



**2024 Spring Conference at Great Wolf Lodge
Perryville, Maryland**

The Delaware Wedge created by the Mason-Dixon Line

Gary A. Moore, Sr., PE

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BIOGRAPHY

- Interned as a party chief in the summers and winters between college semesters.
- Owned a survey and engineering firm for over a decade.
- Managed government departments.
- Currently manages an office that provides survey and engineering.



ABSTRACT

The Delaware Wedge

As a follow up to the Mason-Dixon Line presentation, this will be a discussion on The Delaware Wedge, highlights are listed below:

- What is the Delaware Wedge?
- How was the Delaware Wedge created?
- Why was it an issue?
- The resolution of the Wedge.
- Importance of establishing accurate survey.
- The Tristate Marker Trail.

This presentation is 1.0 PDH.



1749 Map
Depicting the arc to the corner

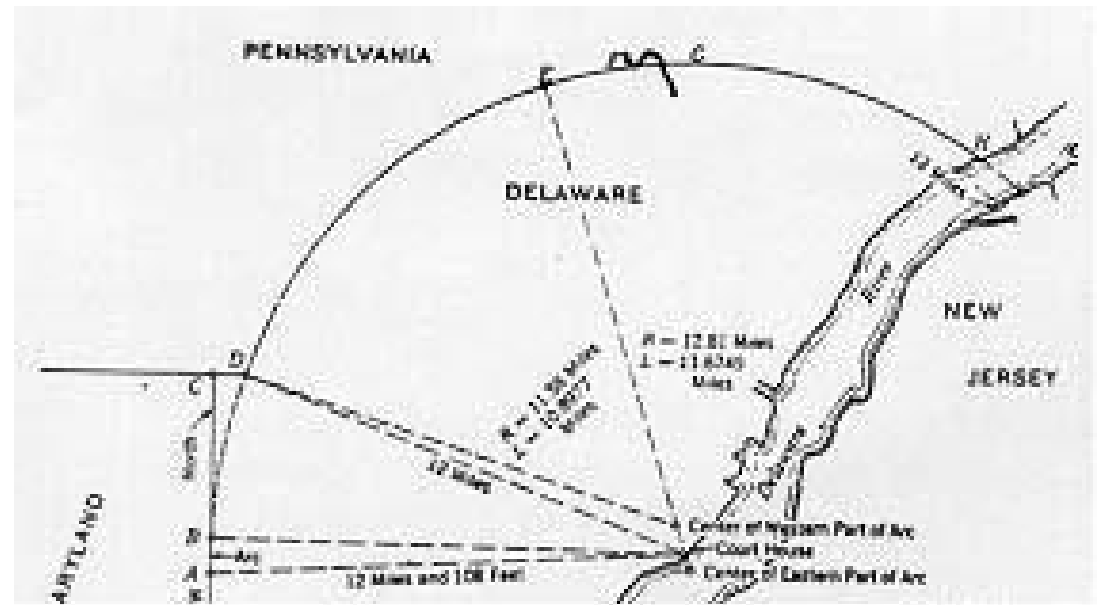


WHAT IS THE DELAWARE WEDGE?

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Understanding of the Wedge and the land it occupied:

- The Wedge was land:
 - created by previous surveys.
 - leftover from previous surveys.
 - not specifically defined.
 - no one technically claimed initially.



Map from Geocaching.com Article
Delaware's Circular Boundary at Auburn Heights



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By Daniël Mijtens - Public Domain

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- The Charter of Maryland was deeded to Lord Cecilius Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, in June 1632 by King Charles I.

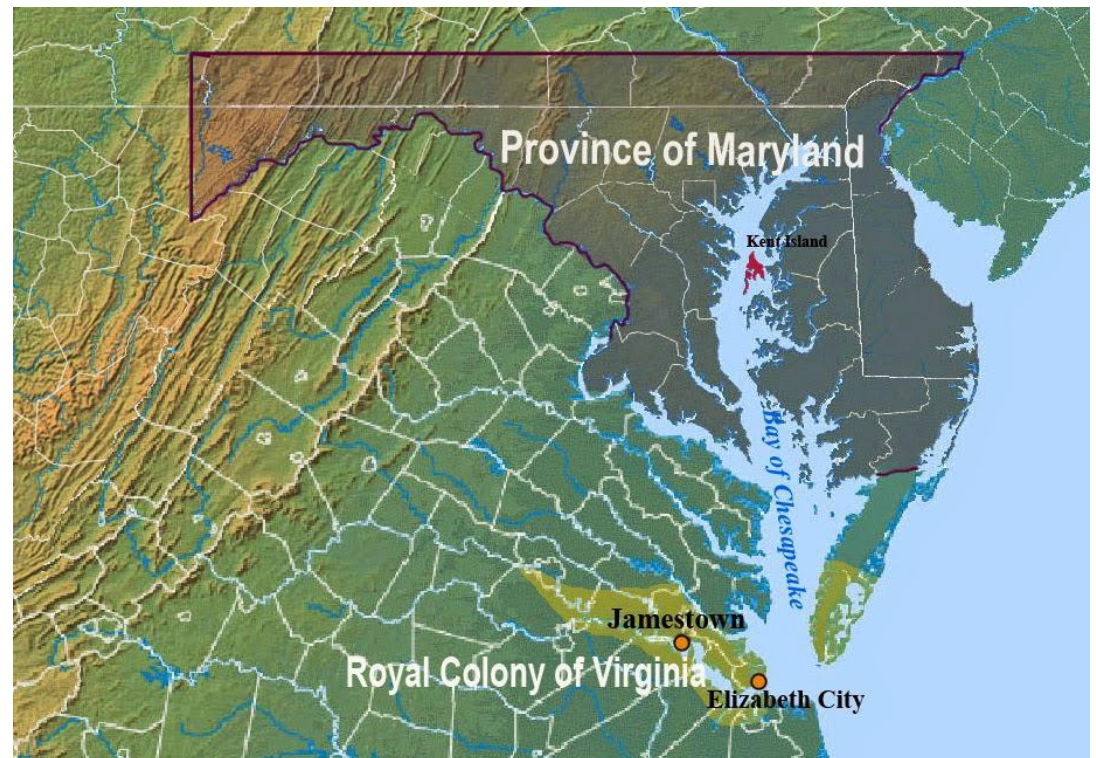
Excerpt from the Charter of Maryland:

...all that Part of the Peninsula, or Chersonese, lying in the Parts of America, between the Ocean on the East and the Bay of Chesapeake on the West, divided from the Residue thereof by a Right Line drawn from the Promontory, or Head-Land, called Watkin's Point, situate upon the Bay aforesaid, near the river Wigloo, on the West, unto the main Ocean on the East; and between that Boundary on the South, unto that Part of the Bay of Delaware on the North, which lieth under the Fortieth Degree of North Latitude from the Equinoctial, where New England is terminated; And all that Tract of Land within the Metes underwritten (that is to say) passing from the said Bay, called Delaware Bay,...

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HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Maryland background :

- 1st Baron Baltimore, Lord George Calvert, dies in April, 1632.
- The Charter of Maryland was deeded to Lord Cecilius Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, in 1632 by King Charles I.
- In 1668, Lord Cecilius Calvert defers ownership of “the Lower Counties on the Delaware”, or the “Delaware Counties” to the Duke of York, brother of King Charles II.



By Gerard Soest—Public Domain

HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Pennsylvania background:

- In 1681, King Charles II deeded the Land Grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn.
- In 1682, the Duke of York leased, then deeded the Delaware Counties to William Penn.
- In 1704, the Delaware Counties and Pennsylvania formally agreed to do business as separate entities.



HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Important detail to note:

- William Penn had control of and owned both Pennsylvania and the “Delaware Counties” when the Mason-Dixon Line was established.



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Early distinguishing factors:

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- 1776 – Delaware officially separates from Pennsylvania to become a state.



HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Early distinguishing factors:

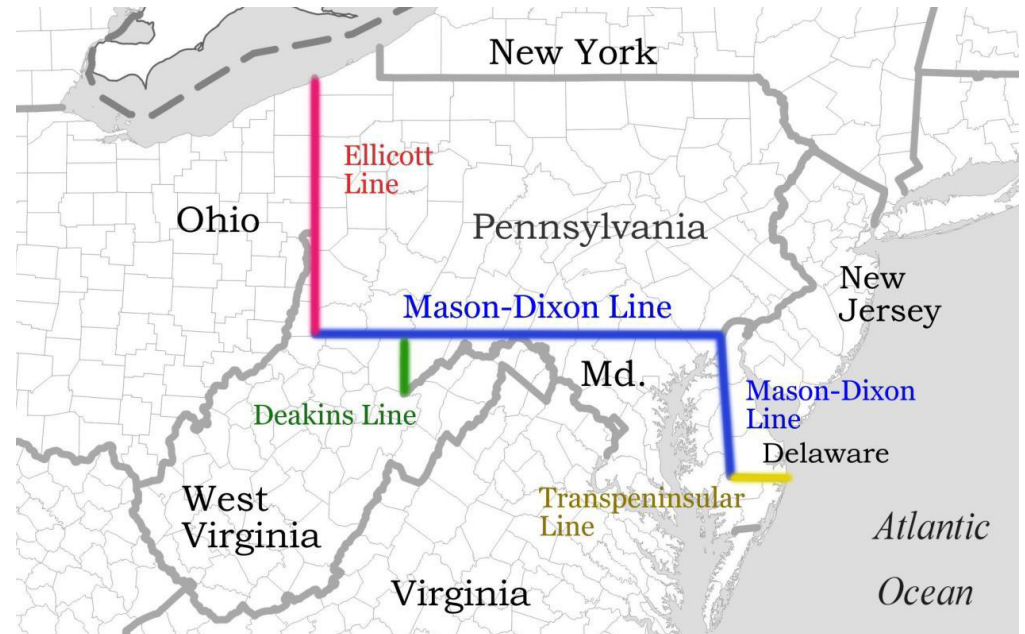
- 1751 Watson and Parson marked the Transpeninsular Line between Maryland and Delaware.
- 1763-1768 – Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed.
- 1776 – Delaware officially separates from Pennsylvania to become a state.
- 1784 – markings for the Mason-Dixon Line were officially completed between Maryland and Pennsylvania, and Maryland and Delaware.



HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Mason-Dixon Line ripple effect:

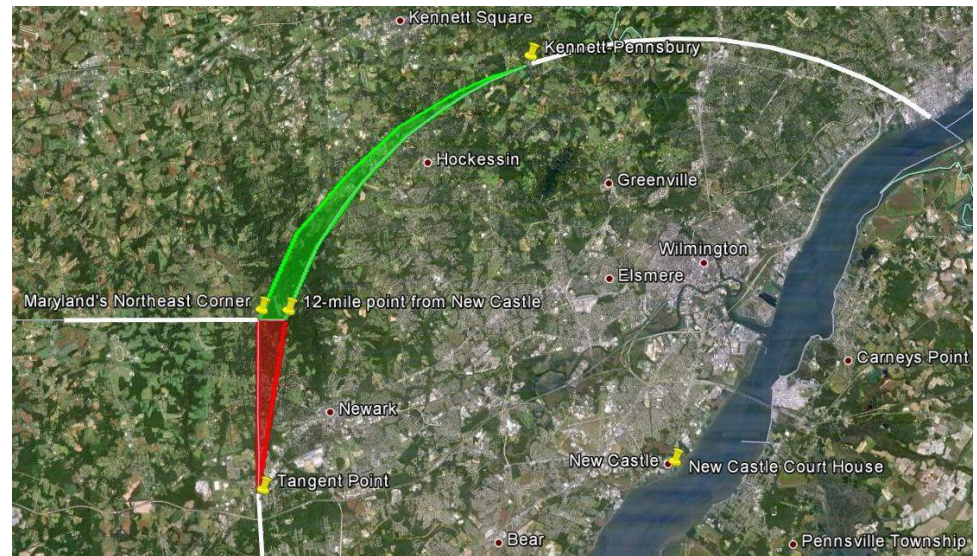
- Between Maryland and Pennsylvania at the $39^{\circ} 43'$ N parallel.
- Between Maryland and Delaware at the tangent of the Twelve Mile Circle from New Castle, DE.
- The Transpeninsular Line separating Maryland and Delaware from the longitudinal tangent line to the Atlantic Ocean.



HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Mason-Dixon Line ripple effect:

- The established Mason-Dixon Line matched *part of the original intent* but left an awkward shaped piece.
- The latitudinal line location stopped at the corner marker.
- The longitudinal line bisected and was semi tangential to the arc line south of the corner marker.

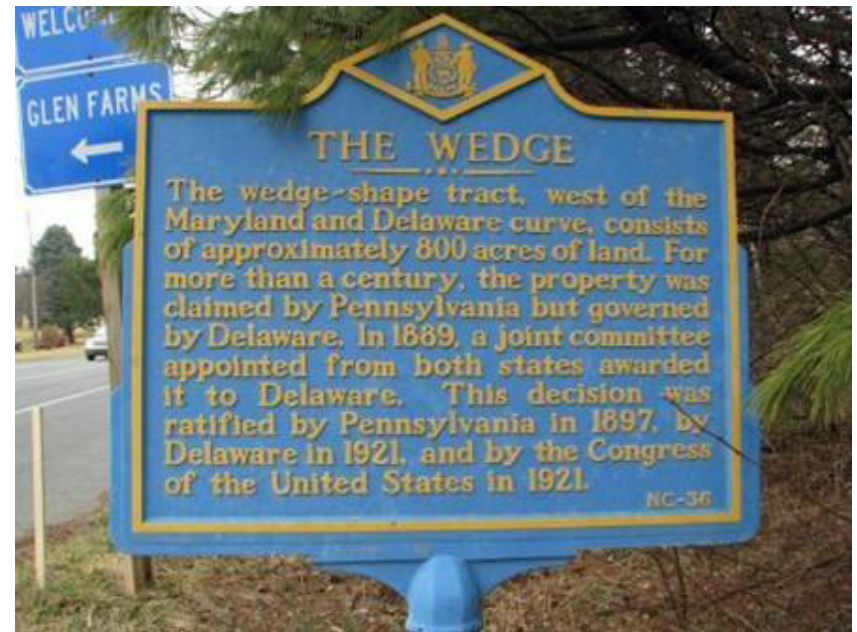


Aerial Photo from Google Maps®

HOW WAS THE DELAWARE WEDGE CREATED?

Recognized Lands:

- Maryland recognized the land south and west of the Mason-Dixon Line.
- Pennsylvania recognized the land north the latitudinal Mason-Dixon line and above the arc.
- Delaware recognized the land south of the arc and east of the Mason-Dixon longitudinal line tangent with the arc.
- The Wedge, approximately 684 acres, became a “no man’s land”.





WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

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The relevance:

- Jurisdictional understanding
- Maintenance
- Allocation of resources

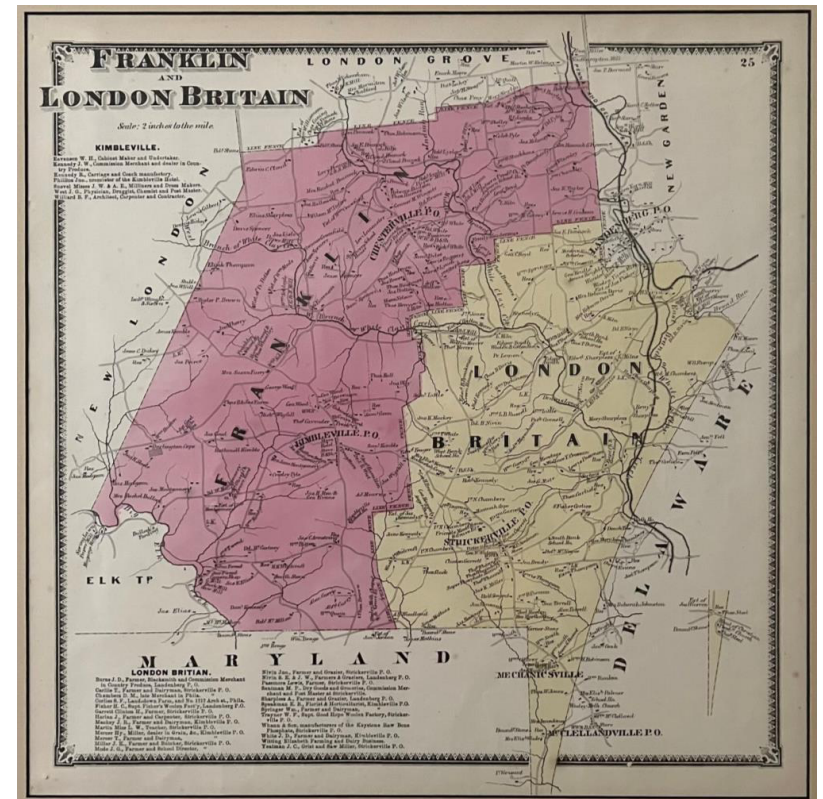


Maryland section of SR896
from Delaware through to Pennsylvania

WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

Pennsylvania's claims:

- Pennsylvania owned everything north of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Delaware Arc.



1873 Map
London Britain and Franklin Townships

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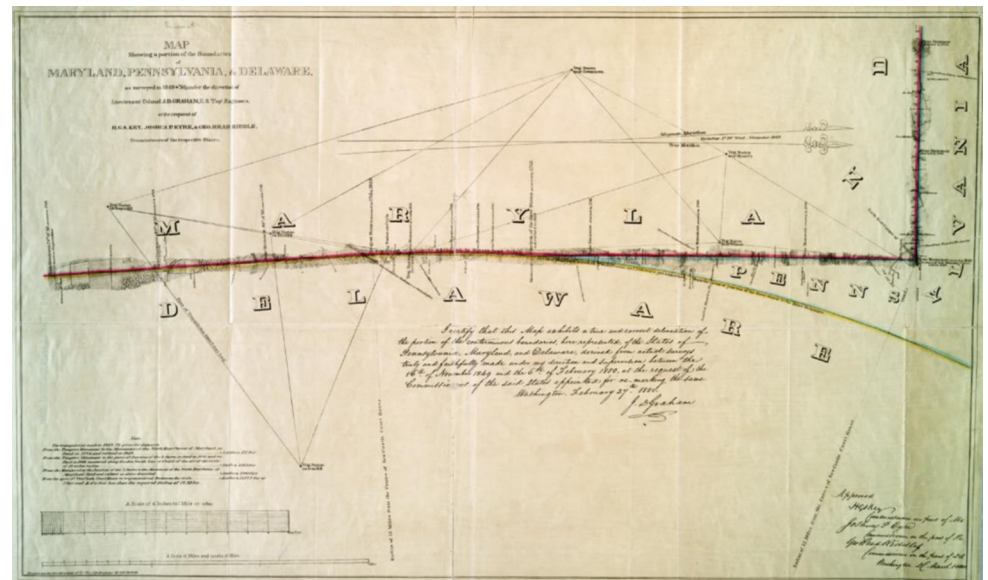
- Pennsylvania owned everything north of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Delaware Arc.
- Mason-Dixon northern corner marker had a "P" for Pennsylvania.



WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

Pennsylvania's claims:

- Pennsylvania owned everything north of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Delaware Arc.
- Mason-Dixon northern corner marker had a "P" for Pennsylvania.
- Maps show the wedge as Pennsylvania.
 - 1849-1850 John Duncan Graham resurveyed the Mason-Dixon Line, showing the wedge, the arc, and several boundary line features.

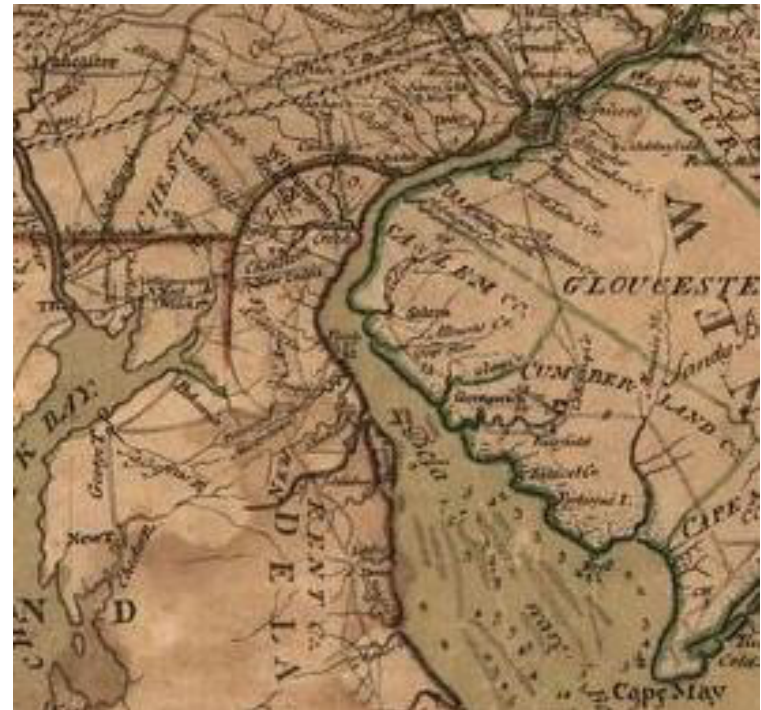


1850 Map
Depicting the wedge and surrounding areas

WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

Delaware's claims:

- Pennsylvania was only intended to have the area north of the latitudinal Mason-Dixon Line and the arc.

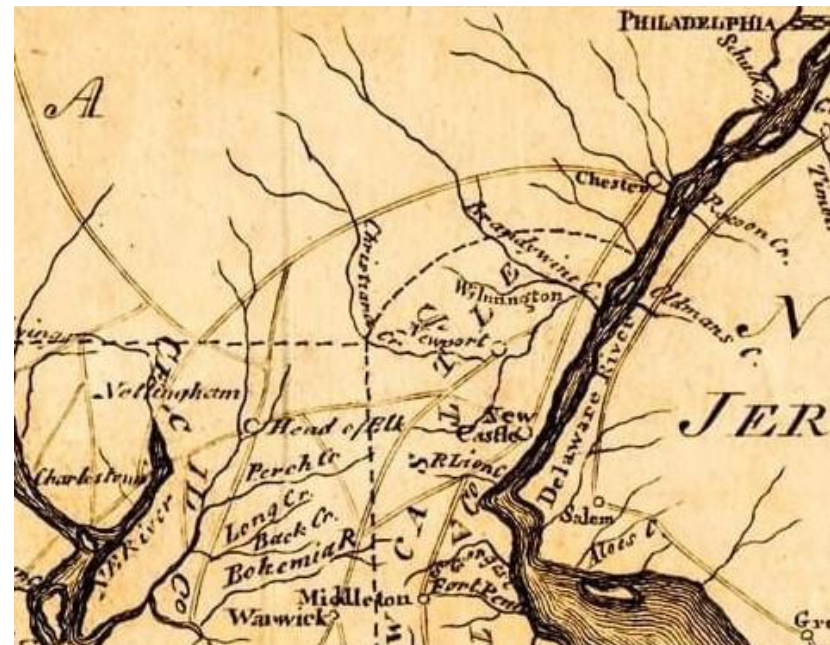


1749 Map
Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Delaware Counties

WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

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- The arc from New Castles was intended to extend to the corner marker.

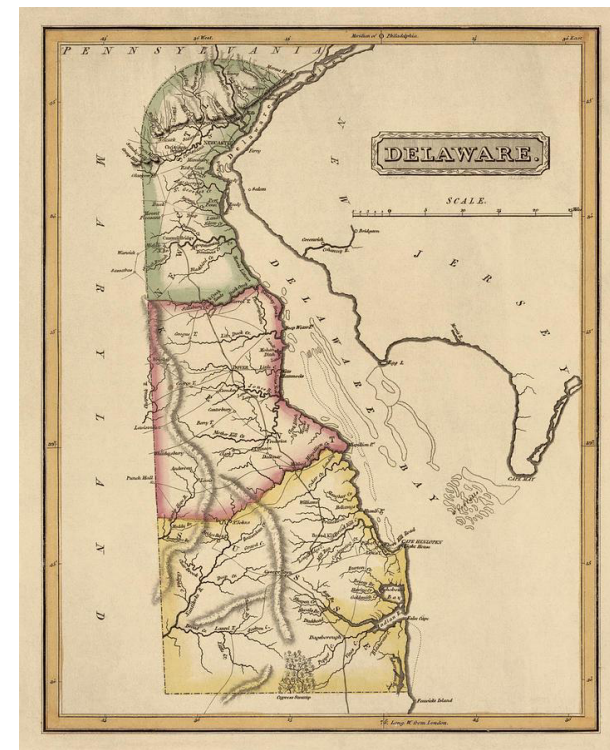


1799 Map
Depicting the arc to the corner

WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

Delaware's claims:

- Pennsylvania was only intended to have the area north of the latitudinal Mason-Dixon Line and the arc.
- The arc from New Castles was intended to extend to the corner marker.
- The Wedge made a better geometric fit to Delaware than to Pennsylvania.
- They had less land.

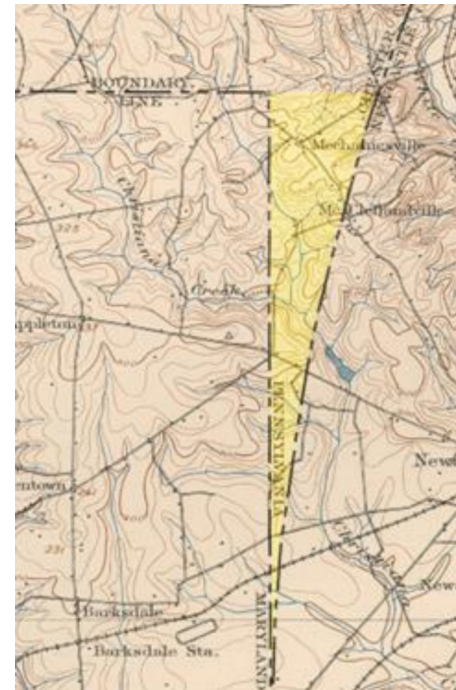


1817 Map
State of Delaware

WHY WAS IT AN ISSUE?

Significant details:

- Both claimed the land.
- While Penn owned both Pennsylvania and the Delaware Counties, there was no rush to resolve the issue.
- While both claimed the land, neither exercised authority for the property.
- With no authority the wedge became a “no man’s land” and haven for illegal bootlegging and gambling.



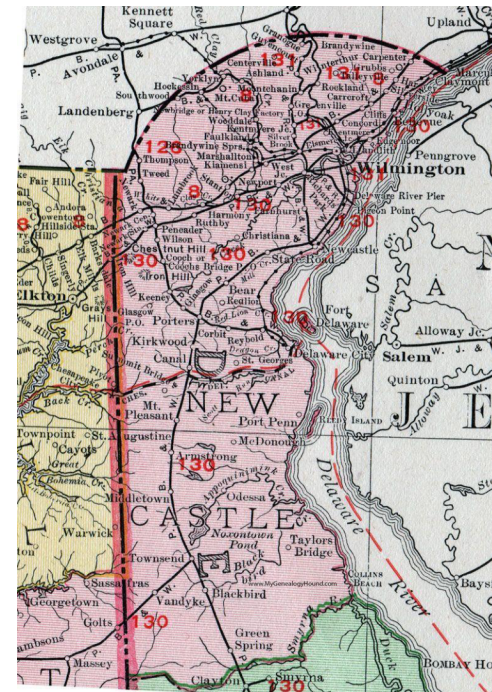


THE RESOLUTION OF THE WEDGE

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Resolution action items:

- The Mason-Dixon Line $39^{\circ} 43'$ N parallel latitudinal line was extended east until it intersected the arc.



1911 Rand McNally Map®

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Arc Corner Marker near Thompson's Bridge Road

THE RESOLUTION OF THE WEDGE

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- On top of the marker is etched the boundary lines.

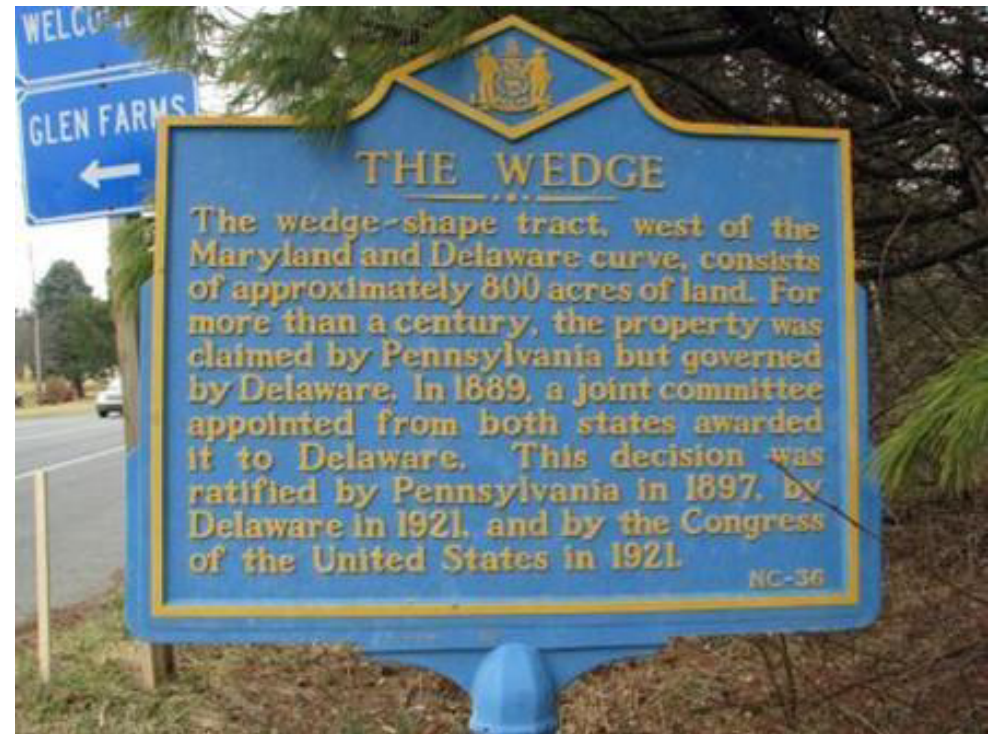


Top of the Arc Corner Marker

THE RESOLUTION

How boundaries affect properties:

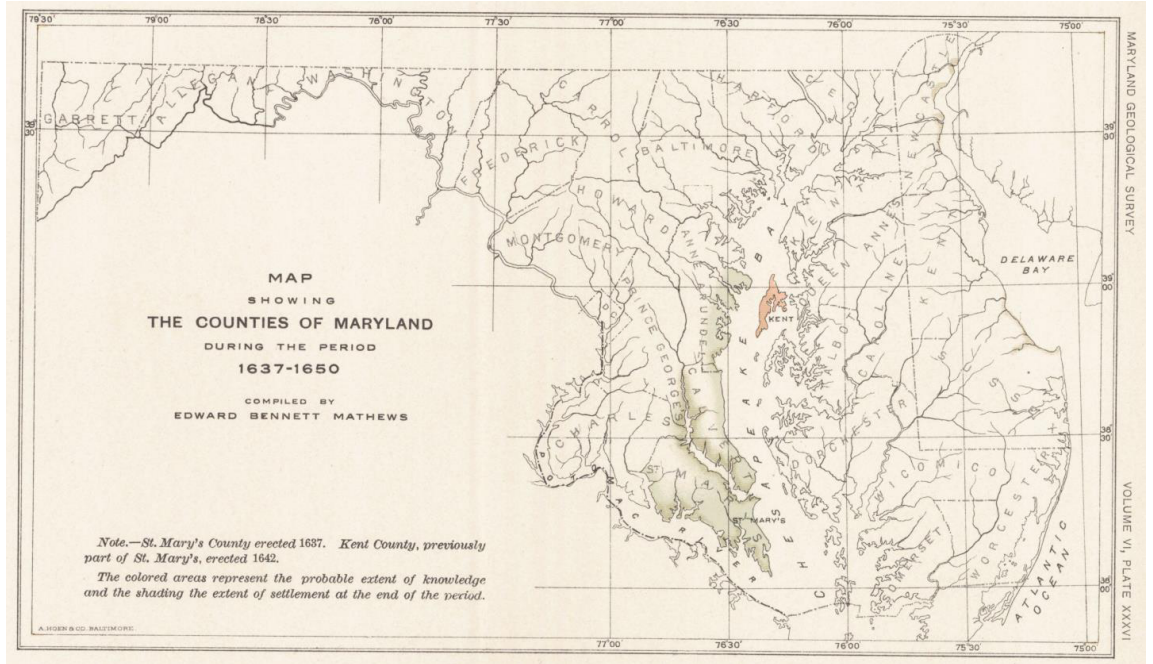
- The Mason-Dixon Line $39^{\circ} 43'$ N parallel latitudinal line was extended east until it intersected the arc.
- In 1892, a monument was placed where the extended Mason-Dixon Line intersected the arc from New Castle, Delaware.
- On top of the marker is etched the boundary lines.
- In 1897, Pennsylvania ratified the border, and in 1921, the wedge was officially made part of Delaware.



THE RESOLUTION

Notable Milestones:

- The final interstate border
 - Resolved in 1921
 - Michigan and Canada were resolved in 1925
- The longest uncorrected border
- Delaware is the only state border with an arc for its boundary.





THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING ACCURATE BOUNDARIES

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CORRECT BOUNDARIES

Non-acknowledgement of boundaries:

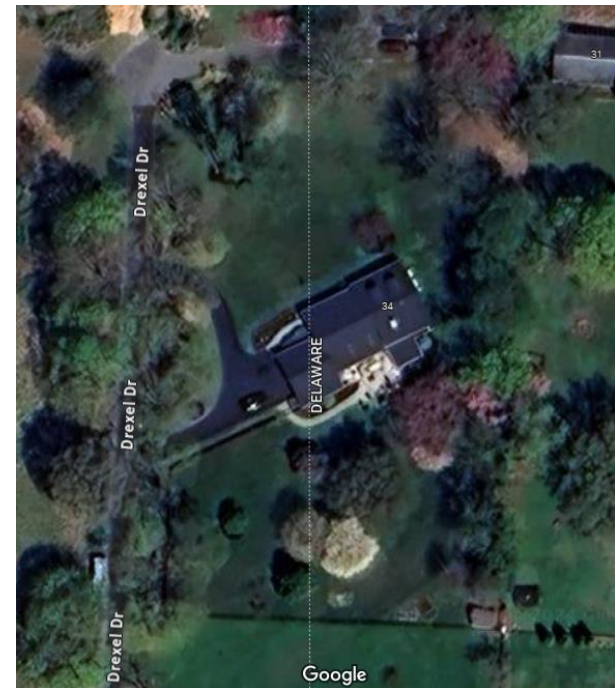
- Encroachment
 - Neighbor disputes
 - Squatting
 - Border moved
- Building on the right property
 - Ocean Pines, MD
- Eminent domain
- Owner not listed in the local records



THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CORRECT BOUNDARIES

How boundaries affect properties:

- Regulations
 - Road requirements
 - State and local requirements
 - Setbacks
 - Maximum impervious
 - Stormwater regulations
 - Water and wastewater



Aerial Photo from Google Maps®

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CORRECT BOUNDARIES

How boundaries affect properties:

- Taxes
 - State vs state, county vs county, township vs township
 - School taxes
 - Income tax



Aerial Photo from Google Maps®

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CORRECT BOUNDARIES

How survey affect projects:

- Howard Street Tunnel
- 49.5 acres becomes 46.5 acres
- 4 lots in a 1960s subdivision



THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CORRECT BOUNDARIES



Aerial and Street Photos from Google Maps®



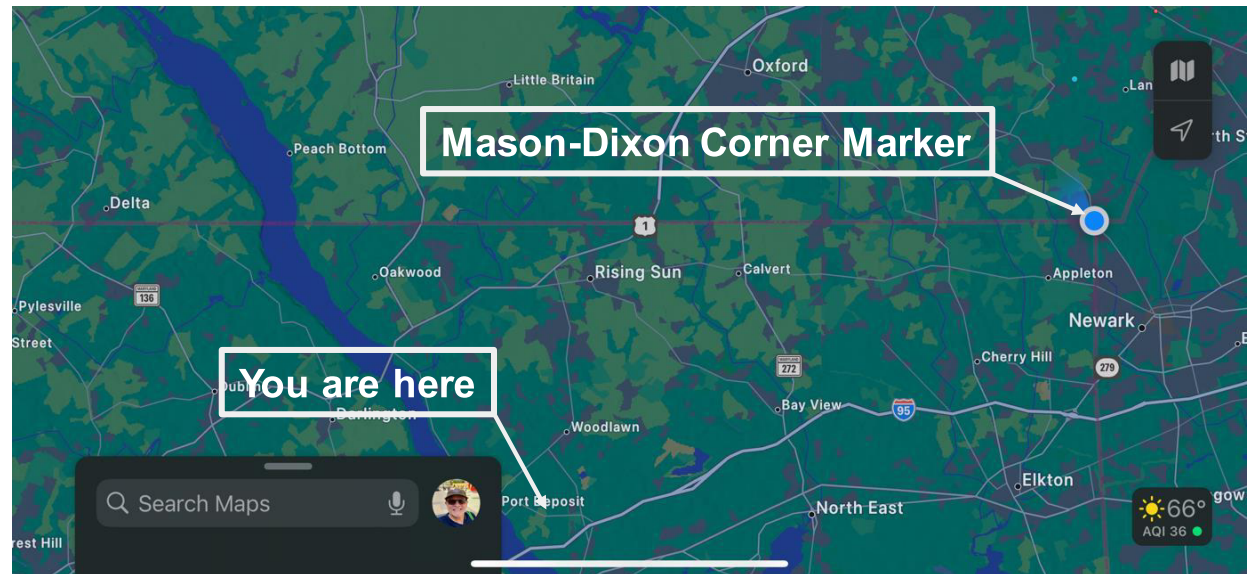


THE TRISTATE MARKER TRAIL

THE TRI-STATE MARKER TRAIL

The Trail:

- The 2015 dedicated trail is close to our conference!

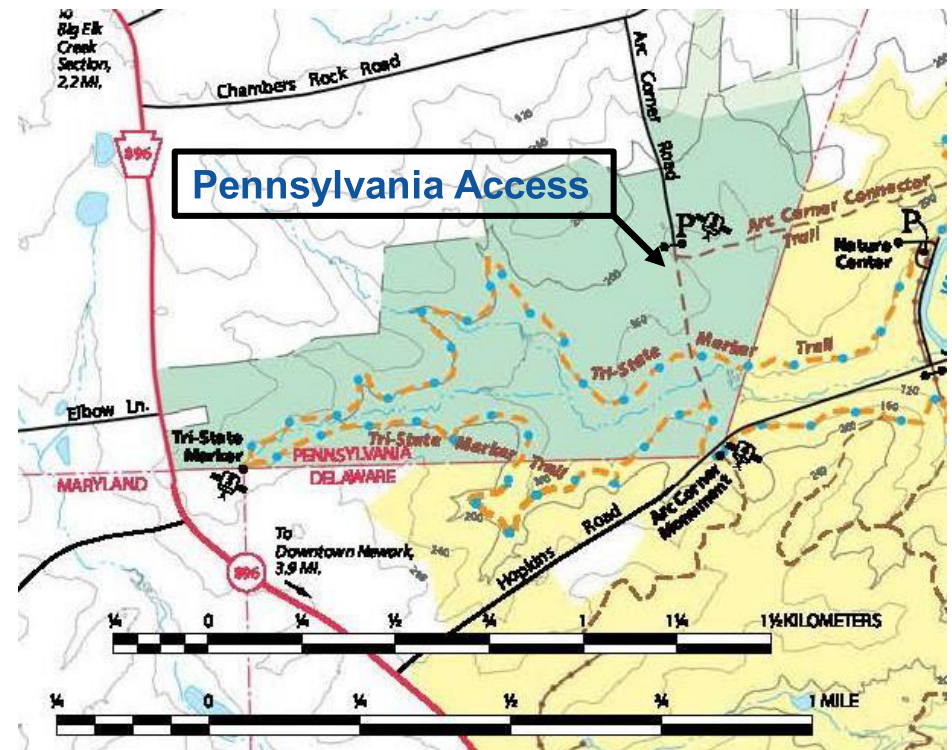


Map Photo from Google Maps®

THE TRI-STATE MARKER TRAIL

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- Accessed easily from either Pennsylvania or Delaware.



Map Photo from Pennsylvania state parks posted documentation.

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- From Arc Corner Road in Pennsylvania, it's a short hike to the Tri-State Marker.



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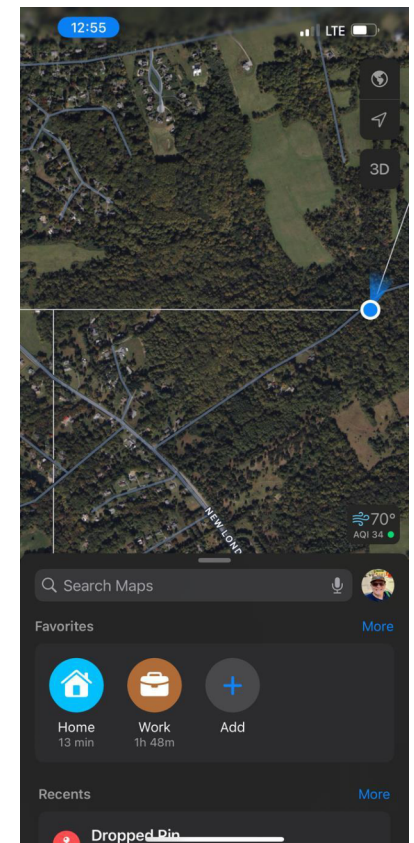
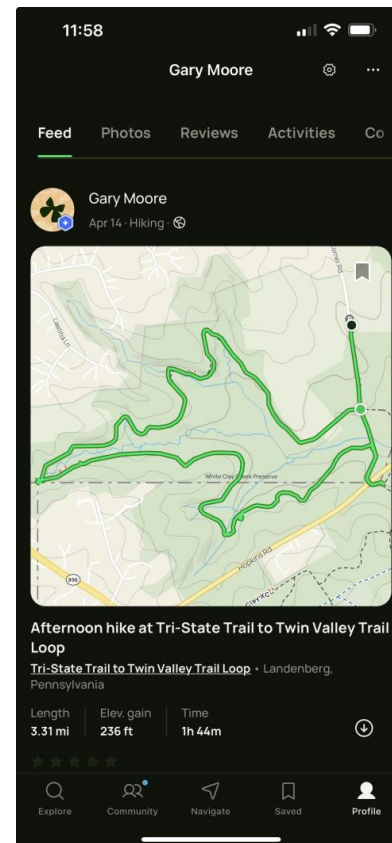
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- Accessed easily from either Pennsylvania or Delaware.
- From Arc Corner Road in Pennsylvania, it's a short hike to the Tri-State Marker.
- At the trailhead in Pennsylvania, it's free and easy to park. (Delaware is free if you are a resident).



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- All Trails iPhone app has a map that is easy to follow.



QUESTIONS?

Contact:

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