

Transcribed Excerpts from the Act of Congress to Define Iowa's State Boundaries, August 4, 1845

CHAP. LXXXII. -- Act to define the Boundaries of the State of Iowa, and to repeal so much of the Act of the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five as relates to the Boundaries of Iowa.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following shall be, and they are hereby, declared to be the boundaries of the State of Iowa, in lieu of those prescribed by the second section of the act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled " An Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," viz. Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River, at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River, to a point on said river where the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established by the constitution of that State, adopted June twelfth, eighteen hundred and twenty, crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River; thence, westwardly, along the said northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersect the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River; thence, up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri River, to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux River, according to Nicollet's map; thence, up the main channel of the said Big Sioux River, according to said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes north latitude; thence east, along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersect the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River; thence, down the middle of the main channel of said Mississippi River, to the place of beginning.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the question which has heretofore been the subject-matter of controversy and dispute between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa, respecting the precise location of the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, shall be, and the same is hereby, referred to the Supreme Court of the United States for adjudication and settlement, in accordance with the act of the Legislature of Missouri, approved March twenty-five, eighteen hundred and forty-five, and the memorial of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of the Iowa, approved January seventeenth, eighteen hundred and forty-six, by which both parties have agreed to " the commencement and speedy determination of such suit as may be necessary to procure a final decision by the Supreme Court of the United States upon the true location of the northern boundary of that State;" and the said Supreme Court is hereby invested with all the power and authority necessary to the performance of the duty imposed by this section.