

LETTER FROM CHARLES MASON AND JEREMIAH DIXON TO MR. HUGH
HAMERSLEY, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF MARYLAND, January 29, 1768.
Transcribed by Will Dinfelder

Reel 26, Document 1311 of the microfilm edition of the Calvert Papers, available in the
library of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD. See also,

Ellis, Donna M. and Karen A, Stuart, The Calvert Papers – Calendar and Guide to the
Microfilm Edition, (Baltimore, MD, The Maryland Historical Society, 1989), pg. 171.

PAGE 1

Sir

We here present you with our proceedings, since our last [letter] of the
12th of June desiring you will please to communicate it to Lord Baltimore
to whom pray give our Dutys.

On the 18th of June we received our Instructions to continue the West
Line to the end of 5 [degrees] of Longitude from the River Delaware.

On July the 7th the Waggon arrived at Fort Cumberland with the Instruments
Tents etc. Having collected Hands we proceeded to the Place in the Allegany Mounts
Where we left off at Last Year and on the 13th we began to continue the ___?___
___?___ [“true Parallel” in the Journal, Page 178].

At 168 miles 78 chains from the Post mark'd West in Mr. Bryans Field to the top of the
___?___ Ridge [“dividing Ridge” in the Journal, Page 178]

of the Allegany Mountains.

At 169.60 crossed a small Branch of the Little Yochio Geni. This is the first
water we have passed that runs westward.

On the 16th of July we were joined by 14 Indians of the Anadaga and Mohawk Nation
Deputed by the Chiefs of the Nations to go with us on the Line with
Mr. High Crawford Interpreter.

At 178 miles the Little Meadow bore So[uth] distant about 2 ½ miles

___ 179.44 crossed the Little Yochio Geni

___ 189.69 crossed General Braddock's Road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh on the top of Winding Hill

___ 194.28 crossed the Big Yochio Geni

___ 204_ the Great Meadow bore No[rth] distant about 5 miles

___ 208.59 crossed Big Sandy Creek

___ 214.12 The Summit of Laurel Mountain

___ 219.22 The East Bank of the River Cheat (about 200 ft wide)

___ 222.34 The River Monaugahela (about 200 ft wide)

___ 231.20 crossed a War Path. Here the Chief of our Indians informed

us that he was come to the extent of his Commission from the Chiefs of the Six

Nations and that he would not proceed one Step farther. Finding the Indians

could not be prevailed upon to go farther west we set up the Sector on the Summit

of a lofty Ridge to determine the Place of the Parallel.

In the true Parallel at the top of the said Ridge we made a large Heap of Earth & Stone.

This pile is at the Distance of 230.18.21 [miles.chains.links] from the Beginning of the Parallel where it

commences to be a Boundary between the two Provinces.

This Pile is at the Distance of 233.17.48 [miles.chains.links]m from the Post mark'd West in Mr.

Bryan's Field (This Post is 15 statute English miles measured horizontal So[outh]

of the Parallel of the So[uth] Point of the City of Philadelphia).

Also this Pile is at 244.38.36 from the West Bank of the River Delaware.

PAGE 2

On the 20th of October we began to open a vисто in the true Parallel eastward
And as we returned (besides the Mile Posts) we erected Markers on the Tops of
all the High Ridges and Mountains. Those Markers are of
Earth and Stone three Yards and one Half or Four Yards Diameter at
The Bottom and 5 or 6, some of feet high.

The 5th of November we finished opening the vисто. Now there is one con-
tinued Visto 8 or 9 Yards wide in the true Parallel from the Intersection
of the said Parallel with the Meridian from the Tangent Point.

This day the Indians left us to return to their own country. On the 28th of

Nov[ember] we finished erecting the Marks on the Tops of the Ridges and the Top of
Sidelong [Sideling]

Hill. To the East ? of this ? the Stones are all set being 132

Miles of the West Line. There are now lying at Fort

Frederick near the No[rth] Mountain Seventy [may be "Sixty"] Stones which were
intended to be used

this Summer but we acquainted the gent[lemen] commissioners that we could not get one

to the Place assigned to it to the westward of Sidelong [Sideling] Hill for less

than 12 [Pounds Sterling] per Stone, on which information the gentlemen commissioners
thought

proper we should desist from setting Stones farther at ?.

In all the Mountains we have past over this Year and almost at every Mile Point

there is as good Stone if not superior to those sent from England.

The carriage of Stones thro[ugh] the Mountains will be a great expense and

almost impractical. The Marks we have erected may be seen from
Ridge to Ridge in most Places and it will take a great length of Time
(if ever) to destroy them, so as not to Point and the Carriage of the Stone

On the 26th of Dec[ember] 1767 the gent[lemen] commissioners at a Meeting held at
Christiana Bridge,

Newcastle County read to us their Minutes by which we understand they have no
further occasion for us to run Lines. They gave us Instructions
to draw a Map or Plan of the Lines to be delivered to any of the Commissioners.

We have this day delivered Plans of the Lines to the R[everend]
Richard Peters. If the Indians would but have proceeded 12 or 14

Days more, we should have run the length of Pennsylvania. We had many
Of the Natives of different Nations come to see us and we were all Brothers in
a very kind and friendly Manner. At about one Mile and ½ North

Of the Line the River Cheat joins the Monaungahela. By Information the Mouth

Of Redstone Creek is due N[orth] about 25 Miles from where we crossed the
Monaungahela. And about 5 or 6 Miles

west of where we crossed the Second River, Pittsburg bearing No[rth] about 50 Miles
?

from better Authority than the Above it is due No[rth] of the Place we crossed
the Monaungahela.

PAGE 3

By all Accounts both from the White Men and Indians the End of the
West Line will not be above 20 Miles from the Ohio in a West Course
And not above 15 Miles in a No[rth] Course.

We shall now proceed on the measurement of the Tang[ent] Line

___?___ for the Royal Society having no further Instructions

From the gent[lemen] commissioners to execute.

We are ___?___

your most obedient

humble Servants

Cha Mason

Jere Dixon

Philadelphia

Jan 29 1768