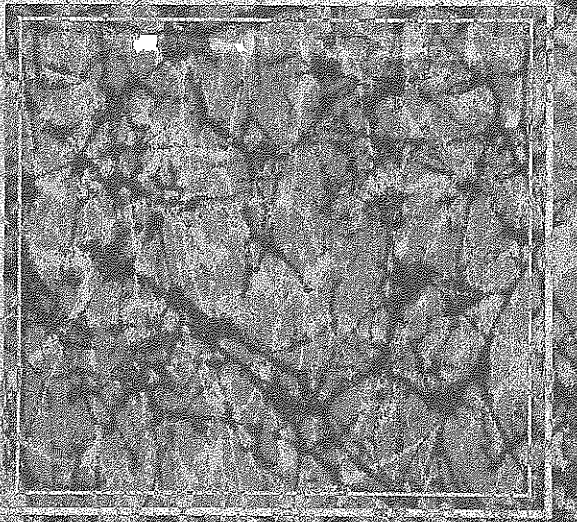


A SKETCH
OF THE FAMOUS
MASON AND DIXON
LINE



BY
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DANIEL BOONE—PIONEER

A SKETCH OF THE FAMOUS MASON AND DIXON LINE

By ALICE M. HEAVEN

1760-1767



WE of the United States cross the seas to stand upon ground, hallowed by heroic deeds, immortalized by patriots, poets, and scientists, and yet in America we find one of the most historic spots in the world—for it was here on the parallel of latitude $39^{\circ} 43' 62\text{-}3/10''$ that the Lords Baltimore, of Baltimore, ruled over a Palatinate with royal prerogative, and here also that William Penn founded his province, which was to introduce into the New World laws and moral principles which are only now being apprehended.

This was disputed territory in the 17th century—that is about 1681, when the Patents of the Quaker, William Penn, granted by King Charles II, were found to encroach upon those given to the First Lord Baltimore, George Calvert, in 1632, by Charles I, and stipulated to be upon the “true meridian of the first fountain of the Powtowmack.”

As we are dealing with the Mason and Dixon Survey, we must not confuse the actors who participated, with the First Lord Baltimore, or with William Penn, for it was the *heirs* of these proprietors who, instead of staining the beautiful land with blood, in putting forward claims which had been received under the law, arbitrated the matter far in advance of the age of militarism in which they lived. We scarcely realize to-day, that both provinces were settled by men who had lived through the bloody wars of the Stuarts, and who had placed upon the throne of England a Scottish king. Two other royal provinces were implicated in this settlement, those of Virginia and Delaware. The last named had been settled by Swedish and Dutch settlers, under grants received directly from

the Indians, and were ignored by the English rulers, whose grants to both Lord Baltimore and William Penn included the present State of Delaware.

In those days Philadelphia, William Penn's cherished city, stood on land claimed by Lord Baltimore, otherwise in Maryland, and it was soon found that the fortieth parallel of Latitude "where New England terminates" was appropriated by the Quakers and by Lord Baltimore. The litigations had lasted for nearly a century, when on July 4, 1760, an agreement was entered into between Charles Calvert, *Vth Lord Baltimore*, and the heirs of William Penn, Thomas and Richard, and the representatives of the three lower counties of Pennsylvania, New Castle, Kent and Sussex, later to be known as the State of Delaware, to appoint commissioners to determine the respective boundaries of the two provinces involved.

We must remember that there was at that time no thought of the British colonies becoming the United States of America, although mutterings of discontent were heard, on account of the heavy taxes imposed by George III on the colonists, to defray the expenses of the French and Indian wars. Fort Cumberland was a reminder of those days, and the "National Pike" stretched from the town of Baltimore, via the settlement at Frederick, and westward to Cumberland and the Ohio.

Frederick had been founded in 1745, by an Irishman, Patrick Dulaney, whose handsome house, Prospect Hall, still dominates the picturesque valley town.

Important conferences were held in the principal inn of Frederick during the Spring of 1755, when General Braddock and Colonel George Washington, with Governor Sharpe of Maryland and Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, planned out their campaign, to prevent the French from encroaching further towards the West. At that time Fort Cumberland was the most advanced western post held by

the English, and the Indians who still held the mountains, were the firm allies of the Frenchmen.

Frederick was a strategic point both in the French and Indian wars, and later in the Revolution, and was accessible by a good road to Philadelphia, which city under the famous freight carriers known as "Conestoga wagons" provided the convoys of food and ammunitions for the army under the able administration of Benjamin Franklin, and during the survey of the Boundaries which we are to consider, it was to Frederick that the army of ax men, chain bearers and stone cutters looked for their supplies.

In regard to the boundaries of Virginia, another province which encroached upon the claims set forth by Lord Baltimore, the London Company of 1607 had with lavish ignorance, included land afterwards found to belong to New England. In 1624, James I dissolved the London Company, and a new and more restricted charter was formed.

Let us refresh our minds before going further into the matter of the boundaries, by a bird's-eye view of the history of the Lords Baltimore, who had received such an extensive grant of land, and who ruled it under an entirely different form of government than that of any other colony in the New World, namely, the Palatinate.

The founder of the family, Leonard Calvert, was a wealthy Yorkshire farmer of Flemish descent. His son, George, succeeded to his lands, and his powerful patron, Sir Robert Cecil, advanced him to various local honors. He became a member of Parliament for the Cornish borough of Bossiney under King James I, with the advent of the Stuart family into England. Later George Calvert became a Catholic, clearly it seems for political reasons, and was given the clerkship of the Crown in County Claire, Ireland. There is no doubt that he favored the

cause of the Stuarts in every way, and in 1617 he was elevated to a Barony. The patent of nobility preserved in the historical society of Baltimore reads:

"We have exalted, preferred and created the aforesaid George Calvert knight unto the estate, dignity and honor of Baron Baltimore of Baltimore, within our kingdom of Ireland, County of Longford."

The origin of this title is traced to the coast of Ireland, near Cape Clear, where there is an ancient Gaelic village named Baltimore, signifying "Large Town Lands."

George Calvert was a member of the 2nd Virginia Company, and essayed to establish a colony in New Foundland, which he called Avalon, but the climate was too severe, and he petitioned for a title to the unsettled northern part of Virginia on the Chesapeake. Lord Clairbourne, Governor of Virginia, had settled Kent Island, and was a troublesome rival for a time, but Charles I rewarded Lord Calvert by granting him lands lying between "the fortieth parallel of latitude, where New England terminates, and the first fountain of the Potowmack." It was known that there was a vast mountainous land there lying unclaimed between the English settlements of Virginia and the Puritan lands known as New England. How strange to think that when Lord Baltimore received his charter, the State of New York was non-existent, nor had the province been given to William Penn as payment for the claims his father held against England.

George Calvert named his province Mary Land in honor of the Queen, Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, and daughter of Henry IV, of France. The first Lord Baltimore did not live to make any settlements, for his health had been failing under the exposure he had suffered in his attempts to settle New Foundland. He died, and

his patent was placed directly in the hands of his son, Cecelius, 2nd Lord Baltimore (1632).

A sense of the vastness of the country to be governed was dawning upon the minds of the English land companies; and it was realized that Maryland would be a buffer state, so to speak. It was to be settled by Catholics, who were leaving Scotland and England under pressure of the terrific wars raging there over the Stuart cause. To avoid unpreparedness in case of invasion, the patent followed the lines created for the border city of Durham in Scotland, and of Chester on the Welch border. William, the Conqueror centuries ago, had created the Palatinate form of government, and invested the Bishops of Durham and Chester with almost unlimited power. Rebellion, invasion, internal conflict could be quelled by the lord of the province without the delay of an appeal to the sovereign. There was a nominal rental to be paid by Lord Baltimore to the Castle of Windsor each year, on Tuesday in Easter week, two Indian arrows and the fifth of all gold and silver found; but the king wisely washed his hands of any authority or expense in the settlement of a wild, untamed and savage wilderness. Lord Cecelius Baltimore was given power to arm the militia, levy rents and taxes, confer titles, erect cities, towns and boroughs, build churches, make laws, establish units to inflict corporal punishment. His title ran—

Coelius Asolutus

Dominus Terra Maria et Avalonia

The wife of Lord Baltimore was Lady Anne Arundel, daughter of Lord Arundel of Wardon.

However, again fate seemed determined to prevent the rightful owners from ruling the new land, for King Charles I, the liege lord of the 2nd Lord Calvert, was beheaded at Whitehall, and Oliver Cromwell and his Puritans had recovered England. Lord Baltimore found

that his energies were required to hold his vast titles and possessions in Ireland, and deputed his brothers, Leonard and George, to settle the Palatinate on the Chesapeake, Mary Land. Two ships, the Ark of 300, and the Dove of 500 tons sailed from England with a crew of gentlemen adventurers and indentured prisoners and, avoiding the Virginia settlements, landed at an Indian village, an island on the Potomac River, not far above its mouth near the Chesapeake, which they named St. Mary's, and where the mass was celebrated. March 27, 1634. The climate was good and the soil rich. Almost immediately the colony thrived, for it is noted that during the first year a shipload of corn was exported in exchange for a cargo of salted codfish.

Each gentleman was entitled to a hundred retainers or bond servants, who were to be freed when their respective terms of servitude expired, and the system in the New Land was more or less a feudal one. The Lord owned his "castle" or Manor, and clustering about it were rude cabins of his henchmen.

Religious toleration, however, was at once the keynote of the colony. The Virginians accused Lord Baltimore of founding "a harbor for Popish idolaters," but German and Swedish Protestants from the counties on the Delaware were welcomed as settlers, and upon the death of Cecelius Calvert, Maryland had some 20,000 settlers.

Maryland currency was tobacco, but there were also two kinds of shell used by the Indians in circulation called "Peak" and "Roanoke," and a few actual coins were minted and circulated.

Now we are approaching the Boundary disputes, for with the coming of William Penn, the quarrels upon the different land holdings were inevitable. Farms, mill sites, and boroughs had sprung up throughout the fertile valley lands, and as the claims were taken up, confusion was

the order of the day. Often there was a clash of arms. The Quakers were termed by the followers of the Lords Baltimore "Quaking Cowards," and the Catholics "Hominy Gentry." The two cries could be heard—"Hey for Saint Marie!" and "In the name of God, fall on!" as the rival proprietors hurled defiance at each other and often actual bloody battles were fought out.

William Penn had claimed five degrees of latitude for his province and one of the reasons for controversy was that the extent of a degree of latitude was not defined clearly. Sixty-nine and one-half statute miles eventually was decided upon, but the settlements on lower Delaware, which had placed themselves under the protection of William Penn conflicted with the claims of Eastern Maryland. The three counties, that is, Sussex, New Castle and Kent, were a part of the Province of Pennsylvania, until the Revolution, when they elected their own delegates to the Constitutional convention and came in as the State of Delaware.

The controversy and border raids lasted from 1632 until 1760, with increasing bitterness, when Lord Baltimore V., Charles Calvert, and Thomas and Richard Penn decided to join in a legal survey under a local commission to be appointed by the Royal Province of Pennsylvania and the Palatinate of Maryland, who in their turn would appoint engineers to "define, mark and survey" the limits of each claim. The names of the commissioners are of interest, as many of them have lineal descendents who are well known citizens. On behalf of the heirs of William Penn: Gov. James Hamilton, Richard Peters, Rev. Dr. J. W. Ewing, Chief Justice William Allen, William Coleman, Thomas Welling and Benjamin Chew. On behalf of Lord Baltimore: Gov. Horatio Sharpe, J. Ridout, John Leeds, John Barclay, George Steuart, Dan of St. Thomas Jenifer, and J. Beal Bordly.

The engineers appointed by these commissioners were:

From Pennsylvania:

JOHN LUKENS and ARCHIBALD McCLEAN.

From Maryland:

JOHN F. A. PRIGGS and JONATHAN McCLEAN.

The town of New Castle, or Nieu Amstel, on Delaware, seemed the logical starting point for the survey, as many of the boundaries had been reckoned from that place. The old grant of Charles I. to Baltimore had read "From latitude 38° and between that bound on the South unto that point of Delaware Bay which lieth under the 40° where New England terminates, and from Delaware Bay unto a right line 40° to the true meridian of the first fountain of the Powtomack." On the other hand, the grants to William Penn were to lie "12 miles N. of New Castle unto 43° of N. Lat. West 5° in longitude. South 12 miles distant New Castle unto 40° ."

The town of New Castle, or New Amstel, as the Dutch settlers had called it, was a thriving center of population. The Commission for some reason made little headway, and lagged on for three years with no result. It was a gigantic undertaking, for much of the ground to be surveyed was unchartered territory by the Europeans. The chain of mountains, now known as the Appalachian, were set as a bulwark of stone between provinces—the hunting ground of the six nations. Furthermore, proper astronomical apparatus was lacking. Money and time were wasted, and the English government grew weary of spending without result. In 1761 it happened that Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore, and the proprietors of Pennsylvania, Thomas and Richard Penn, were in London, and at a meeting the three claimants decided to secure the services of two celebrated astronomical surveyors, lately returned to England from Africa, where they had gone to make an observation of the transit of Venus.

These men were Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. In Mr. J. H. B. Latrobe's celebrated "History of Mason and Dixon" we find an interesting although scanty account of the personality of these two famous scientists. Charles Mason was, it appears, "a cool, deliberate, painstaking man, a man of quiet courage," and Jeremiah Dixon was "younger, more active, of an impatient spirit and nervous temperament." Little seems to be known of the antecedents of these men. They were English by birth, and later Charles Mason returned to America and made his home in Philadelphia, while Jeremiah Dixon settled at Durham, England. It is claimed that Jeremiah Dixon was born in a coal mine in England.

The survey was to cost fifteen thousand pounds, of which each surveyor was to receive 200 pounds.

Mason and Dixon duly arrived in Philadelphia, where Mr. David Rittenhouse, the statesman mathematician, augmented the funds by providing for the erection of an astronomical laboratory. This was the first building of its kind in America and was built on Cedar Street. From this starting point Mason and Dixon went to New Castle, where a tower was built and lines drawn from a central circle North, South, East and West, to determine the point of intersection between the northeast boundary of Maryland and the southwest boundary of Pennsylvania.

A twelve-mile radius was established here, and the eastern boundary of Maryland was found to lie fifteen miles from New Castle in a deep ravine upon a farm owned by a Quaker, who supposed himself to be on the soil of Pennsylvania. The discovery that he was farming in Maryland made him liable to a reprimand from his stern sect for non-residence. This was in what is now known as Cecil County.

Under the direction of the Commissioners, a tented army assembled, consisting of chain bearers and local

surveyors, axmen, rodmen, cooks, baggage carriers and laborers. It is said that the work was begun in the month of December, 1761. The famous line being established upon the parallel of latitude $39^{\circ} 43'$ and $62 \frac{3}{10}''$ ran from the Northeast corner of Maryland due West. The land surveyed now forms the counties of Chester, Lancaster, York, Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset, Fayette and Green, and in Maryland the present counties of Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Carrol, Frederick, Huntington, Washington, Allegheny and Garrett.

Frederick County is the parent county of Maryland, being formed as early as 1748. As that section of the country became populated a demand was made to the Convention at Annapolis by the land owners for a division, in order to secure larger representation. After the Revolution, on the 6th of September, 1776, Washington County was created and later Allegheny County was carved out of the Western portion of Washington County, Elizabethtown, now Hagerstown, was at once made the county seat of Washington County. The present town of Georgetown, District of Columbia, was the populous settlement of the original tract included in Frederick County.

Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, in charge of the London Commission which had been responsible for sending out Mason and Dixon, had, with true British obtuseness, sent out to a land of granite and limestone, shiploads of fine cut stone monuments as markers to be placed at every mile. They were of oolitic limestone, which was to be a distinguishing mark of the survey and made the tracing of the line for the subsequent resurveys much easier. The letters M. and P. were engraved on opposite sides of four-fifths of the stones, but at each fifth mile a crown stone was set, engraved deeply with the coat of arms of the Lords Proprietor—Lord Baltimore's toward the Maryland side, surmounted by the crown of His Majesty

King George III, towards the northern the coat of arms of William Penn, and a similar crown. The dimensions of the stones were: length $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 5 feet, cross section and square, with a side of 1 foot. The top a rather flat pyramid. A track 24 feet wide called a "visto" was cut, and the stones set in the clearing. At the close of 1762, the work was suspended, and was resumed as soon as practicable the following year. The next Spring the line had extended some 132 miles, when funds were found to be lacking. The Province of Pennsylvania voted 615 pounds and Mason went to Annapolis and asked Governor Sharpe for 600 pounds. This was at last forwarded by express carrier to Fredericktown and the line proceeded. The notes of Jeremiah Mason, found later in a wastebasket in Government House, Halifax, are interesting.

"March 26, 1762, at Annapolis. When we were informed by His Excellency Horatio Sharpe, Esq., that the meeting intended on the 24th was postponed to the 28th of April next on account of the Commissioners not having received any certain intelligence of Sir William Johnson's having agreed with the natives for WE to continue the West Line."

"July 7. The wagons arrived at Fort Cumberland with the instruments, tents, etc."

July 16. Continued the line. This day we were joined by fourteen Indians deputed by the Chiefs of six nations to go with us on the line. With them came Mr. Hugh Crawford, Interpreter."

"August 1767. Continued the line in the direction changed at 189 miles 57 chains the top of Winding Hill. At 189 miles 69 chains crossed General Braddock's road leading from Fort Cumberland to Fort Pit."

*Drawn by Gocher.**Engraved by G. Cooke.*

The reflecting telescope with a micrometer used by Mason and Dixon was purchased for them by Benjamin Franklin in London and preserved at Harrisburg until the State Capitol was destroyed by fire—and only a few parts now remain. Mason and Dixon under the very primitive conditions of those days, determined the latitude of Southern Philadelphia at $39^{\circ} 56' 29''$. Subsequent survey made this to be $39^{\circ} 56' 29.6''$, only 6 seconds in difference. Other instruments used by the surveyors were an ordinary compass, a quadrant and 4-foot zenith sector. Measurements on level were made with a four-pole chain of 100 links each.

The South Mountain, the name properly given to that part of the Blue Ridge upon which Blue Ridge Summit stands, was reached in due time at a locality designated in the original note books as "Mr. George Craft's house" 92 miles, 4 chains from New Castle Circle. Further remarks on the markings of this locality will be given later on.

Upon reaching the Susquehanna River the pioneer engineers mistook it for the Potomac and thought their task was completed. They soon, however, realized that their most difficult work was before them. The only maps of the locality hitherto drawn were those of John Smith during his discovery of Virginia, and that wilderness had been included in the original patents granted by the early land companies.

As the survey proceeded it was found that the sites of Philadelphia, Chester, West Chester, York, Hanover, Gettysburg, Waynesboro, Chambersburg and Myersdale were upon land included in the original grant to Maryland. According to a limitation in the charter received by Lord Baltimore, his lands were to be upon soil "not then cultivated and planted" (*terra hactenus inculta*). This territory, it was found had been settled by Europeans five years before the date of the grant to Cecelius Calvert. Lord Baltimore lost by these three Latin words, one-third of the area of his province, and the province of Pennsylvania, after the boundary was settled, contained about thirty million acres, five million acres less than were comprised within the charter boundaries, and nearly four million acres more than were originally estimated. In other words, William Penn's four grants, received both from King Charles II. and from the Duke of York, were confirmed. Had all the demands of William Penn been acceded to, Maryland would have lost the towns of Baltimore, Hagerstown, Frederick and Cumberland—in fact all territory north of Annapolis.

One of the interesting features developing from this study is of the grants of land to various men who supported the respective claimants, such as "the commodious mill site and plantation to Col. Chambers" granted by Thomas Penn, which of course is the first settlement of the town of Chambersburg. These grants themselves form a most interesting study.

When the surveyors reached the mountain summit, now known as the Tuscarora, near Fort Loudon, the stone monuments were found to be too heavy to haul, and the monuments were abandoned, and cairns of stone 8 feet high were raised to indicate the miles. Many of these stones have since been found in buildings and traced as far as Annapolis. The Cumberland valley, or as it had been called by the Indians, Kittoctinny was included in the survey, and the Antietam was crossed at the west of South Mountain. The survey was continued for six consecutive Springs, and by 1767 the summit of the great Alleghany Mountains was reached. The surveyors found that the powerful six nations were lords of the country, bordering the Youghiogheny River. The six nations, called by the French "Iroquois," constituted the tribes of Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Onondajas, Cayugas and Tuscaroras.

Trouble menaced, for the late Indian wars were not forgotten, and the red men knew that these bearded men speaking English were invading the country of their late allies, the French. As we know, England had driven the French across the Great Lakes, and they were no more to be feared on the Ohio, but the Indians mistrusted the pale faces with their offerings of beads, tobacco and blankets. However, Sir William Johnson, Governor of Maryland, and the governor of Pennsylvania, summoned the chiefs to a great parley, and explained the nature of this new invasion. The chiefs were evidently impressed, for in June 1766, an escort of 14 warriors with an inter-

preter met Mason and Dixon and led the way down into the valley of the Ohio. Work proceeded for a third Summer, but the Maryland western boundary had been crossed and the line now divided Virginia and Pennsylvania.

When Dunkard Creek, near the Ohio River, was crossed, the chief of the Indians declined to go a step further, as that was the limit of his commission. A number of ax men also struck, terrified at the idea of invading the land of the Shawnees and Delawares. The surveyors made their last observations a little further on at a ridge. The line stopped for fifteen years at the Warrior branch of the old Catawba war path west of Mount Morris, Greene County, Pennsylvania. The whole length from Christiana Creek near New Castle was 261 miles, 195 perches equal to 5° of latitude.

Mason and Dixon returned to Conococheague (now Green Castle) and sent messengers to Annapolis and Philadelphia to the Commissioners, who met them at Christiana Bridge. The survey was practically concluded as far as the claims of Lord Baltimore were concerned, but Mason and Dixon drew up a boundary line between Pennsylvania and Virginia, and gave it to Richard Peters. The surveyors were then honorably discharged. Later, their work was ratified by King George III, and proclamations to the settlers issued.

For fifteen years nothing further was done, but about 1782 the legislatures of Virginia and Pennsylvania passed bills authorizing the line to continue southward to define the boundaries, 23 miles, 83 perches were surveyed and marked. When finished, the end of the Mason and Dixon Line was indicated by a cairn of stone on one of the slopes of Fish Creek hill, near the Board Tree tunnel of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, between Pennsylvania and what is now the State of West Virginia.

Frequent resurveys were made of the Mason and Dixon Line. In 1845, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware appointed a joint commission to reset stone, known as the Graham Survey. In 1801 Delaware spent \$2,500 on this work. In 1900 Pennsylvania and Maryland voted \$7,000 and \$5,000, respectively, for a formal resurvey. Governor Loyd Lowndes was then Governor of Maryland, and Hastings of Pennsylvania. Captain W. C. Hodgkins of Baltimore was appointed by the Commission as engineer.

Wm. Bullock Clark, State Geologist of Maryland, in his voluminous report upon the Resurvey, gives a most interesting account of the findings of the original stones, and traces the 70 crown stones and 225 milestones which were reset or restored. Many of them had been moved by the farmers, on whose lands they were found, and used to ornament barn yards, drinking fountains and doors. In one case it was supposed that a crown stone indicated the hidden treasure of Captain Kidd. In the Resurvey is a description of original stones in the vicinity of Blue Ridge Summit, Pa.

Milestone No. 88. M. & D. Mason and Dixon 1767.

Close to the north side of a by-road in a valley about a mile and a half east of Blue Ridge Summit station of Western Maryland Railroad. Stone No. 89, M. & D. 1767.

A monument was presumably placed at this point by Mason and Dixon but no trace of it could be found. The position was redetermined and a monument obtained in Washington County was placed here. It stands in a marshy thicket about half a mile east of Blue Ridge Summit station.

Milestone No. 90. M. & D. 1767.

This is a "Crown Stone" and stands in a little strip of woods in the southeast side of a road in the village of Highfield, Maryland. This monument has been covered

with a wire cap to protect it from the attacks of vandals.

Milestone No. 91. M. & D. 1767.

This stands on a rocky forested mountain side a short distance east of Pen Mar station.

Milestone No. 92. M. & D. In a field at the base of the Blue Ridge station.

Milestone No. 84. M. & D. 1767.

This stone stands on the edge of a thicket a short distance west of the road leading from Mount St. Marys to Fountaindale, Washington County.

The Historical Societies of both Maryland and Pennsylvania had exhumed crown stones in their explorations into historic country, and an agreement was made that they should keep them in exchange for duplicates. The Maryland stone is in the Historical Society of Baltimore.

"South Mountain" is that spur of the Appalachians rising from the Cumberland Valley and divides the counties of Franklin and Adams, in Pennsylvania, from Washington and Frederick in Maryland. Further north it separates Cumberland from Adams and York Counties. About six miles below Harrisburg it is broken by the Susquehanna River and crosses an angle of Dauphin County.

The South Mountain, which name as we know embraces the beautiful rolling hills or mountains which girdle Gettysburg as a chain of sapphires, is watered by the old Indian Creek, the Antietam, and by Marsh Run, also by the Monacacy and the Catocin Creeks. The dense growth of trees includes thousands of varieties, and are now being preserved in great reservations under state supervision. The rocky foundation of the country makes the region peculiarly impressive and assists the growth of ferns, mosses and lichens, which add so much to the natural beauty.

This sketch will not be in vain if it has stimulated interest in a line which is so frequently alluded to as an

important boundary. Mr. Latrobe, in his history, says: "There is perhaps no line real or imaginary on the surface of the *earth*, not excepting the equator and the equinoctial, which has been oftener in men's mouths during the last fifty years."

During the Civil War this boundary defined the progress of the struggle between the slave-holding and non-slave-holding states, although even here discrepancies occurred. Maryland did not secede but was divided against herself, and Frederick County became the virtual scene of deadlock. Delaware, on the other hand, a slave-holding state, adhered to the Union uncompromisingly. The Mason and Dixon Line must not be confused with that of the parallel of 36° 30' north latitude known in 1820 as the "Missouri Compromise" limiting the extension of slavery.

It is claimed that the word "Dixie" which signifies the Southland to those below Pennsylvania, originated with the Mason and Dixon Line. This seems natural evolution, although there are two other versions of the name. One, that it came from a slave owner called Dixie, who took his slaves to New York until warned by the authorities that it was unlawful. While the slaves were in the Northern land they frequently talked of "Dixie Land," the name of the Southern plantation to which they eventually were restored. Another version is, that in New Orleans a small coin was known as Dix (10). The popular song written by Daniel Decatur Emmett of Ohio "Dixie Land" is naturally associated with Mason and Dixon Line. Abraham Lincoln knew that this song was dear to the South and ordered it to be sung at the reunion of the North and the South after the surrender—making it one of the national anthems.

Another peculiarity is the topographical formation of the line. There is a narrow strip in Pennsylvania between Maryland and Delaware, where the ball of a man's

foot may be in Maryland and the heel in Delaware, while the instep forms an arch over the Keystone state.

The Philadelphia Times of July 28, 1902, says:

"A number of the missing boundary stones of Mason and Dixon Line which have been lost for a number of years have been located near Elkton, Maryland. Three are in a church and one in the cellar of an old store which has been there more than thirty years."

In 1771, Frederick, the 7th Lord Baltimore, died. And with the Declaration of Independence, Maryland became one of the thirteen original states. As a writer has said, she has always been the "Point of the National Sword," but through storm and stress she stands supreme, loyal to the Union, rich in every natural product, her harbors and waterways unequaled, her Blue Ridge forming a link in the Appalachian chain famed for its loveliness. As a modern poet has said our Benztown Bard, Folger McKinsey:

*"Beauty came to Maryland, by luck her own way
finding
through Frederick Gaps, Catocin hills
the old white roadways winding
the mountains gainst the western sky
the rivers down the shore.
Beauty came to Maryland to dwell
forevermore—
to dwell forevermore with smile
of sweet content and bliss,
with such a land as Maryland
in such a world as this."*

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