

Repairs Planned For Little Known, Often Mentioned Mason-Dixie Line

WASHINGTON — Everybody talks about it. But few know just where the Mason-Dixon Line runs, and fewer still how it came about.

In popular American parlance, the Mason-Dixon boundary divides North from South—an assumption based largely on the mistaken belief that during the Civil War it separated the Confederate States from the Union.

In fact, the line was drawn to end an early colonial land dispute. It extends, from east to west, between Pennsylvania and Maryland, with a shorter branch reaching southward between Maryland and Delaware. All three states were on the Union side.

The old border is again in the news because of plans to restore its markers for a 200th-anniversary celebration in 1963.

End of Century of Dispute
The Mason-Dixon Line was named for two English sur-

veyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, says the National Geographic Society. Skilled mathematicians and astronomers, they were invited to the American Colonies in 1763 to mark the boundary. Finally agreed upon by long-feuding proprietors and heirs of Maryland and Pennsylvania land grants.

The controversy began in the mid-1600's, when the Dutch Government and the Calverts of Maryland both claimed the big peninsula between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays.

After the Dutch were pushed out of the region, William Penn inherited the dispute with his royal charter for Pennsylvania and adjoining land. The bickering over conflicting interpretations of Penn and Calvert charters continued for generations, and the case eventually came before England's Court of Chancery.

The Court gave a compromise decision in 1750. It

specified that the delineation of the Pennsylvania-Maryland borders should begin at a certain point southwest of Philadelphia and west of New Castle.

From that point the main boundary was to be drawn westward. A second line would run southward into the heart of the peninsula and meet a third reaching eastward to the Atlantic coast. The proposed lines gave Maryland the bulk of the peninsula. Pennsylvania retained the northeast portion that later attained independence as Delaware State.

The disputants signed the agreement in 1760. Local surveyors then began work, but made so little progress that Mason and Dixon were called in.

Indians Were Hostile
Curiously, little is known of the two men who set up America's most famous boundary. Charles Mason was assistant astronomer at England's Greenwich Observatory. With Dixon, whose background is obscure, he had been sent abroad in 1761 to observe a transit of Venus.

The survey of the Pennsylvania-Maryland borders took four years. After checking and correcting the peninsula lines, Mason and Dixon took the westward trail in 1765 with a large party of assistant surveyors, axmen and guides. They covered some 230 miles of wild and beautiful country before hostile Indians forced them back.

But the job was already completed. The accuracy of their measurements has been proved by modern surveyors, who found a difference in latitude of only 2.3 seconds (180 feet) from the Mason-Dixon figure.

A new survey of the three states' boundaries was made in 1950. Most of the original stone markers were in place. Many had deteriorated, however, especially the original five-mile "crown stones" carved in England with Penn and Calvert arms on either side.

Besides repairing, strengthening, and resetting the worn and broken markers, mile by mile, officials of the restora-

Negro FARM AGENT NEWS
LEONARD C. COOPER
Negro County Agent
I. W. MURFREE
Asst. Negro County Agent

Treating Tobacco Bed Soils With Methyl Bromide

We may still have a few days in December when the temperature ranges from 50 degrees to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature is just right for plant bed fumigation.

Successful production of the flue-cured tobacco depends upon an ample supply of strong healthy plants, available reasonably early in the transplanting season, free of diseases. When small spindly or unhealthy tobacco plants are used to set a crop, a poor stand often results; plants become an easy prey for diseases and insects, thus production costs go up and profits go down. Hence, tobacco plant production is one of the most important phases of tobacco culture.

The use of calcium cyanamide and calcium cyanide plus urea as tobacco bed soil treatment to control weeds has made a possible reduction in labor cost. Moreover, it has enabled growers to locate plant beds on the most desirable sites available. While these treatments have been successful for many growers, others have encountered weed control failures, poor stands, stunted plants and root diseases. These beds have become a breeding ground for disease organisms. Numerous cases have been reported where field infestations of root knot or black shank have come from infested plant beds.

Various chemicals were used to control weeds and the above mentioned diseases in the plant bed. Of all the materials used, Methyl Bromide has been the most outstanding. According to research done by our Tobacco Research Station, Methyl Bromide Gas will but definitely give excellent control of weeds, nematodes and black shank diseases in the plant bed, when applied correctly.

To treat 100 square yards of tobacco bed soil, you will need 9 pounds of methyl bromide gas. This gas comes one pound to the can; three tubes, one applicator to release the gas; three cans to hold the gas until evaporation, and one airtight 100 square yards bed cover.

After the soil is prepared and fertilizer applied, dig a trench around the edge of bed. Place cans in three equal parts of the bed, place in tubes securing in can extending outside of bed. Support the cover above the ground with half-filled bags of straw or pine litter or other suitable materials. Put on cover and seal the edges into the trench around the outside of the bed to keep the gas from escaping. Then release the gas with the aid of the applicator into three open containers under the cov-

er. Remember, the material Methyl Bromide is used as a gas, and the cover must be gas tight for treatment to be effective. This treatment should be used when the air temperature is about 50 degrees F to 60 degrees F, or higher. If the temperature is low, release the gas in the morning as soon as it warms up.

Keep cover on bed 24 to 36 hours for best results. Beds may be seeded 2 to 3 days after treatment, or 24 hours after removing cover. Plant bed

soil can be treated in the fall of the year—weather conditions are more favorable then.

Methyl Bromide is a poisonous gas. DO NOT INHALE THE VAPORS! If spilled on shoes or clothing, remove at once!

By using Methyl Bromide, remember you can use the same plant bed year after year— with effective control of weeds, nematodes and diseases in the tobacco soil plant bed.

For further information, contact your County Agricultural Agents.

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YOUR FRIENDLY COLONIAL STORE WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY, CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 25. OPEN LATE TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, DECEMBER 22 AND 23, FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE.

Prices good thru Saturday, December 26. Quantity rights reserved. None sold to dealers.

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The Lights of Christmas

Christmas lights are everywhere
To bless the world again!
Haloed candles' golden flames
At every windowpane—

Lamplight streaming cheerily
From welcoming doors flung wide—
Firelight soft on little heads
That dream of Santa's ride—

Starshine drifting from the sky—
Lights that bob and glow
As dancing lanterns mark the way
The merry carollers go—

O lovely Christmas lights that make
The world a wondrous place,
Show us the way until we see
The glory of His face!

Maureen Murdoch

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Indians Were Hostile

Curiously, little is known of the two men who set up America's most famous boundary. Charles Mason was assistant astronomer at England's Greenwich Observatory. With Dixon, whose background is obscure, he had been sent abroad in 1761 to observe a transit of Venus.

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tion program will have to replace those lost, removed, or covered by dam waters, railroads, and roads.

It's An Ill Wind—

Two women who had not seen each for a long time met on the street one day.

"Why, Mary," said one of them, "I see you got your new fur coat after all. I thought you said your husband couldn't afford it this year."

"So I did," replied the other, "but we had a stroke of luck. My husband fell and broke his leg, and the insurance company paid him \$400."

The Soil Conservation Service reports that about 93,000 Tar Heel farmers are cooperating with soil conservation districts in protecting and improving their lands and in managing water on their farms.

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