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MASON AND DIXON LINE

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Mason and Dixon Line

About one and one-half miles south of where we now are, running due east and west, is Mason and Dixon Line. Waynesboro, accordingly, is the nearest town of any importance on either side of this historic parallel. The line forms the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and consequently it is also the southern boundary of Franklin County. There is perhaps no line, red or imaginary on the surface of the earth, whose name has been oftener in men's mouths, especially during the period immediately preceding the Civil War.

Mason and Dixon Line represents the conclusion of a controversy continued through several generations between the successive Proprietaries of Pennsylvania and of Maryland. It has a history of more than 150 years duration. It abounds in curious conflicts of grants, and upon its disputed margins have been enacted scenes of riot, invasion and even murder, involving the early settlers in much perplexity and confusion. Kings, Lords, and Commoners; English, Swedes, Dutch, Quakers, Germans and Catholics, all figure in its narrative with dramatic effect. The line takes its name from two celebrated astronomers and surveyors from England, Jeremiah Mason and Charles Dixon.

OTHER REMARKABLE LINES.

It might be appropriate in this place to direct attention to the peculiarities of a few other state boundaries. The longest stretch of straight boundary line in the world is the parallel extending along our Canadian frontier westward from Lake-of-the-Woods to Puget Sound. This line became famous in a boundary controversy with England and gave us the alliterative slogan "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight". The dispute was finally settled by Webster and Ashburton at 49 degrees. And we did not fight but we gave up our claim to a strip of territory 400 miles wide and 1500 miles long, or an area equal to thirteen states the size of Pennsylvania.

The longest similar boundary line wholly within the United States is the parallel which runs westward from the southeastern corner of Kansas separating Kansas, Colorado and Utah on the north, from Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona on the south. This line is nearly 1100 miles in length.

There is seemingly a long straight line between Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri on the north, and North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas on the south. But it is not throughout its length a single parallel. It has several kinks each with a more or less interesting diplomatic history. This is the Thirty-Six Thirty Line of the Missouri Compromise controversy.

Judge James Vetch in his Sketches of Southwestern Pennsylvania says, "In some respects the celebrated 36 degree and 30 minute line resembles Mason and Dixon Line with which political writers and declaimers sometimes confound it. But it has neither the beauty, the accuracy nor the historic interest of this line. It is, or rather was, intended to be the southern boundary of the stated of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri, but it was most bunglingly run, as a glance

at the United States map will show. Beginning correctly on the Atlantic seaboard, by the time it reaches the western confines of North Carolina—to which it was run before the Revolution—it was some two miles to the south. Its extension was resumed in 1779, and after correcting the first error, the surveyors ran into a greater one, for at the Tennessee River they were some ten or twelve miles too far to the south. When, afterwards extended to the southwest corner of Missouri, the surveyors drop down to the true 36 degrees, 30 minutes and run it out correctly."

AN INTERESTING BOUNDARY LINE.

The most famous boundary between any two states of the Union and, all things considered, one of the most notable and interesting in the world, is the parallel about 267 miles in length, between Pennsylvania on the north and Maryland and Virginia on the south. It is, for the greater part of its length, the Mason and Dixon Line of history. Not even the long disputed Northwestern boundary or the Missouri Compromise Line has the interesting history of our line. This line follows without deviation a western course, over mountain and valley, across rivers and rivulets, through fields and forests, hesitating at no natural obstacle, delayed for awhile by the Red Man, and stopping at nothing short of the Panhandle of Virginia by which it was prevented from reaching the Ohio River.

Many people are under the impression that the Mason and Dixon Line marked the northern limit of slavery. When it was laid out it had nothing to do with slavery. The Missouri Compromise Line, 36 degrees and 30 minutes was the line run to limit slavery. There were slaves on both sides of Mason and Dixon Line. In fact the last slave in Pennsylvania was sold at public outcry, in 1828, about two miles south of Chambersburg. This was only twenty-two years before the Civil War, and Franklin County has possibly the distinction of being the last slave holding county north of Mason and Dixon Line.

Some writers seem to think, that the reason the Mason and Dixon Line formed the division between the states resting on free labor and the states tolerating slavery, was due to the philanthropy of the Quakers and the peaceful influence of the German Palatines. Bancroft says that this division was due principally to climate. There were doubtless a number of causes why slavery became sectional and did not flourish in the North. Whether the cause was climatic, economic, political or moral; or whether it was a combination of any or all of them, the Mason and Dixon Line was merely an incident and was not the cause of the division.

EARLY LAND GRANTS.

In preparing a sketch of the disputes which were settled by the running of Mason and Dixon Line, it is necessary to refer to matters foreign to Franklin County. The cause of the contention dates back to the time of King James I of England when in 1606 he granted to the London Company four degrees of latitude on the Atlantic from the 34th to the 38th parallel; and to the Plymouth Company four degrees from the 41st to the 45th parallel, leaving three degrees from 38 to 41 as neutral or common territory. Within these three degrees King Charles I in 1632 granted to Lord Baltimore the territory lying under the 40th degree of north latitude while the grant to William Penn in 1681 by

King Charles II was limited on the south by the beginning of the said 40th degree, thus making an overlap of one whole degree. Note the language—Lord Baltimore's grant reads under the 40th degree of latitude while Penn's grant reads to the beginning of the 40th degree. It should be borne in mind that a degree of latitude is not an invisible line, but a definite space or belt upon the earth's surface of approximately 69 miles. Here then was the cause of their principal contention. Under these grants both sides claimed the three counties along the Delaware Bay. Eventually these counties were organized into the colony of Delaware and both lost them. Rad Lard Baltimore's contention been sustained most of the built-up portion of Philadelphia would have belonged to him. On the other hand had Penn's contention prevailed the city of Baltimore itself would have been in Pennsylvania territory.

The knowledge of American geography in those days was very limited. Little was known of the country beyond the great headlands, bays and rivers and their true positions were often in doubt. Pennsylvania is the only colony whose territory is not touched by the briny waters of the Atlantic. Penn was forced therefore to take an inland position—not a bad one however—as all here can testify.

Penn's grant was also the only one limited by longitude. He was given five degrees, but he could just as easily have had it reach to the Pacific Ocean. The mode of acquiring title to distinct parts of the American Continent by the old European nations had in it more of might than of right. It consisted of the so-called right of Prior Discovery—a kind of kingly squatter sovereignty.

JOHN SMITH'S MAP

The kings of Europe often depended on maps that were not reliable and they were less precise in the location of points, and in the use of terms, which were to define the boundaries of future states, than we are today in describing the boundaries of mountain lots. These led to angry disputes, and out of them grew the conflicting claims, arising from the boundary line between Maryland and Pennsylvania.

In making these grants history says that a map made in 1614, by Captain John Smith of Pocahontas fame, was used. It was believed to be correct, but in 1682 it was discovered that the true meridian of 40 degrees was over nineteen miles north of where Captain Smith located it. By that map the 40 degree line is laid down as crossing the Delaware river where the city of Newcastle now stands. Penn was deeply disappointed, Lord Baltimore was highly elated, and the controversy between the provinces, thus lying side by side, was waged with spirit and varying results between Lords Baltimore and the Penn family from 1682 to 1767.

THE TEMPORARY LINE

As settlements were being made in the disputed territory both sides saw the necessity of making a final adjustment of the dispute. Accordingly on the tenth day of May 1732 the respective proprietaries entered into an agreement to fix the boundaries between their provinces. This was to be done by a joint commission, but the members on the part of Maryland, under various pretexts, delayed the work. The line they eventually ran was called the "Temporary Line" and it became the accepted boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania.

This Temporary Line west of the Susquehanna lying along the present boundaries of York, Adams and Franklin counties coincided rather closely with the present Mason and Dixon Line, varying from it one-quarter to three-quarters of a mile northward. In this vicinity it was 226 perches or nearly three-quarters of a mile north of the present Mason and Dixon Line. That would bring it close to the southern boundary of Waynesboro or below the bridge where the Western Maryland crosses the State Road. This line reached the top of the most western hills of a range called, the Kittoctinny Hills 88 miles from the place of beginning. Here on the west side of Franklin County the commissioners stopped, as the treaties between the Indians and the Europeans at that time stipulated that no settlement should be made by the latter west of the Blue Ridge.

Neither William Penn nor his sons, John, Thomas and Richard were ever willing that settlements should be made in their possessions without the consent of the Indians or until their claims to the soil had been satisfied. The lands of the Kittoctinny or present Cumberland Valley were not purchased from the Indians until 1736 and were not therefore, before that time, open for sale, but for several years prior to that period the agents of the proprietors knowing the feeling of the Indians to be favorable, had encouraged settlers to come hither and had issued to them not deeds or warrants but special licenses for the settlement of such tracts of land as they might desire. The Maryland authorities however were not so particular in respect to the claims of the Indians.

The territory on both sides of the Temporary Line rapidly filled up with settlers. Some of them received grants of land from the Baltimores, others from the Penns. Their titles frequently overlapped resulting in numerous disputes.

DEEDS TO THE STONER FARM

A peculiarity of the warrants issued by the Maryland authorities was, that besides a description of the properties, names were also given to the tracts. This was seldom done in Pennsylvania. For example, the Stoner farm adjoining Waynesboro on the south is composed of two tracts described in deeds given by Lord Baltimore to John Stoner, great-great-grandfather of Harry L. and Watson C. Stoner, present owners of the land. The first deed was dated September 20th, 1759, and the tract was called "Little Egypt". The other was issued November 20th, 1759, and was called "Content". In 1774 the owner received a deed from Thomas and John Penn for the same tracts of land. The present owners of the farm have these old deeds in their possession. The parchment is much discolored with age, but the writing is very plain and legible showing that there were good penmen in those days and that they used a good quality of ink. A great many of the farms in this part of the county still retain these old names, indicating that the first grants were received from Maryland authorities. Here are a few of the many quaint and amusing farm names in this neighborhood. Almost Night, Wood Enough, Dear Bargain, Stony Batter, Sock's Delight, All That's Left, Hunt for Timber, Smith's Retirement, Jack's Bottom, Corker Hill, Katie's Memoranda, Fomnd it Out, etc.

A fact worth noting is that only a small number of the farms along the Maryland border have the Mason and Dixon Line as their northern or southern boundaries. The reason for this is that the original settlers acquired titles to their land before the boundary between the Provinces had been determined. Accordingly land owners with property on both sides of the line, have the

respective portions recorded in Washington Co., Md., and in Franklin Co., Pa. It follows, therefore, that they are assessed and pay taxes in both jurisdictions. These farms would not likely reach across the border, had the boundary been permanently fixed before the settlers came here.

More border troubles occurred in the decade between 1730 and 1740 than during any previous or subsequent time. The Temporary Line which had been agreed to by the Proprietaries in 1732 was not run and finally determined until 1738. This unsettled condition of affairs served to perplex the land owners and caused an endless amount of trouble.

TWO ACTIVE PARTISANS OF MARYLAND.

It is interesting to those of us in this neighborhood to know that two of the most active partisans of Maryland had their homes for several years in the Leitersburg District, a few miles from Waynesboro. These men were Captain John Charlton and Colonel Thomas Cresap. Both came here in 1733. Charlton lived on a tract of land called "Darling's Sale." His residence was along a small stream known as "Tiptou's Run" which crosses the Smithburg Road near Martin's School House. Cresap owned a place called Longmeadows close to the Marsh turnpike on the Marsh Run. His house built of stone, now in ruins, served the triple purpose of residence, fortification and trading post.

Captain John Charlton first appears in connection with a scheme to colonize York, Adams and Franklin Counties. This region was settled by Germans, who secured the land under Maryland tenure, Lord Baltimore having offered them inducements in the way of transportation and grants of land, to come over and occupy the frontiers of his province. Some of these Germans settled in disputed territory and in 1736 becoming dissatisfied, fifty-two of them renounced the authority of Maryland and acknowledged that of Pennsylvania.

Plans were at once formed to evict them from their lands and Governor Ogle of Maryland issued a warrant for a resurvey in favor of Captain Charlton and fifty-one others. The eviction of the Germans was partly accomplished. The work was entrusted by Governor Ogle to Charlton and several others who were stationed with a detachment of militia at Canjöhela in York County where they built a fort.

CAPTAIN JOHN CHARLTON'S RAIDS.

Of Captain Charlton's individual proceedings two instances are reported. The first was the capture of Elisha Gatchell a Pennsylvania magistrate in Chester County on the 29th of June 1737. On this occasion the Captain was accompanied by four men one of whom was John Perry, subsequently his neighbor near Leitersburg. All were armed, "some with guns, others with hangers and swords." Gatchell was brutally beaten and compelled to accompany his captors into Maryland, where he was released through the intervention of a magistrate.

Several months later the Captain successfully accomplished one of the most daring exploits of the border war. It is thus described in the affidavit of Richard Lowdon, keeper of the county jail at Lancaster: "On Wednesday the 29th day of October, 1737, about 12 o'clock in the night, John Charlton, captain of the Maryland garrison, with sundry other persons unknown to the number of about sixteen, armed with guns, pistols and cutlasses, broke into the house of the said Richard Lowdon adjoining the prison of the said county, and getting into

his bed chamber where he and his wife then lay, pulled them out of bed and presenting cocked pistols to their breasts demanded the keys to the jail, that the doors might be set open and sundry prisoners who were therein confined. to wit, Daniel Low, George Bare, Philip Yeiger and Bernard Weymer, to be set at liberty, for, that they belonged to the province of Maryland; threatened to shoot the said Lowdon if he disputed doing what was required of him: that amongst said armed company was one Frances Lowe, sister of the aforesaid Daniel, who, by frequent visiting her brother in jail became acquainted therein, and having observed where the keys were put at night, undertook to show the company where the keys were, and accordingly opened several drawers until she found them, whereupon the said Charlton and his associates ordered that the said Richard Lowdon forthwith to take the keys, open the door himself, and to dismiss the aforesaid prisoners upon penalty of instant death. which he peremptorily refused to do, even though they should carry their threats against him unto execution; that one of the company took the said keys, unlocked the jail doors, and calling to the said four prisoners, they came forth and with the said armed company rode off towards Maryland, that Lowdon's wife and maid, endeavoring to escape in order to give the alarm, were seized by some of the same company, kicked and beat, and the whole family were held and detained, so that no timely notice could be given in the town of Lancaster of this action until the rioters were all gone off".

James Logan, President of the Pennsylvania Provincial Council after the attack on the Lancaster jail wrote to Governor Ogle of Maryland "We find the same lawless person, your Captain Charlton as it appears, depends so far on your support that there is nothing too heinous for him to undertake". Governor Ogle maintained in their defense that the region from which they had evicted the Germans (now York County, Pa.) was Maryland territory, and he expressed mild surprise when informed of the arrest of Gatchell and the attack on the Lancaster jail, but declined to deliver Charlton and his associates to the Pennsylvania authorities. Some of Captain Charlton's descendants are still residents of Washington County, Maryland.

COLONEL THOMAS CRESAP'S EXPLOITS.

Colonel Thomas Cresap the other Leitersburg resident, was by far the most notorious of all the border disputants and was an outstanding figure among Maryland partisans. Living first in York County, Pa., along the Susquehanna River, then in Washington County, Maryland, afterwards he moved to Old Town, Md., in Allegheny County. Later he settled in what is now West Virginia. keeping close however, to the boundary so that he could always be in position to annoy the Pennsylvanians.

Colonel Cresap was born in England about the year 1702 and came to America at the age of fifteen. In 1732 he secured under Maryland grant a tract of several hundred acres on the west bank of the Susquehanna River just south of the 40th parallel. He at once became the leading partisan of the Maryland interests. The region in which he first settled was disputed ground and circumstances soon brought him into collision with Pennsylvania claimants. One of his neighbors, John Hendricks, a German, had made valuable improvements on a tract secured by a Pennsylvania patent.

In 1734 Cresap had the same tract surveyed under a Maryland warrant, and employed workmen to build a house within a hundred yards of Hendrick's door.

Upon complaint of the latter, the sheriff of Lancaster County crossed the river and arrested the workmen but Cresap was prudently absent and escaped. The guards left by the sheriff at his departure, went at night to Cresap's house for the purpose of arresting him, and that in the melee that ensued, Knowles Daunt, one of the attacking party, was mortally wounded.

In 1736 a group of Germans who had settled in Cresap's vicinity also acknowledged the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. This was construed by the Maryland authorities as an insurrection, for the suppression of which, the Sheriff of Baltimore County hastened thither with several hundred men and established his headquarters at Cresap's. After the departure of this force he converted his house into an arsenal and received ample supply of arms and ammunition from Governor Ogle of Maryland.

For five years Cresap was the terror of the Pennsylvanians and was prepared to maintain his position with greater security than ever. On the night of November 23, 1736, the Sheriff of Lancaster County crossed the Susquehanna to arrest him on a warrant issued two years before, for the murder of Knowles Daunt. His posse numbered twenty-four men, and at daybreak on the 24th they surrounded Cresap's house. A furious fusilade ensued and continued at intervals throughout the day.

THE BURNING OF CRESAP'S HOME.

The termination of the affair is thus described in a dispatch to the Provincial Council:

"The Sheriff and his assistants having waited until sunset and finding they must either return without executing their warrant, or destroy the house to come at him, they set fire to it, but offered to quench the fire if he would Surrender. He nevertheless obstinately persisted in his refusal, neither would he suffer his wife and children to leave the house, but shot at those who proposed it. When the fire prevailed and the floor was ready to fall in, he and those with him rushed forth loaded with arms, which, as they fired at the Sheriff and his assistants, they threw away and in this confusion one of Cresap's men, Michael Reisner, shot down by mistake another of the gang named Lachlan Malone, Cresap was at length apprehended and it has since appeared that he intended to have had his wife and children burned in the house, and that during the time of action he set his children in the most dangerous places and had provoked the Sheriff's assistants to shoot at them. Of the six persons who had thus joined with Cresap one got out at the chimney and another was killed". This affair was deemed of so much importance that the Pennsylvania Assembly was summoned in special session.

Cresap with four of his companions were hurried into the jails of the Province and according to the Maryland account one of them actually perished. The jail to which Cresap was carried was in Philadelphia and as he was borne through the city, it is said the streets, doors and windows were thronged with spectators to see the "Maryland Monster" who taunted the crowd by exclaiming, "By this is the finest city in the Province of Maryland!"

Within a fortnight two commissioners from Maryland, Edward Jennings and Daniel Dulany, Secretary and Attorney-General, respectively, of the Province, appeared to demand the release of Cresap and the delivery of his captors to the Maryland authorities for trial. The Sheriff and his posse were denounced as "Incendiaries and murderers", and the capture was characterized by such ex-

pressions as "horrid cruelty", "savage violence", 'a barbarous transaction", etc., but the Pennsylvania authorities were firm in their refusal to release the prisoners. Cresap was at first put in irons. These were later removed, but he refused to be liberated except by order of the King, which order was eventually issued.

Many warm supporters of the border controversy lived in Franklin County as well as in Washington County. Among them was Colonel Benjamin Chambers, founder of Chambersburg, who was just as active in the interest of Pennsylvania as was Colonel Cresap in the interest of Maryland. As evidence of his familiarity with border conditions, he was at one time sent by the Proprietaries to England to represent Pennsylvania in the border controversy. Colonel Chambers was an experienced military man also, but he was not the dare-devil type of Colonel Cresap with whom he frequently came in contact.

On one occasion he attacked Cresap while he was surveying in the vicinity of Wrightsville in York County, and drove him and his party of thirty men away from their work. At another time he went as a spy among the Marylanders and was detained as a prisoner by some of Cresap's men, but his natural wit helped him out of his dilemma.

It is difficult to give a true estimate of Cresap as his enemies were very bitter against him, and his friends were most loyal to him. His biographer, Jacobs, says he was one of the foremost men in the development of Maryland and he frequently represented his County in the Legislature. George Washington when a boy only fifteen years of age visited Cresap for several days at Old Town and later during his surveying expeditions, frequently stayed over night at Cresap's house. As a surveyor he was associated with General Washington as a member of the Ohio Company. Cresap was generous in his hospitality and the Indians called him "Big Spoon" as he always kept a kettle filled with water and wood beneath, ready for their use. During his two years' imprisonment at Philadelphia, the Indians took care of his wife and children. Later, during the French and Indian War, he and his sons became relentless Indian fighters.

Day in his Historical Collections calls Cresap "A blustering desperate bully", who had volunteered his services to the Governor of Maryland to raise a party of marauders for the purpose of driving off the Pennsylvania settlers. Cresap lived to be one hundred and five years old. He married the second time when he was eighty. His home at Longmeadows, still known as such, was sold by him to Colonel Henry Boquet the hero of the Pontiac War. Later it was the birthplace of Lucretia Hart who became the wife of Henry Clay.

SPEECH OF LOGAN, THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

It is not generally known there is a local touch to the speech of Logan, the great Indian Chieftain. This speech he sent by messenger to Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia. It has long been one of the favorite selections for school declamations and some of you doubtless remember its noble and pathetic sentiments.

"I appeal to any white man", said Logan, "to say if he ever entered Logan's cabin hungry and he gave him not meat, or if he came cold and naked and he clothed him not". Further on in the speech he said, "Such was my love for the whites, that my countrymen pointed as they passed and said, 'Logan is the friend of the white man'. I had even thought to have lived with you but for

the injuries of one man, Colonel Cresap, who in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Logan, not sparing even my women and children. There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature. This has called on me for revenge, I have sought it, I have killed many, I have fully glutted my vengeance. For my country I rejoice at the beams of peace, but do not harbor a thought that mine is the joy of fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life." Who is there to mourn for Logan? No one."

Michael Cresap, the youngest son of Colonel Thomas Cresap was the man accused by Logan. He was born at Longmeadows just across the Franklin County line along the Marsh Run. He was only fourteen years old at the beginning of the French and Indian War, but before its conclusion he was engaged with his father in the bitter warfare with the Indians, where quarter was not asked or given.

Thomas Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia" referring to this incident, wrote, "Captain Cresap was a man infamous for many murders he had committed on the much injured Indians." General Clark, who afterwards distinguished himself by the conquest of the Illinois country, wrote "The conduct of Cresap, I am perfectly acquainted with and he was not the author of the murder of the Logan family." The question was greatly discussed for many years, especially by Cresap's descendants, and they seem to have proved that it was not Cresap who killed the Logans. During the Revolutionary war he was Captain of the Maryland riflemen and was with Washington before Boston. He died in New York City and was buried in Trinity Church Yard. Two of his sons were members of Congress and another descendant, John J. Jacobs was Governor of West Virginia.

FEUDS OF PENNSYLVANIA AND MARYLAND.

Two streams of emigration seemed to converge on the disputed boundaries. The English, many of them Catholics, came by way of Baltimore and the Quakers together with the Germans from Switzerland and the Palatinate landed at the part of Philadelphia. The latter were regarded as a peace-loving people, in their border contests, however, they were materially assisted by the Sketch-Irish who also settled here in large numbers.

The disputed titles and doubts as to the location of the boundary led to a condition of lawlessness throughout the debatable ground. Tenants refused to pay rents or taxes alleging doubt as to who was the lawful Proprietary and under what government they lived. Sheriffs took with them armed posses to enforce payment of public dues and occasionally the aid of militia was invoked. The natural results ensued—arrests, bloodshed, reprisal* burning of homesteads and all the incidents of border warfare. The Marylanders called the Pennsylvanians "quaking cowards" and the Pennsylvanians called the Marylanders "hominny gentry". Even the gentler sex became involved in the disputes.

Then again there were the time-servers of those days, the men who "carried water on both shoulders", to use the phrase that has come down to us; and with a patent from Lord Baltimore and a grant from Penn, obtained exemption from all service by being Marylanders when called upon from Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians when called upon from Maryland. The fanciful pen of Sir Walter Scott made the borderland of Scotland immortal. The same great novelist would have found in the feuds of the southern confines of Pennsylvania as much diversity of character, as thrilling incident, as magnificent scenery, and as wild adventure as were furnished him by the history of his native land.

THE AGREEMENT OF 1732.

Leaving our settlers to continue their disputes, attention will now be turned toward the actual work of fixing the permanent boundary between the provinces. The agreement of 1732 whereby the holders of lands in the disputed territory should not be disturbed in their titles whether granted by the Penns or by the Baltimores, quieted the disputes, but the contest over where the true line was to be fixed, went on until they reached an agreement in London before the King and his Lords in Council on July 4th 17—just sixteen years to a day before the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed.

It should be remembered that this disputed territory constituted a strip of land nineteen miles wide extending the whole length of Pennsylvania. Had the controversy been decided in favor of Maryland a most valuable tract would have been added to her domain. The greater part of Franklin County would have belonged to Maryland, and even our county seat itself would have become what Cresap called Philadelphia, "a fine Maryland town". To that great compromise are we as Pennsylvanians indebted, that instead of being citizens of Pennsylvania we would be citizens of Maryland—an added reason why we should celebrate the Fourth of July.

THE CIRCULAR BOUNDARY LINE.

It was at this time that the Penns and Lord Baltimore employed Mason and Dixon to fix the permanent boundary between their provinces. These men went to work at once, and as there must be a point of beginning in all surveys, they took, according to the agreement, the Court House in Newcastle as that point. This is the only instance recorded in history that the circle with its geometric accuracy has been employed to divide contiguous states or countries. This comes about because the eastern part of the southern boundary of Pennsylvania's grant was to be a circle drawn twelve miles distant from Newcastle northward and westward unto the beginning of the 40th degree of North latitude, and, to the difficulty of tracing this circle, do we owe the presence of Mason and Dixon in America. The question naturally arises, how did the surveyors determine the latitude of the boundary between the two provinces? It is a complicated problem and even with the improved instruments of today it would require great skill to establish the line correctly.

According to the agreement between the Penns and Baltimore they were obliged first, to go to the southern limits of Philadelphia which they found at that time to be 39 degrees, 56 minutes and 29.1 seconds north latitude. Second, they measured thirty-one miles westward from the city to the forks of the Brandywine where they placed a quartz stone, known then and to this day as the "star givers' stone". Third, from said stone they ran a due south line fifteen English statute miles to a post marked "west". From this post they set off and produced a parallel of latitude westward as far as the Susquehanna River. Then they went to the tangent point and ran a meridian line northward until it intersected the above parallel of latitude, thus and there determining and fixing the northeast corner of Maryland. Next, they described such portion of the semi-circle—the Court House in Newcastle as the center—with a twelve-mile radius as it fell westward of the said meridian on the due north line from the tangent point.

This little bow or arc reaching into Maryland is about 1% miles wide, and

near the tangent point where the three states join, to the fifteen mile point where the Mason and Dixon line begins is 3% miles, room enough for three or four good farms. This was the only part of the circle which Mason and Dixon ran. The line running south which divides Maryland from Delaware is also a portion of the Mason and Dixon Line, but the name is generally understood to refer only to the southern boundary of Pennsylvania. Having made many astronomical observations some days preceding, on April 4, 1765, they began running the western Line which has since been associated with their names.

SURVEYORS CROSS CUMBERLAND VALLEY.

Mason and Dixon reached the Susquehanna River on the 17th day of June, 1765, and crossed South Mountain about the first of September. The following entries occur in their journal during the survey across the Cumberland Valley:

September 4. At 93 miles and 63 chains, crossed the first rivulet running into Antietam. At 94 miles 62 chains, crossed a second rivulet running into the Antietam. This rivulet is at the foot of the South Mountain on the west side.

September 5. Brought the sector to this side of the mountain.

September 6. Set up the sector in our direction at the distance of 94 miles 63 chains 10 links from the post marked "west" in Mr. Bryan's field and made observations. (Supposed to be on farm now owned by John A. Johnson.)

The journal from September 7th to September 18th consists entirely of astronomical observations based thereon for the purpose of determining the true parallel.

September 19. Packed up the instruments, etc.

September 20. Began to run the line in the direction found per stars on the 9th instant, corrected so as to be in the parallel at 20 minutes west (supposing us to change every 10 minutes as usual).

September 21. Continued the line. At 95 miles 38 chains, crossed a brook, running into Antietam. This brook is near the present residence of Jacob F. Good at Midvale Station on the Western Maryland Railroad.

September 23. Continued the line and crossed Antietam creek at 99 miles 35 chains.

September 24. Continued the line. At 101 miles 71 chains, Mr. Samuel Irwin's Spring House 2 chains North (This spring is on the farm now owned by Ira Miller-near the intersection of the line with the Greencastle and Leitersburg road). At 102 miles 67 chains, a rivulet running into the Antietam. (This is Marsh Run). At 102 miles 70 chains, Mr. William Douglass's house 4 chains North (near the present residence of Harry Hykes).

September 25. Continued the line at 103 miles 69 chains and crossed a road leading to Swaddinger's Fetty on the Potomac. (This is probably the road laid out under the direction of the Frederick County Court by Thomas Cresap and Thomas Prather from the Potomac River to the Pennsylvania line "through Salisbury Plains."

September 26. Continued the line. At 105 miles 78 chains 67 links, changed our direction as usual. At 105 miles, 4 chains. Mr. Ludwig Cameron's house 2 chains North. (Cannot now locate this place).

September 27. Continued the line.

September 28. At 108 miles 5 chains, crossed the road leading from Carlisle to Williamson, now Watkin's Ferry on the Potomac. (The present Williamsport and Greencastle Turnpike.)

September 30. Continued the line. At 108 miles, 65 chains, Mr. Thomas Meek's house 2 chains South. (This place cannot now be located). At 109 miles 14 chains, crossed Conococheague Creek.

October 1. Continued the line.

October 2. Continued the line. At 112 miles 20 chains, crossed a road leading from the "Temporary Line" to Frederick Town.

October 3. Continued the line. At 114 miles, Mr. Philip Davis's house one mile and a half north by estimation.

October 4. Continued the line. At 115 miles 42 chains, crossed a small rivulet at foot of the North Mountain.

SURVEYORS RETURN TO PHILADELPHIA.

A series of astronomical observations was begun on the 7th of October, upon the conclusion of which, the party then went to Conococheague, now Greencastle and remained there a few days, before returning to Philadelphia. The journal reads as follows:

Packed up our instruments and left them (not in the least damaged to our knowledge at Captain Shelby's).

Repaired with Captain Shelby to the summit of the mountain in the direction of our line, but the air was so hazy it prevented our seeing the course of the river (The Potomac river is here meant and the spot where Captain Shelby took the surveyors is one of the few points in Franklin County from which the river can be observed, and then only in case the air is very clear).

October 27. Captain Shelby again went with us to the summit of the mountain (when the air was clear) and showed us the northern-most bend of the river Potomac at the Tonoloways, from which we judge the line will pass several miles to the north of the said river. Thence we could see the Allegheny Mountains for many miles and judge by appearances to be about fifty miles distant in the direction of the line. It might be noted in passing, that the Captain Shelby with whom the surveyors left their instruments over the winter, was the father of Isaac Shelby the first Governor of Kentucky.

October 28. Set off on our return to the river Susquehanna to make the offsets from our vista to the true parallel.

WORK RESUMED ON THE LINE.

The following year they resumed their work, beginning at Captain Shelby's on the eastern slope of the North Mountain and continued the line to the foot of Savage Mountain. The Indians into whose ungranted territory they had deeply penetrated became threatening. They thought this little army meant something. Their untutored minds could not comprehend the nightly gazing at the stars through gun-like instruments and the daily felling of the forests across their path. They forbade any further advance and they had to be obeyed. The farthest point westward reached by Mason and Dixon was 230 miles, 18 chains and 21 links from the point of beginning. The line was not marked until after the engineering work had been finished.

BOUNDARY LINE MONUMENTS.

The stone monuments placed by Mason and Dixon to mark the line were cut in England from limestone extensively used there for building purposes and are

extremely characteristic, as no stone of a similar nature can be found anywhere along the boundary. They are about two feet above the ground and are about a foot square with rather a Rat pyramid at the top. Four-fifths of them were marked with the letters "M" and "D" on opposite sides, and the remainder with the arms of the proprietors in place of these letters. These latter commonly called "Crown Stones" along the line, were placed at every fifth mile on the boundary, counting from the starting point of the northeastern corner of Maryland.

There are thirty-four stones on the Franklin County line and the first one eighty-nine miles west from the northeast corner of Maryland stands a short distance east of Blue Ridge Summit station and several hundred yards west from the Adams County line. This is not the original monument placed at this point by Mason and Dixon. No trace of their monument could be found at the time of the resurvey of the line in 1903. The position was then redetermined and a monument obtained near Clearspring in Washington County was placed here.

The next monument is a Crown stone. It stands in the village of Pennersville, near Highfield on the southeast side of the road and is covered with a wire cage to protect it from the attacks of relic hunters. The next stone stands on a rocky forested mountain side, a short distance east of Pen Mar Station. This monument has been badly mutilated but is now also protected by a stout wire cage. The next is in a field at the base of the Blue Ridge on its western side and the next one is near Midvale.

The next five mile stone number 95 stands between the farm of William H. Hoffman in Maryland and that of Clifford Biser in Pennsylvania. Numbers 96, 97 and 98 are standing as originally set. The next number 99 stands by the side of the road leading from Greencastle to Leitersburg. It is not the monument placed there by Mason and Dixon. The original had disappeared, having apparently been broken up as small pieces of its peculiar material were found in the vicinity. The position was redetermined and another stone supplied when the line was resurveyed in 1903.

Mile Stone number 100 is a Crown Stone and stands on the north side of the road leading from Reid Station to Marsh Run. The stone placed here by Mason and Dixon had disappeared and it was said to have originally stood in the middle of the piked road. A stone obtained in the vicinity of Clearspring, Md., was set in 1903 by the Resurvey Commission in its present position. Here it might be said that a number of the Mason and Dixon stones were found near Clearspring and had been utilized as doorsteps, horseblocks, etc., at various farm houses. Some persons were of the opinion that all these had been removed from their places on the line. That supposition may have been true in a very few instances, but it seems more probable that these monuments had been brought thus far on their way to the western part of the boundary, and owing to the difficulty of transporting them over the mountains they had never been set and were left at the point which they happened to have reached. Most of the monuments which were found under such circumstances by the Resurveying Commission in 1903, were used to fill gaps in the old series. Six, which were built into the walls of houses and barns, could not be recovered.

Number 101 is in open ground about three-quarters of a mile west of Altenwald Cutoff Railroad.

Number 102 is east of Middleburg. The old monument had been broken off below the surface of the ground and its position was lost. The proper place was redetermined by survey and the base of the stone was found by digging. After

being repaired by iron clamps and bands the monument was reset.

Mile Stone number 103 was found by the resurveying party lying on the ground a short distance west of Middleburg. It was reset a few yards east of the former position as there was a cut in the road which probably caused it to be washed out.

Number 104 is in the fence line on the south side of the road and about half a mile east of the Cumberland Valley Railroad.

One of the Mason and Dixon monuments, which had formerly been in use as a horse block at a neighboring farmhouse, now stands on the east side of the right of way of the Cumberland Valley Railroad at the station called Mason and Dixon. The railway company had secured it and placed it approximately on the line. Its position was corrected and then set in masonry by the railway.

Mile Stone number 105 is a Crown Stone standing in the back yard of a farm house on the road leading west from Mason and Dixon Station.

Numbers 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110 are all original Mason and Dixon markers. Monument number 111 was found in the door yard of a farm house. It was much out of line and was reset by the Resurvey Commission.

Number 112 is on the side of a small valley at the foot of North Mountain.

Number 113 is on the Tuscarora Mountain.

Number 114 is a little east of the road running through Blair's Valley.

Mile Stone Number 115 is a "Crown Stone" which formerly stood at this point. It was removed by a former owner of the land and was sent to Baltimore where for many years it lay in the cellar of a mercantile establishment at Cheapside. It was found there in 1903 by W. C. Hodgkins, engineer in charge of the resurveying party and was recovered for use on the line: but in exchange for a replica of white marble, it was given to the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Meanwhile one of the Crown Stones found near Clearspring was set here in place of it. This stone was given to the Pennsylvania Historical Society because Milestone number 50 near New Freedom had been washed out of the ground and subsequently removed to Baltimore, where it came into the possession of the Maryland Historical Society. This Society also furnished in exchange for it a duplicate in white marble.

Mile Stone number 116 is in a thick woods on the eastern slope of Hearthdone Mountain just west of the "Punch Bowl".

Number 117 is on the summit of Keefer Mountain.

Number 118 is in Little Cove Valley, on the western slope of Keefer Mountain.

Number 119 is on the hillside west of Little Cove Valley between the Coon Ridge road and the next road eastward.

Mile Stone number 120 is a Crown Stone on the small hill west of the first crossing of Licking Creek and near a wagon trail. This monument had been broken off above the ground. It was repaired and reset.

Number 191 is on the hill west of the last crossing of Licking Creek and close to a wagon trail, which runs nearly east and west. The last stone on the boundary line of Franklin County is 122 miles from the northeastern corner of Maryland, the place of starting, and it is near the angle of a public road on west side of Elbow Ridge.

These stones were all reset in cement about twenty years ago.

No monuments were set by Mason and Dixon beyond number 132, which is near Hancock, Md. The western portion of the line was marked by wooden posts cut on the spot and secured in place by mounds of earth or stone piles around them. These posts have disappeared but some of the mounds still remain.

THE VISTA OF THE LINE

The vista of the line was opened twenty-four feet wide by felling all the trees and large bushes, which were left to rot upon the path. There are persons now living who remember seeing evidences of this "vista" through the woods and mountains on account of the younger growth of the trees.

Owing to the deflection of the magnetic needle, especially in the mountain regions, Mason and Dixon did not depend on the ordinary surveyor's compass. They used instead a sector and run their parallel by means of observing the fixed stars. These observations were made daily and the principal stars noted were Cygni, Persei, Castor, Andromeda, Capella and Luræ. They also took frequent observations of the eclipses of Jupiter.

Mason and Dixon is called an astronomical line, the first of its kind ever attempted. All the boundary lines of Pennsylvania are now astronomical boundaries except of course in the Delaware River and along Lake Erie. During the resurvey of Mason and Dixon Line in 1903 it was found that as a whole it is remarkably close to the parallel of 39 degrees, 43 minutes and 26.3 seconds. In its course from east to west the line undulates somewhat, now to the south and again to the north, but in general it keeps quite close to the curve. The engineers further acknowledge that even at this day it is impossible to avoid such errors.

The map of the boundary line was not completed until after the field work had been terminated. It goes very much into detail and shows all the natural as well as many of the artificial boundaries. This survey cost proprietaries fully \$75,000. How much more was spent in lawyer's fees, the gathering of testimony, prosecution of trespassers and worry will never be known. Mason and Dixon were each paid 21 shillings or about five dollars a day for their services from the time they came to this country until they reached England. The only person in this neighborhood who is recorded as assisting Mason and Dixon in laying out their line was David Schrieber, great-great-grandfather of the late Adam Fomey of Waynesboro.

CONTROVERSY WITH VIRGINIA

"Westward the course of empire takes its way" and with it went our boundary troubles. After Pennsylvania was through with her controversy with Maryland she had to settle with Virginia. As school children we did not then comprehend that when Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent young George Washington out on his surveying expedition that it was a scheme to attach southwestern Pennsylvania to Virginia as well as to wrest it from the French. Colonel Cresap always an enemy of Pennsylvania was there to assist Virginia in her claims.

The natural connections of Southwestern Pennsylvania were with Maryland and Virginia. These were greatly strengthened by the old road which afterward became the National Turnpike. The position was taken that the Penns by suffering the French to establish themselves at Fort Duquesne, forfeited the right of their charter to that extent. The Governor of Virginia offered land around Pittsburgh as an inducement to those who would enlist in a campaign against the French.

The settlement of the controversy in 1784 with Virginia resulted in a compromise by which the "Panhandle" still rears its head above the 40th parallel.

otherwise we might have had the Ohio River as our Western boundary.

The width of a degree of longitude varies according to the latitude it traverses, expanding toward the equator and contracting toward the pole. In this latitude it is approximately $58\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The surveyors consequently made Penn's five degrees of longitude from the Delaware to the western limit 267 miles and 195.6 perches.

Pennsylvania had then become a Commonwealth and as such was extremely generous to the surveyors who run the remainder of the line on the Virginia border. According to the account rendered these men certainly lived well. Among their accommodations ordered by the State were 60 gallons spirits, 20 gallons brandy, 40 gallons Madeira wine, 200 pounds loaf sugar and a small keg of lime juice.

THREE MAIN CONTENTIONS.

Penn's boundary troubles were brought about chiefly by three errors: first owing to the ambiguity in the language of the original grants, a strip about $69\frac{1}{4}$ miles-wide was involved; second, John Smith's map located the 40th parallel far below the true line, this error involved a strip about 19 miles wide; third, the difference between the Temporary and the true line involved a strip from one-quarter to three-quarters of a mile wide. The contest was a matching of wits between Penn, the Quaker and Calvert, the Cavalier. Penn having taken an inland position, desired a water front on the south. In this he was thwarted, but in most other respects he was the gainer in his boundary controversy.

After the settlement of the boundary dispute, the proprietors remained in peaceful possession of their governments scarcely five years until the encounters between the colonists and the British soldiery marked the opening of the American Revolution. This war resulted in wresting these princely domains from their European owners and now the citizens of Maryland and Pennsylvania on both sides of Mason and Dixon Line have forgotten their differences and are living together in uninterrupted peace.

MARYLAND CRITICISMS.

In every dispute there are at least two sides and the controversy over the Pennsylvania-Maryland line is no exception. Inasmuch as Pennsylvania was the gainer naturally much criticism is heard from her opponents. Here are just a few statements from Maryland sources:

Clayton Hall in an address at Johns Hopkins University said, "It is to be observed that by the terms of the agreement of 1732, Lord Baltimore consented that the line should run, not from Cape Henlopen as the Lords of Trade had directed but from 'the place on said map called Cape Henlopen, which lies south of Cape Cornelius', thus admitting the existence of a cape known by the latter name. After the map had served its purpose, Cape Henlopen returned to its proper place the same which it had previously and had subsequently occupied, and the mythical 'Cape Cornelius' vanished from the face of the earth and from the maps thereof".

Brown in his history of Maryland says, "What machinations or falsifications were used to persuade Lord Baltimore, that the cape referred to was not the one that bore that name, we cannot now see. The contrivers of such things are usually too modest to give their modes or workings to the public. Frederick

(meaning Lord Baltimore) protested against the fraud; but Lord Hardwicke, who though sitting as a judge in equity, seems to have considered his office merely "ministerial" wherever the Penns were concerned, decided that the agreement of 1732 must be carried out."

Latrobe in his history of Mason and Dixon Line wonders "How Lord Baltimore could have remained ignorant of the geography of his province or be so misled as to the location of its boundaries." He says, "It seems incredible and is a mystery which cannot now be solved."

In the Maryland Historical Society is a manuscript written by the notorious Colonel Cresap, in which he says, "The Lords Baltimore in their disputes with the Penns on one border and Lord Fairfax on the other, had long and deep heads to contend with and did not get their full rights."

BOTH SIDES POSSIBLY TOO AGGRESSIVE.

In the strife and negotiations which led to the establishment of Mason and Dixon Line, both endurance and evasion were put to a severe test. There seems to have been no real criticism directed against either the Penns or the Baltimores, but their adherents were aggressive and probably went farther than they should in order to establish their claims. On this side of the line it is believed that Pennsylvania honorably conducted her boundary contests; never encroaching on her neighbors' rights, yet always gaining by their intrusions on her territory. It appears that the controversy on the part of the Penns was better handled, through the years, both in a legal and in a diplomatic way. His people were on the ground earlier than his opponents and the main controversy resolved itself into prior grant against possession, and possession won out. May we not say of both, as did Lady Macbeth of her "thane", "wouldst not play false and yet would wrongly win"? It is more than three hundred years since the seeds of strife were sown, of which the boundary line is the harvest, and over a century and a half has elapsed since the surveyors were running its thread through the forests. Within this period great events have transpired. Civilization, science, religion and population have rolled their resistless tides over this continent. Empires have arisen and fallen and dynasties have sunk into nothingness. At one time it was feared that the line would mark the boundaries of a severed Union. Happily that time has passed, although it required four long years of strife and bloodshed to prevent it. Yet the line still remains and its mute stone markers are silent reminders of the stirring scenes of other days.

PERHAPS A CONTROVERSY OF THE AGES.

Perhaps there is a deeper significance to the eighty year's controversy between the Penns and the Baltimores than appears on the surface. Possibly their contention over the Fortieth parallel finds its cause far beyond the confines of the New World. May it not be necessary to look even beyond Europe itself for the beginning of this continuous struggle for domain? Some one has said the 40th parallel is "the line of civilization", and perhaps it is so, for the resistless tide of humanity in its course westward over the earth surged sometimes above and sometimes below this invisible line. Many of the important events of history have taken place near this parallel. It seems to stand for the division of mankind into two great groups; those above—cold, calculating and imperious; those below—warm, impetuous and militant.

During the early ages of the world, the Assyrians of the North battled for generations in the Holy Land with the Egyptians of the South. Just preceding the Christian era, Rome of the North contended more than a century with Carthage of the South in the three Punic wars and swept her from the face of the earth. In modern times England of the north met Spain of the south sending the ships of her Armada to the bottom of the sea and reducing her to a second-rate power. And within our own day—just one hundred years after Penn and Baltimore settled their boundary disputes—two sections of our country met in desperate conflict on the Fortieth parallel at Gettysburg.

These struggles of the past made and unmade empires, thwarted the ambitions of men, developed outstanding figures on the skyline of history and determined the course of events for ages.

Living as we do on the 40th parallel we are beneficiaries of all that has gone before. Here then, on Pennsylvania soil, near Mason and Dixon Line, at the meeting place of the North and the South, may we not be unconsciously assimilating the best that is in each? Are we not fortunate to be dwelling on such historic and strategic ground? Would we want to live anywhere else?

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