



Chester County Historical Society  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

West Chester, Pennsylvania

November 8, 1920.

To the Governor of Delaware,  
Dover, Del.

Dear Sir:-

When the Chester County Historical Society, this summer, marked the point at which the British Army entered this County from Delaware, before the Battle of Brandywine, the question came up as to the exact location of the circular boundary between the two States. In 1893 a joint Commission of the two States ran this line, and it was duly ratified by Pennsylvania, by the Act of June 22nd, 1897, P. L. 183, but it has never been ratified by Delaware, nor by Congress, both of which must act before it becomes the legal boundary.

It occurred to us it would be a good thing to stir up this ratification matter, at this time, and have it completed if possible. The Commission was composed of such able men as Senator Bayard, Hon. Wayne MacVeagh, R. E. Monaghan, Esq., and others, and one of the head men in the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (Col. Hodgkins) ran the line. Expensive and permanent stones were placed along the new line.

The circular line was never run before since 1701, and was then marked only by slashings on the trees, so that the line is only a traditional one, and there is no permanent record of it either on the ground or in the public records. As between two great States, in these modern days, is not such a state of things a great anomaly, calling for immediate rectification? Soon the generation that saw the new line run will have passed along, and with less and less knowledge of the history of this long standing matter, it will be harder and harder to set it right in the future.

Our Historical Society at its last meeting adopted resolutions urging the Governor and Legislature of your state to pass an Act ratifying the new line, in similar form to the Pennsylvania Act of 1897 above referred to. May we not request that you bring this important matter before your Legislature at its next session for action.

Trusting you will thus cooperate with us, towards this desirable end, I am

Yours very truly,

very truly,  
*Samuel Kay*  
 Responding Secretary.

Corresponding Secretary.

JCH / RTH.