

IN REPLY TO YOUR QUESTIONS

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In August 1938, this Academy met at Coatesville and while there visited the Stargazers' Stone that was set by Mason and Dixon on the farm of John Harlan in March 1764. At this farm, Mason and Dixon did work for the Royal Society of London. Many intelligent questions were asked about the station and the traditions that hang around it. An effort was made to find the answers. By September 1939, progress had been made, but a war had broken out in Europe.

The project remained alive, and as the end of the war approached, it revived. Good contacts had been established in this country and in England. Interest had been aroused. In the summer of 1945, an officer of the American Philosophical Society suggested that a grant be applied for. It was made on March 1, 1946 and in January 1947, the project was laid before the Librarian of the Royal Society of London, H. W. Robinson, Esq. He agreed to undertake privately a search for source material in Great Britain and to send copies of it to the Library of the Philosophical Society. During the past year, he has sent considerable material. About the careers of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, astronomers and geodetic surveyors, there have been published since 1939 in reply to your questions the following:

In *Pennsylvania History*: "The Stargazers' Stone," VI 4, October, 1939; "The Apprentice Years of Mason and Dixon," XI 3,

July, 1944; "The First Scientific Expedition of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon," XII, January 1945.

In *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science*: "Zenith Sectors and Discoveries Made with Them XVIII, 1944 A Frame of Reference for Mason and Dixon," XIX, 1945; "John Shelton's Astronomical Clock Used by Mason and Dixon at Brandywine," XIX, 1945.

In *The Scientific Monthly*: "Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon," LXII 6, June 1946; "Jeremiah Dixon," LXV 1, July 1947.

In *Sky and Telescope*: "The Mason-Dixon Line" (by the Editors), V 12, August 1946; "Mason and Dixon Again," V 12, October 1946.

In *Nature*: "Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon" (a letter), September 14, 1946.

These publications have stimulated others to appear: The "introduction" to Charles Mason's Daily Journal issued in film by National Archives, Washington, D. C.; "The Mason and Dixon Stones," Herbert H. Beck, Lancaster, 1943, included in "Rock Springs and Their Historic Surroundings,"

Lancaster County Historical Society; "Mason and Dixon in Chester County," Arthur E. James, West Chester, 1947, included in "Chester County Clocks and Their Makers," Chester County Historical Society.

Two other articles are in press. Three others are in manuscript. And there are ambitious plans for future publications. They will be reported as they appear. Pennsylvania is filled with interesting things, places, and records. Ask questions about them. You may learn the answers.

Acknowledgments are due to officials of many institutions:

The Chester County Historical Society; The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; The American Philosophical Society; The Library of the University of Pennsylvania; The Union Library Catalogue of Philadelphia; Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware; The Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland; The Maryland Historical Society; The Library of Congress; National Archives; U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; The Royal Society of London; The British Astronomical Association; The British Museum; South Kensington Museum, London; Museum of the History of Science, Oxford University; Greenwich Observatory; and many others.