

Historical Reminiscences.

A glance at the map of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, shows a half circle commencing on the Delaware river and running through Delaware and Chester counties in this State, until it strikes the boundary line between this State and Maryland. Every geographer knows that this peculiar semi-circle line exists, but few know when or how it was made.

A writing in the *Call* (M.D.) Democrat, who is contributing "Events, Incidents, and Characters" in the early settlements of these States, gives the following in relation to the establishment of the half moon line. He says:

A passenger in the cars from Elkton to Newark may notice in a field to his left, about a hundred yards from the railroad, and near a maple tree opposite the Yellow House, a cut granite stone, with a smaller dark one close on the side of it. This is the tangent point made by the divisional line between Delaware and Maryland, touching the circle of twelve miles radius drawn from the stepie of the Court House at New Castle.

It is an important point in the history of Maryland, and is the boundary which settled the long controversy between Lord Baltimore and the State of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the decision of Chancellor Hardwicke and the agreement of the Proprietaries. The grant of Lord Baltimore, which was some fifty years earlier than that of Penn, was bounded by the Delaware Bay on the east, and on the north by the fortieth degree of north latitude, clearly comprehending all of what is now called the State of Delaware, and up the Delaware up to the city of Philadelphia.

Through the whole controversy it is easy to perceive that Penn had the more influence at Court, and small matters were urged with effect against Lord Baltimore. There was said to be a previous grant of ten miles around New Castle to the Duke of York, and the words *hinc inde*, hitherto unutilized, in the charter of Maryland it was alleged, could not apply to land which had been settled by a Christian people, and there had been a Swedish settlement at Fort Christiana. The ten miles around New Castle were to be measured by a radius of twelve miles from New Castle, and the old surveyors, Archibald McLean, John Lukins and Jonathan Hall, after opening a *vicino*, as they called it, proceeded to measure with chain the radius of twelve miles, and fixed the point where the stones, above referred to, now stand. This measure was made about 1760 to 1763. It was determined that the due west line from Cape Henlopen should terminate at the distance of thirty four miles three hundred and nine perches, and at that point the tangent or division line between the provinces should be drawn straight up the peninsula to the tangent point above.

The parties in controversy entered into an agreement to refer the matter to commissioners to be appointed by them respectively, and they recommended that said commissioners take to their aid and assistance Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two English mathematicians and surveyors, who came over and brought better instruments, and proceeded at once to finish the survey in accordance with the agreement; which they completed in about four years, and were honorably discharged on the 26th of December, 1767. Of the work of their predecessors, the running of the line due west from Cape Henlopen to the tangent point, and the said Cape and Chesapeake Bay, the race and measurement of the radius of twelve miles from New Castle Court House; and the determination of the tangent point, were accepted as settled. In their report Mason and Dixon say, "We computed how far the true tangent line would be distant from the post shown us as the tangent point, and found it would not pass one inch to the westward or the eastward of the post."

The next point which they determined was the beginning of the due west line between Maryland and Pennsylvania, which was to be on a parallel of latitude fifteen miles south of the southern boundary of the city of Philadelphia. Having determined the southern boundary of the city, they measured fifteen miles due south, and then ran due west until they intersected a due north line from the tangent point, and here they set up the corner stone between Maryland and Pennsylvania, and ran due west two hundred and thirty-eight miles to near a path called the Indian war path, but were prevented by the Indians from continuing the line to the end of five degrees of longitude, as they would not suffer it to pass westward of the war path.

At the time of fixing these boundaries there were only Maryland and Pennsylvania in the controversy; the three colonies on the Delaware, New Castle, Kent and Sussex, being a part of Pennsylvania; and according to the agreement, boundary stones were placed at the distance of a mile from each other, every fifth stone being a larger size, and having the arms of Lord Baltimore on one side, and those of the Penn family on the other, and on the intermediate stones the letter M on the side next Maryland and P on the side next Pennsylvania. The stone at the northeast corner of Maryland having been set near a stream of water was washed down and lost, and commissioners were appointed by the three States, namely: H. G. S. Key, of Maryland, Joshua P. Eyre, of Pennsylvania, and George Read Riddle, of Delaware, to restore the lost boundary, who called to their assistance Colonel J. D. Graham, United States Topographical Engineer, to assist in tracing the lines as laid down by Mason and Dixon. These parties met on the ground in 1847, and finding some discrepancies in the measures between the boundaries, Colonel Graham began to have some doubts about the correct measure of the radius of twelve miles from the Court House at New Castle, and having found the station of the coast survey at Iron Hill and at Gray's Hill as a base line in determining by triangulation the distance between the Court House at New Castle and the tangent stone, and by the trial said stone was found to be within two feet and four inches of the proper distance, that is, that it should have been that much farther west, and the old stone was not disturbed, and the new one placed on the north side of it, as it now stands, marked "TANGENT" 1847.

It was probably buried at the base of the one bearing the arms, when the latter was placed at the same point by Commissioner John Ewing, in 1848. Angle of deflection between the tangent line and the north line or chord of arc of boundary, 35° 56' by Colonel Graham; 35° 28' by Mason and Dixon; length of chord 7,743 feet. From the middle of the chord westward to the periphery

of the circle the distance is given by Mason and Dixon as 1 chain 75 1/2 links, and the length of tangent or perpendicular line 81 miles 5,168 feet. Distance from tangent point to northeast corner of Maryland 5 miles 119 feet. The mile stones at McCowan's, Christiana Church and Gibson's, being on a true meridian line, may be used in determining the variation of the compass.

THOMAS CARLAND,

WHOLESALE DEALER IN GROCERIES & QUEENSWARE.

WOOD AND WILLOW WARE, STATIONERY AND NOTIONS,

FISH, SALT, SUGAR CURED MEATS,

BACON, FLOUR, FEED AND PROVISIONS,

1323 Eleventh Avenue, Between 13th and 14th Sts., Altoona.

All such goods as Spices, Brushes, Wood and Willow Ware, Shoe Blacking and Stationery will be sold from manufacturer's printed price lists, and all other goods in my line at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh current prices. To dealers I present the peculiar advantage of saving them all freight and drayage, as they are not required to pay freight from the principal cities and no drayage charges are made. Dealers may rest assured that my goods are of the best quality and my prices as moderate as city rates. By doing a fair, upright business, and by promptly and satisfactorily filling all orders, I hope to merit the patronage of retail dealers and others in Cambria county and elsewhere. Orders respectfully solicited and satisfaction guaranteed in all cases. THOMAS CARLAND, Altoona, July 29, 1869.-tf.

GEORGE W. YEAGER,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in HEATING AND COOK STOVES

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, TIN, COPPER AND SHEET-IRON WARE

OF HIS OWN MANUFACTURE, AND GENERAL JOBBER IN SPOUTING

and all other work in his line. Virginia Street, near Caroline Street, ALTOONA, PA.

The only dealer in the city having the right to sell the renowned "BARLEY SHEAF" COOK STOVE, the most perfect complete and satisfactory Stove ever introduced to the public.

STOCK IMMENSE. - PRICES LOW. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

WOOD, MORRELL & CO., WASHINGTON STREET,

Near Pa. R. R. Depot, Johnstown, Pa., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS, MILLINERY GOODS,

HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE, BOOTS AND SHOES,

HATS AND CAPS, IRON AND NAILS,

CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHS, READY-MADE CLOTHING,

GLASS WARE, YELLOW WARE, WOODEN AND WILLOW WARE,

PROVISIONS AND FEED, ALL KINDS, Together with all manner of Western Produce, such as FLOUR, BACON, FISH, SALT, CARBON OIL, &c., &c.

Wholesale and retail orders solicited and promptly filled on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms. WOOD, MORRELL & CO., GEO. C. K. ZAHM, JAS. B. ZAHM,

ZAHM & SON, DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes,

AND ALL OTHER ARTICLES Usually Kept in a Country Store.

WOOL AND COUNTRY PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE FOR GOODS!

STORE ON MAIN STREET, Next Door to the Post Office,

June 10, 1869. EBENSBURG, PA.

Andrew Noses, DRAPER & TAILOR,

4 CLINTON STREET, JOHNSTOWN, PA.

MUSIC! MUSIC!!—The "Sisters of St. Joseph" will be prepared to give Lessons on the PIANO MELODEON or CARBON ORGAN at any time after Easter.

For terms apply to the Superiors, Sister M. HORTON, or to Rev. R. C. CHRISTY, Charges moderate. Ebenburg, April 1, 1871.-tf.

WHOLESALE JANNEY & ANDREWS, 123 Market St. PHILADELPHIA.

GAY & WELSH, Successors to Gay & Painter, Grocers and Commission Merchants,

AND DEALERS IN FLOUR, PRODUCE, FISH, SALT, CARBON OILS, &c., &c., 362 LIBERTY STREET, - PITTSBURGH.

JAMES J. OATMAN, M. D., tenders his professional services as Physician and Surgeon to the citizens of Carrolltown and vicinity. Office in rear of building occupied by J. Buck & Co. as a store. Night calls can be made at his residence, one door south of A. Haug's tin and hardware store. [May 9, 1867.]

1871. SPRING. 1871.

I am now prepared to offer SUPERIOR INDUCEMENTS TO CASH PURCHASERS OF TIN, SHEET-IRON & COPPER WARE.

WHOLESALE OR RETAIL. My stock consists in part of every variety of Tin, Sheet-Iron, COPPER AND BRASS WARES, ENAMELED AND PLAIN SAUCE-PANS, BOILERS, &c., COAL SHOVELS, MINE LAMPS, OIL CANS, HOUSEFURNISHING HARDWARE OF EVERY KIND.

Special Attention given to Spouting, Valleys and Conductors, all of which will be made out of best materials and put up by competent workmen.

Lamp Burners, Wick and Chimneys WHOLESALE OR RETAIL. I would call particular attention to the Light House Burner, with Glass Cone, giving more light than any other in use. Also, the Paragon Burner, for Crude Oil.

SUGAR KETTLES and CAULDRONS of all sizes constantly on hand.

Special attention given to Jobbing in Tin, Copper and Sheet-Iron at lowest possible rates.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS' LISTS now ready, and will be sent on application by mail or in person.

Francis W. Hay, Johnstown, March 7, 1867.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES! TO CASH CUSTOMERS! AT THE EBENSBURG HOUSE-FURNISHING STORE.

The undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of Ebenburg and the public generally that he has made a great reduction in prices to CASH BUYERS. My stock will consist, in part, of Cooking, Parlor and Heating Stoves, of the most popular kinds; Tinware of every description, of my own manufacture; Hardware of all kind, such as Locks, Screws, Butt Hinges, Table Hinges, Shutter Hinges, Bolts, Iron and Nails, Window Glass, Putty, Table Knives and Forks, Carving Knives and Forks, Meat Cutters, Apple Parers, Pen and Pocket Knives in great variety, Scissors, Shears, Razors and Shavers, Axes, Hatchets, Hammers, Boring Machines, Angers, Chisels, Planes, Compasses, Squares, Files, Rasps, Anvils, Vises, Wrenches, Rip, Panel and Cross-Cut Saws, Chains of all kinds, Shovels, Spades, Sleigh Belts and Spaths, Rakes, Forks, Sligh Belts, Shoe Lasts, Pegs, Wax Stricks, Clothes Wringers, Grid Stoves, Patent Molasses Gates and Measures, Lumber Sticks, Horse Nails, Horse Shoes, Cast Steel, Rides, Shoe Guns, Revolvers, Pistols, Cartridges, Powder Caps, Lead, &c., Old Stove Plates, Grates and Fire Bricks, Well and Cistern Pumps and Tubing; Harness and Saddlery Ware of all kind; Wooden and Willow Ware in great variety; Carbon Oil and Oil Lamps, Fish Oil, Lard Oil, Lined Oil, Lubricating Oil, Rosin, Tar, Glassware, Paints, Varnishes, Turpentine, Alcohol, &c.

There is a man in Bridgewater, Mass., who has been clerk, agent, and treasurer for a manufacturing company for thirty-six years; clerk, agent, and treasurer of an iron company for thirty years; clerk, agent, and treasurer of a third company for twenty-two years; and president of another company twenty-two years. He has never been absent from his annual or directors' meeting of either of these companies during his official connection with them, and has kept the records and drawn all the checks of three.

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