

ORTHODONTIA

C. Judson Herrick's article, "Seeing and Believing," in the March SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY interested me. Particularly did his account of his illusion that the night boat was moving the wrong way on the Ohio River rouse old memories.

I used to travel 100 miles to Norfolk every two weeks to get my teeth straightened, and on every trip I would entertain myself by reversing the apparent motion of the train. This I found I could do quite easily by simply—in my mind—throwing a lasso around the telephone pole and pulling the train in the other direction.

I still have this power and still use it.

JOHN WHITE

Times Herald
Washington, D.C.

JEREMIAH DIXON?

Jeremiah Dixon (There were several of him in 1773).

H. W. Robinson, Esq., Librarian of the Royal Society, has kindly pointed out a misstatement in my article "Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon" published in *The Scientific Monthly* of June 1946. I said: "Jeremiah Dixon was made a fellow of the Royal Society on November 18, 1773."

This statement is true of one Jeremiah Dixon but not of the Jeremiah of Mason and Dixon. Mr. Robinson has supplied the following about the Jeremiah Dixon of whom my statement is true.

JEREMIAH DIXON (1726-1782)

Jeremiah Dixon was born in the year 1726. He was the son of John Dixon of Leeds, Merchant, and Frances, daughter of Thomas Glover. He married Mary, daughter of the Reverend Henry Wickham, and had a family of three sons and four daughters. He carried on the family business in Leeds as a merchant, and resided at the ancestral home of the family at Gledhow Hall, near Leeds. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on 18 November 1773. Armiger. High Sheriff of the County of York. Died 7 June 1782, aged 56. Buried at Leeds. One of his sons, also named Jeremiah (b. 1753) married Mary, daughter of John Smeaton, the builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse.

Most of the above information is taken from the authenticated pedigree of Dixon of Heaton Royds—Foster, J. *Pedigrees of County Families of Yorkshire, Vol. 1.*

His certificate of election to the Royal Society reads as follows:

Jeremiah Dixon, Esq. of Gledhow near Leeds, Yorkshire. A gentlemen of great worth and merit, well acquainted with, and a lover of Philosophical Enquiries; being desirous of becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society, we whose names are hereto subscribed do on our personal knowledge of him recommend him as likely to become an useful and valuable member, and as truly worthy of that honour.

(signed) J. Smeaton
Geo. Savile
Benj. Wilson
John Caverhill
Joseph Priestley
S. Harper

THOMAS D. COPE

Randal Morgan Laboratory of Physics
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A SAD ADMISSION

In days of old, so I am told,
The scientists were strong and bold,
And neither priest nor mighty prince
Could dim their erudition.

Tycho, Kepler, Galileo,
There you had a fearless trio
Who were not afraid of Leo
's inquisition.

But today, ah sad admission,
He who yearns to study fission
Kneels and begs a politician
For permission.

And if the seedy politician,
Who is head of some commission,
Does not favor the petition,
There's no fission.

M. KESSLER

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