

# Changing Berrien County Borders

## (From an Act of Feb. 25, 1856 – Creation of Berrien County)

SECTION I. Be it enacted &c., That from and after the passage of this Act, a new County be, and hereby is laid out, to be called Berrien County, out of the Counties of Lowndes, Irwin and Coffee, the lines and boundaries of said new County shall be as follows: commencing where the district lines dividing the tenth and eleventh districts in Lowndes County. cross the Alapaha River, thence up said river to the dividing line between the Counties of Coffee and Irwin, thence north a long the line between the Counties of Irwin and Coffee, to the North-East corner of lot of land number two hundred and sixty-eight, (268) in the fifth district of Irwin county, thence West along the North line of the same range of lots as that upon which said two hundred and sixty-eight is located, to Little river in the sixth district of said Irwin county, thence in a Southernly direction down to the point where said Little river enters the ninth district of Lowndes county, thence down the main prong of said Little River to where the same crosses the dividing line between lots of land number four hundred and ninety-five, and four hundred and ninety-four, thence North along said line to the North West corner of lot of land, four hundred and seventy-two, thence East along the land line to Mill Creek, thence in a Southernly direction down said creek to the North East corner of lot of land, number five hundred and seventy-three, East to the North East corner of said lot of land, thence South along the line of said lot of land to the line dividing the ninth and twentieth district of Lowndes County, thence East along said district line to the Alapaha River at the starting point.

Source: Ga. Laws 1855-56, p. 112

**1857 Vol. 1 – Page: 228**

**Sequential Number: 194**

**Law Number: (No. 192.)**

**Approval Date: Assented to December 22, 1857**

**Full Title:** *An Act to establish and define the line dividing the counties of Berrien and Colquitt, and Berrien and Lowndes, so far as regards the south-west corner of said county of Berrien.*

2. Section I. Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the passage of this Act, that Little River was the dividing line between the counties of Berrien and Colquitt be and it is hereby the established line all the way down to the line dividing the 9th and 12th districts of originally Lowndes, now the 9th district of Berrien county and 12th district of Lowndes county, thence east, with and upon said line so dividing the said 9th and 12th districts, to the Alapaha River, excluding from the county of Berrien and including in the county of Lowndes the following lots of land, to-wit: Nos. 516, 467 and 469, said lots of land being the residences of West Roundtree, James Roundtree and Berry Wells, all of which lots lie in the 9th district, to be included in the county of Lowndes.

**1857 Vol. 1 – Page: 228**

**Sequential Number: 195**

**Law Number: (No. 193.)**

**Approval Date: Approved December 15, 1857**

**Full Title:** *An Act to alter and change the line between the counties of Berrien and Irwin.*

4. Section I. Be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this Act, the southern line of Irwin and northern line of Berrien counties be so changed as to include in the county of Irwin the residence of Joseph Walker, together with his lands, viz: number 286 and 287, and the same is hereby made part of Irwin county.

5. Sec. II. (Repeals conflicting laws.)

**1858 Vol.1 -- Page: 134**

**Sequential Number: 194**

**Law Number: (No. 139.)**

**Approval Date: Assented to December 13, 1858**

43. Sec. XI. *And be it further enacted,* That the line now dividing the counties of Berrien and Coffee, be so changed as to include the territory in the fork of said Alapaha and Willocoochee Rivers, south of Coffee's Road, in the said county of Berrien; and to make Willocoochee River, from its junction with the Alapaha, the substantial line between Berrien and Coffee counties; and that the citizens in said territory, with their lands and localities, be, and they are hereby included in the said county of Berrien.

**1859 Vol. 1 – Page: 269**

**Sequential Number: 269**

**Law Number: (No. 246.)**

**Approval Date: December 17, 1859**

**Full Title:** *An Act to change the lines between the counties of Irwin and Berrien.*

11. SEC. I. *Be it enacted, &c.,* That from and after the passage of this act, the county line of Irwin be so changed as to add lot of land number 239, in the fifth district of Irwin county, to the county of Berrien, it being the residence of G. G. Mobley.

**1870 Vol. 1 – Page: 28**

**Sequential Number: 024**

**Law Number: (No. 24.)**

**Approval Date: missing data** -- This act became law by the lapse of five days from its receipt by the Governor, without his approval.

**Full Title:** *An Act to change the line between the counties of Lowndes and Berrien.*

Section 1. *Be it enacted, etc.,* That the line between the counties of Lowndes and Berrien be, and the same is hereby, so changed as to include lots of land numbers five hundred and sixteen, five hundred and twenty-four, the east half of five hundred and twenty-three, all that part of lot number five hundred and twenty-two which lies within the mill-pond, or that may be overflowed by the waters of said pond, all of five hundred and twenty-one, except that part owned by John T. Carroll at this time, and on which the mill is situated, all of five hundred and twenty, except that part of said lot lying west of Alligator Creek, all of lot number five hundred and nineteen lying in Grand Bay, all of four hundred and ninety-three lying east of Alligator Creek, all of four hundred and ninety-two, except the tillable land on the south side of Mill Creek and in the southeast corner of the lot, all that part of lot number four hundred and ninety-one on which the middle saw-mill is situated -- bounded by Carroll's land on the north of Mill Creek, east by James H. Carroll, and north by William Lamb -- also all of lot number four hundred and ninety, except that part owned by Jesse Carroll, the town lots of Allapaha and Mill Town that have been sold, together with twenty acres, more or less, sold to Jethro Patten, east of said town lots, all now in the tenth district of Berrien county, within the county of Lowndes.

**1873 Vol. 1 – Page: 273**

**Sequential Number: 252**

**Law Number: No. CCLII – (O. No. 313.)**

**Approval Date: February 21, 1873**

239. Section I. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same,* That from and after the passage of this Act, an Act entitled "an Act to change the line between the counties of Lowndes and Berrien," passed in 1870, and which became a law by the lapse of five days from its receipt by the Governor without his approval, be and the same is hereby repealed.

**1877 Vol. 1 – Page: 275**

**Sequential Number: 277**

**Law Number: No. CCLXXVII.**

**Origin: (O. No. 87.)**

**Approval Date: February 19, 1877.**

**Full Title:** *An Act to change the lines between the counties of Irwin and Berrien.*

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia,* That from and after the passage of this Act, the lines between the counties of Irwin and Berrien, be, and they are hereby, changed, so as to include in the county of Irwin, the residences of Richard Gibbs, Sampson Gibbs, and [Illegible Text] Easters, said residences being situated on lots of land number two hundred and eighty-one, (281) and number two hundred and seventy-two (272), in the sixth (6th) district of Berrien county; also number two hundred and seventy-four (274), in the sixth (6th) district, all of which are immediately on the county line; also lot of land, number two hundred and seventy-one (271), to be changed from the county of Berrien, to the county of Irwin.

**Full Title:** An Act to lay out and organize a new county from the counties of Berrien, Irwin and Worth, to define the boundaries thereof, prescribe for the election of officers therein, to fix a name therefor, and for other purposes.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this Act a new county shall be, and the same is, hereby laid out from the counties of Berrien, Irwin and Worth as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of lot of land number sixty-nine (69), in the sixth district of Irwin county, and following the land lines to the northeast corner of lot of land number sixty in the sixth district of Irwin county; thence south to the southwest corner of lot of land number eighty in said sixth district of Irwin county; thence east to the southeast corner of land lot number eighty-one in said sixth district of

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Irwin county; thence south to the southwest corner of lot of land number one hundred and three in said sixth district of Irwin county; thence east to the Allapaha river; thence along the Allapaha river to where the south line of lot of land number two hundred and thirty-three (233) in said sixth district of Irwin county intersects with said river; thence south along the east line of lot of land number two hundred and seventy-four (274); thence west to the southeast corner of lot of land number two hundred and seventy-two (272) in said sixth district of Irwin; thence south to the southeast corner of lot of land number three hundred and seventy-three (373) in the sixth district of Berrien; thence west to the southeast corner of lot number four hundred and nine (409); thence south to the southwest corner of said lot number four hundred and nine (409); thence south to the southeast corner of lot four hundred and twenty-one (421); thence west to the southwest corner of said lot four hundred and twenty-one (421); thence south to the southeast corner of lot four hundred and fifty-three (453); thence west to the southwest corner of said lot four hundred and fifty-three (453); thence south to the southeast corner of lot number four hundred and sixty-nine (469); thence west to the southwest corner of said lot four hundred and sixty-nine (469); thence south to the southeast corner of lot number four hundred and ninety-seven (497); thence west to the southwest corner of lot four hundred and ninety-seven (497); thence south to the south line of the sixth district of Berrien county; thence west to the west line of the sixth district of Worth county; thence north along the district line between the sixth and seventh districts of Worth county to the southwest corner of lot of land number 207, in the seventh district of Worth county; thence north to the northwest corner of lot number two fifty-four in said seventh district of Worth county; thence east to said district line; thence north along said district line to the starting point.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the territory hereinbefore set out shall form a new county, to be called the county of "Tift," in honor of Honorable Nelson Tift, late of the county of Dougherty, and shall be attached to the second congressional district, and the southern judicial circuit.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That [Illegible Text] of the public buildings for said new [Illegible Text] city of Tifton.

[Illegible Text] enacted by the authority aforesaid, That [Illegible Text] said new county shall, on the first

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Wednesday in October next, at the county site thereof, pursuant to the election laws then in force in said State, and proceed to elect all county officers necessary for the organization of said new county, according to the laws and Constitution of this State.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the superior courts of said county of Tift shall be held on the first Mondays in November and July, to continue two weeks, if necessary, for the transaction of the business of said court.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**1918 Vol. 1 – Page: 102**

**Sequential Number: 023**

**Law Number: No. 292.**

**Approval Date: July 30, 1918**

**Short Title: COOK COUNTY, FOR CREATING.**

**Full Title: An Act to amend Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution of this State. The following amendment is proposed by the Senate and House of Representatives of Georgia to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution of this State.**

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Section 1. The General Assembly of the State of Georgia hereby proposes to the people of Georgia an amendment to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution of this State, as follows: That in addition to the Counties heretofore existing in this State, created by the General Assembly and those created by amendment to the above and foregoing paragraph, section and article of the Constitution of this State, there is hereby created an additional County, which County, when created, shall be known as Cook County. The territory for the formation of said County of Cook shall be taken from the County of Berrien, and the territory so taken for the formation of said new County of Cook shall be included within the following described boundaries, to-wit:

Starting at a point where the Willacoochee River crosses the County line between the Counties of Berrien and Lowndes, thence running a northerly direction along the run of said Willacoochee River to where said River intersects with New River; thence taking a northwesterly direction up and along the run of said New River to where said New River crosses the County line between the Counties of Berrien and Tift; thence westward along what is now the County line between said Counties of Berrien and Tift to where said County line crosses the run of the Little River; thence a southerly direction and southeasterly direction down and along the run of said Little River to where the same reaches the County between the Counties of Lowndes and of Berrien; thence eastward along said County line between the said Counties of Lowndes and Berrien to where same crosses the run of said Willacoochee River, that being the starting point.

That when said County is created the County seat for the same shall be the Town of Adel, now in said County of Berrien. That if the above and foregoing amendment should be ratified by the people when the same is submitted to them for their ratification at the next general election after the adoption of the proposal to amend the Constitution, there shall be, on the first Wednesday in December after the proposed

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amendment to the Constitution is adopted, an election for the County officers herein named, in and for said new County, to be held at the several election precincts existing within the limits of said new County at the time of the adoption of the proposed amendment, during the usual hours of holding elections, and all legally qualified voters residing in said territory shall be qualified to vote at said election; and the Ordinary of Berrien County, the County in which said election precincts are located at the time of the adoption of this amendment shall appoint the election managers for such precincts, and the managers of the election shall, on the day succeeding the election, meet at the city hall in the Town of Adel and consolidate the vote for the County officers; and the general laws now in force as to the consolidation of the votes, the return of the election, and the commission of officers, shall be applicable to officers elected at such special elections herein provided for; that the officers to be elected at said special election herein provided for shall be an Ordinary, Clerk of the Superior Court, Sheriff, Tax Collector, Tax Receiver, Coroner, County Surveyor, and County Treasurer; that said officers shall be commissioned as now required by law, and all laws now in force in this State, to commission officers and for bonds required of them, shall be applicable to the officers so elected; that the officers elected at said election shall hold their offices until the next general election for County officers throughout the State, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The General Assembly is hereby given power to create any additional statutory offices in said County, or statutory courts, and to provide by law for filling said offices. Any vacancies that may occur before the next general election in any of the offices created thus for said County may be filled as now provided by law. The said County of Cook shall be attached to the Eleventh Congressional District, the Southern Judicial Circuit, and the Sixth Senatorial District; but it shall be in the power of the General Assembly at any time to change the Judicial Circuit to which said County of Cook is attached, and the said General Assembly of Georgia is hereby given power to change said

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County of Cook in arranging Congressional and Senatorial districts, as is now provided by law. That the Superior Courts in said County of Cook shall be held on the first Mondays in March and September of each year, but it shall be within the power of the General Assembly at any time by law to change the time of holding court and the number of terms thereof. That the Justice of the Peace and Constables residing in the territory included within the new County of Cook shall exercise the duties and powers of their office until new militia districts are laid out in said County of Cook, as now provided by law. That all the provisions of the law as contained in Chapter Thirteen (13) of the Code of 1910, are hereby made applicable to the said County of Cook whenever the same is created.

That all of the general laws in this State, in addition to the above, having application to the statutory Counties of this State, are hereby made applicable to the said County of Cook, especially the law in reference to holding elections for the purpose of creating a debt for said County. That when this amendment is adopted the said County of Cook, so created by the adoption of this amendment, shall become in all respects a statutory County, and shall be governed by all laws now in force in this State regulating County and County affairs.

Sec. 2. The Governor is hereby required and directed that when the proposed amendment shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two Houses of this General Assembly, and shall be entered on the Journals of each House, with the ayes and nays recorded as [Illegible Text] thereon, the Governor is hereby directed to cause the said proposed amendment to be advertised in at least two papers in each Congressional District of this State at least two months before the next general election to be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1918, and he shall also provide for a submission of the proposed amendment to the qualified voters of the State at said general election. And if a majority of said electors voting at said general election shall ratify this proposed amendment to the Constitution of this State by a majority of the electors [Illegible Text]

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to vote for members of the General Assembly and voting at such elections, said amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of Georgia when the fact is certified to the Governor by the Secretary of State that a majority of the qualified voters voting at said general election have voted in favor of the adoption of said amendment to the Constitution of the State, and the Governor shall issue his proclamation to such effect.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the County authorities of said County shall have the right to create a debt for and on behalf of said County to defray the expenses of said County for the first year, without submitting the same to a vote of the qualified voters of said County.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Legislature is hereby authorized to correct any mistake or mistakes, or inaccuracies, that may occur, or may have occurred, in reference to the line or lines of said proposed new County.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Governor to submit said proposed amendment in the following form: That those voting in favor of said proposed amendment shall have written or printed on their ticket, "In favor of the ratification of the amendment to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution, State of Georgia, creating the County of Cook," and those opposed to the ratification of said amendment shall have written or printed on their ticket, "Opposed to the ratification of the amendment to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution, State of Georgia, creating the County of Cook."

**1919 Vol. 1 – Page: 68**  
**Sequential Number: 028**  
**Law Number: No. 78.**

**Approval Date: August 11, 1919**

**Short Title: LANIER COUNTY; CREATION OF.**

**Full Title:** An Act to amend Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11 of the Constitution of this State. The following amendment is proposed by the Senate and House of Representatives of Georgia to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11 of the Constitution of this State.

Section 1. The General Assembly of the State of Georgia hereby proposes to the people of Georgia an amendment to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11 of the Constitution of this State, as follows: That in addition to the counties heretofore existing in this State, created by the General Assembly, and those created by amendment to

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the above and foregoing Paragraph, Section and Article of the Constitution of this State, there is hereby created an additional county, which county when created shall be known as Lanier County. The territory for the formation of said county of Lanier shall be taken from the counties of Clinch, Berrien and Lowndes, and the territory so taken for the formation of said new county of Lanier shall be included within the following described boundaries, to-wit:

Beginning at the northwest corner of land lot No. 379, 10th land district of Berrien County, thence running south along the west lines of land lots Numbers 379, 404, 425, 450, 471, 496, 517 of the 10th district of Berrien County and the west lines of land lots Nos. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236 in the 11th district of Lowndes County, to the southwest corner of said land lot No. 236; thence running easterly along south line of land lots Nos. 236, 271, 282, 317, 328, 363, 374, 409, and 420, of Lowndes County; thence north along run of Alapaha River to original south lines land lot No. 458; thence easterly along original south lines land lots Nos. 458, 463, 504, to southwest corner land lot No. 509 in the 11th district of Clinch County; thence running northerly along original east lines land lots Nos. [Illegible Text], 508, 507, of the 11th district of Clinch County; thence northerly along the original east lines land lots Nos. 529, 484, 483, 438, 437, 392, 391, 346, 345, 300, 299, 254, to the northeast corner of land lot No. 253 of the 10th district of Clinch County; thence west along the original north line land lots No. 253, 252, 251, 250, and 249, to the run of the Alapaha River of the 10th district of Clinch County; thence south down run of said River to the north lines of land lot No. 304, in the 10th district of Berrien County; thence along the north line of land lots Nos. 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, to the northwest corner of lot No. 309 in the 10th district of Berrien County; thence southward along the west line of land lots Nos. 309 and 336 to the southwest corner of land lot No. 335 in the 10th district of Berrien County; thence west along the north line of land lots Nos. 381 and 380, and to the northwest corner of land lot No. 379

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in the 10th district of Berrien County, that being the starting point.

That when said county is created the county seat for the same shall be the town of Milltown, now in said county of Berrien. That if the above and foregoing amendment should be ratified by the people when the same is submitted to them for their ratification at the next General Election after the adoption of the proposal to amend the Constitution, there shall be, on the first Wednesday in December after the proposed amendment to the Constitution is adopted, an election for the county officers herein named, in and for said new county, to be held at the several election precincts existing within the limits of said new county at the time of the adoption of the proposed amendment, during the usual hours of holding elections, and all legally qualified voters residing in said territory shall be qualified to vote at said election; and the Ordinary of Lanier County, the county in which said election precincts are located at the time of the adoption of this amendment, shall appoint the election managers for such precincts, and the managers of the election shall, on the day succeeding the election, meet at the City Hall in the town of Milltown and consolidate the vote for the county officers; and the general laws now in force as to the consolidation of the votes, the return of the election, and the commission of officers, shall be applicable to officers elected at such special elections herein provided for; that the officers to be elected at such special election herein provided for shall be an Ordinary, Clerk of the Superior Court, Sheriff, Tax Collector, Tax Receiver, Coroner, County Surveyor, and County Treasurer; that said officers shall be commissioned as now required by law, and all laws now in force in this State, to commission officers, and for bonds required of them, shall be applicable to officers so elected; that the officers elected at said election shall hold their offices until the next general election for county officers throughout the State, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The General Assembly is hereby given power to create any additional statutory offices in

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said county, or statutory courts, and to provide by law for filling said offices. Any vacancies that may occur before the next general election in any of the offices created thus for said county may be filled as now provided by law. The said county of Lanier shall be attached to the Eleventh Congressional District, the Southern Judicial Circuit,

and the Sixth Senatorial District; but it shall be in the power of the General Assembly at any time to change the Judicial Circuit to which said county of Lanier is attached, and the said General Assembly of Georgia is hereby given power to change said County of Lanier in arranging Congressional and Senatorial Districts, as is now provided by law. That the Superior Courts in said county of Lanier shall be held on the second Mondays in January and July of each year, but it shall be within the power of the General Assembly at any time by law to change the time of holding Court and the number of terms thereof. That the Justices of the Peace and Constables residing in the territory included within the new county of Lanier shall exercise the duties and powers of their offices until new militia districts are laid out in said county of Lanier, as now provided by law. That all the provisions of law as contained in Chapter Thirteen (13) of the Code of 1910 are hereby made applicable to the said County of Lanier whenever the same is created. That all of the general laws of this State, in addition to the above, having application to the statutory counties of this State, are hereby made applicable to the said county of Lanier, especially the law in reference to holding elections for the purpose of creating a debt for said county. That when this amendment is adopted the said county of Lanier, so created by the adoption of this Amendment, shall become in all respects a statutory county, and shall be governed by all laws now in force in this State regulating county and county affairs.

Sec. 2. The Governor is hereby required and directed that when the proposed amendment shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two Houses of this General Assembly, and shall be entered on the Journals of each House, with the ayes and nays recorded

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as taken thereon, the Governor is hereby directed to cause the said proposed Amendment to be advertised in at least two papers in each Congressional District of this State at least two months before the next general election to be held on Tuesday, after the first Monday in November, 1920, and he shall also provide for a submission of the proposed amendment to the qualified voters of the State at said general election. And if a majority of said electors voting at said general election shall ratify this proposed amendment to the Constitution of this State by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly and voting at such elections, said amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of Georgia when the fact is certified to the Governor by the Secretary of State that a majority of the qualified voters voting at said general election have voted in favor of the adoption of said amendment to the Constitution of the State, and the Governor shall issue his proclamation to such effect.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the county authorities of said county shall have the right to create a debt for and on behalf of said county to defray the expenses of said county for the first year, without submitting the same to a vote of the qualified voters of said county.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Legislature is hereby authorized to correct any mistakes or mistake, or inaccuracies, that many occur, or may have occurred, in reference to the line or lines of said proposed county.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Governor to submit said proposed amendment in the following form: That those voting in favor of said proposed amendment shall have written or printed on their ticket, "In favor of the ratification of the amendment to Paragraph 2, Section 1, Article 11, of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, creating the county of Lanier."