. and D. E. Seay and E. C. Harris out of Smith County and into Wilson County.
 26. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 98, transferred the property belonging to A. H. King from Putnam County to Smith County.
 27. Private Acts of 1897, Chapter 148, detached the lands of I. W. Evans from Putnam County and attached them to Smith County.
 28. Private Acts of 1897, Chapter 263, transferred the lands of C. A. Malone from DeKalb County to Smith County.
 29. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 143, transferred all the lands of J. M. Bates, as described, from DeKalb County to Smith County.
 30. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 179, moved six acres of land belonging to William Oakley from Smith County to DeKalb County.
 31. Acts of 1903, Chapter 221, detached the farm and residence of Lycurgus Kelley from Smith County and attached them to DeKalb County.
 32. Acts of 1905, Chapter 47, changed the boundary lines between Wilson and Smith Counties to include wholly within Wilson County the lands of E. C. Maxey, bounded on the east by Levi Beard, on the north by Thomas Conatser's heirs, on the west by D. J. Shipp, and on the south by Jacob Faley's heirs.
 33. Acts of 1905, Chapter 86, moved the property belonging to G. W. Evitts from the Fourth Civil District of Smith County to the second Civil District of Trousdale County.
 34. Acts of 1905, Chapter 88, transferred all the lands of J. B. Williams from the 17th Civil District of DeKalb County to the Seventh Civil District of Smith County.
 35. Acts of 1905, Chapter 95, transferred the properties belonging to Daniel Driver from Smith County to DeKalb County.

36. Acts of 1905, Chapter 370, transferred the lands of I. W. Evans from Putnam County to Smith County.
37. Acts of 1905, Chapter 505, altered the boundaries between Smith and Jackson Counties by moving the property of Elisha Canter from Jackson County into Smith County.
38. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 276, transferred approximately eighty acres of the farm belonging to D. E. Seay, as described in the act, from Smith County to Wilson County. The act also transferred the land belonging to Mrs. T. H. Henson and that owned by W. S. Bridgewater from Wilson County to Smith County.
39. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 237, transferred the land belonging to Arch Parker, Brit Floyd, Lillard Oakley, and C. R. Barry from the 19th Civil District of Smith County and placed them in the 12th Civil District of Wilson County.
40. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 562, moved approximately three acres of land, as described in the act, belonging to J. R. Talley, from Smith County to Wilson County.
41. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 718, transferred the jointly owned lands of I. B. Thomas and W. E. Taylor from the 7th Civil District of Macon County to the 6th Civil District of Smith County.
42. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 673, stated that Dave Litchford and Rice Moss owned farms which were located in both Smith and Wilson Counties. The act rearranged the boundary line so that approximately forty acres of Litchford's land and eighteen acres of Moss' land were included in Smith County.
43. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 770, moved all the property belonging to C. H. Baird from Smith County to Wilson County so that his children could attend school in Wilson County which was much nearer to their home.
44. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 771, stated that Roe Purnell owned a farm that was in Smith County except for approximately twenty acres which were in Wilson County. The act moved the Purnell farm into Smith County.
45. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 218, transferred a certain seventeen acre tract which was a part of the farm owned by Lillard E. Oakley from the 19th Civil District of Smith County to the 12th Civil District of Wilson County.
46. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 369, detached approximately forty acres of a farm owned by D. E. Seay, Sr., from the 18th Civil District of Smith County and attached it to the 8th Civil District of Wilson County, the property being known as the old Hinson or Seay Place.
47. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 55, stated that Henry Sloan desired to transfer five acres located in Macon County to Smith County and to transfer approximately twenty-nine acres in Smith County to Macon County; that Carnie Gammons desired to detach eleven acres in Smith County and attach them to Macon County; that the changes appeared to be in the best interest of the parties and the Counties. The act transferred the lands according to the desires of the parties.

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