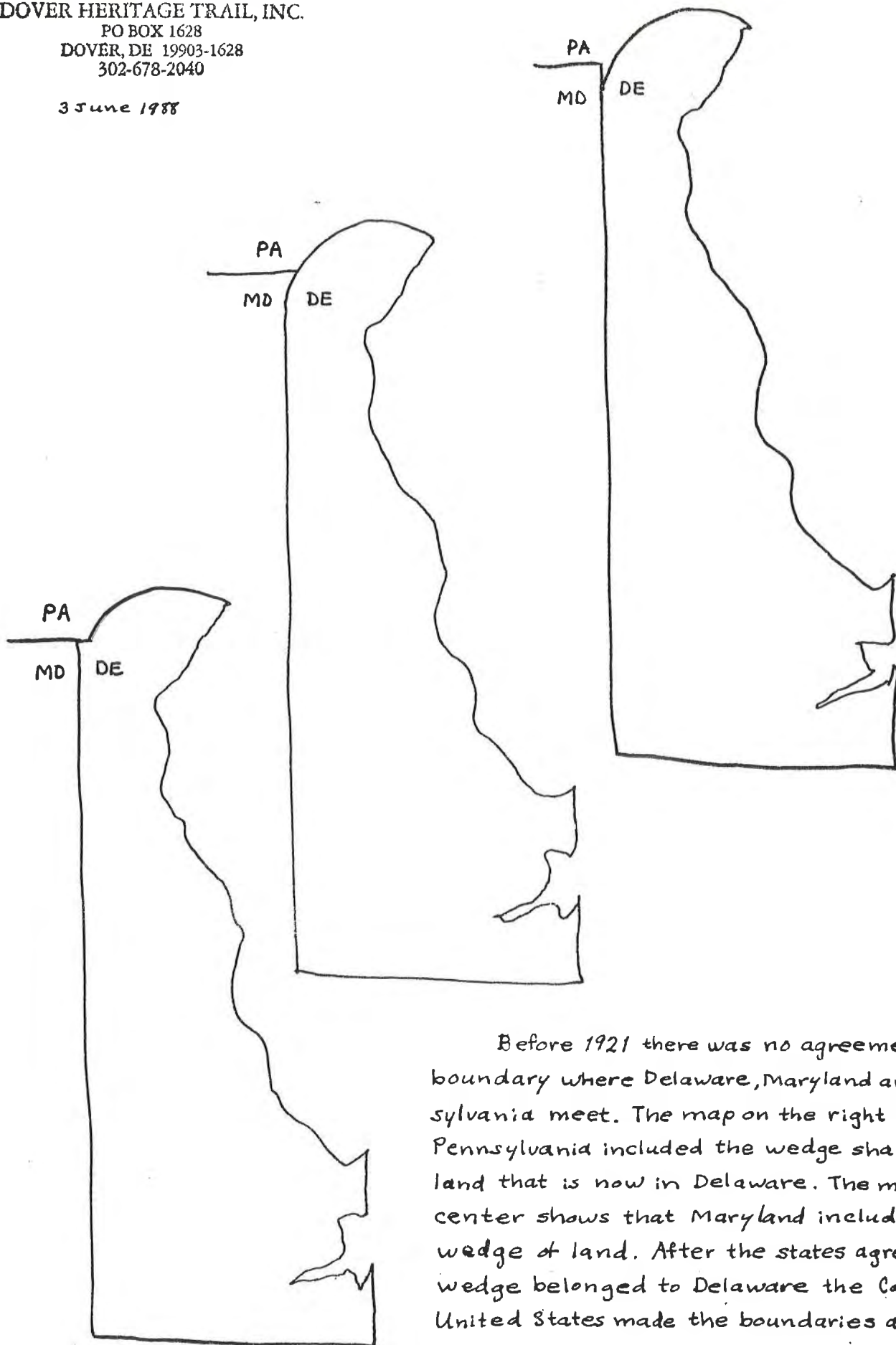


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3 June 1988



Before 1921 there was no agreement on the boundary where Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania meet. The map on the right shows that Pennsylvania included the wedge shaped piece of land that is now in Delaware. The map in the center shows that Maryland included that wedge of land. After the states agreed that the wedge belonged to Delaware the Congress of the United States made the boundaries as they are shown in the map on the left.

Boundaries Since 30 June 1921

The Maryland-Pennsylvania and The Maryland-Delaware Boundaries

WILLIAM H. BAYLIFF



Bulletin 4
Second Edition
July 1959

Maryland
BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Annapolis

Price \$1.00

THE "WEDGE"

During the course of their surveys Mason and Dixon had extended the northern boundary of Maryland eastward from the northeast corner of Maryland to the Delaware River. Since Pennsylvania then included the present state of Delaware, this line eastward from the northeast corner of Maryland appeared to have no particular significance. In 1776 the Three Lower Counties became independent of Pennsylvania, established their own government, and thereafter became known as Delaware, one of the thirteen original colonies.

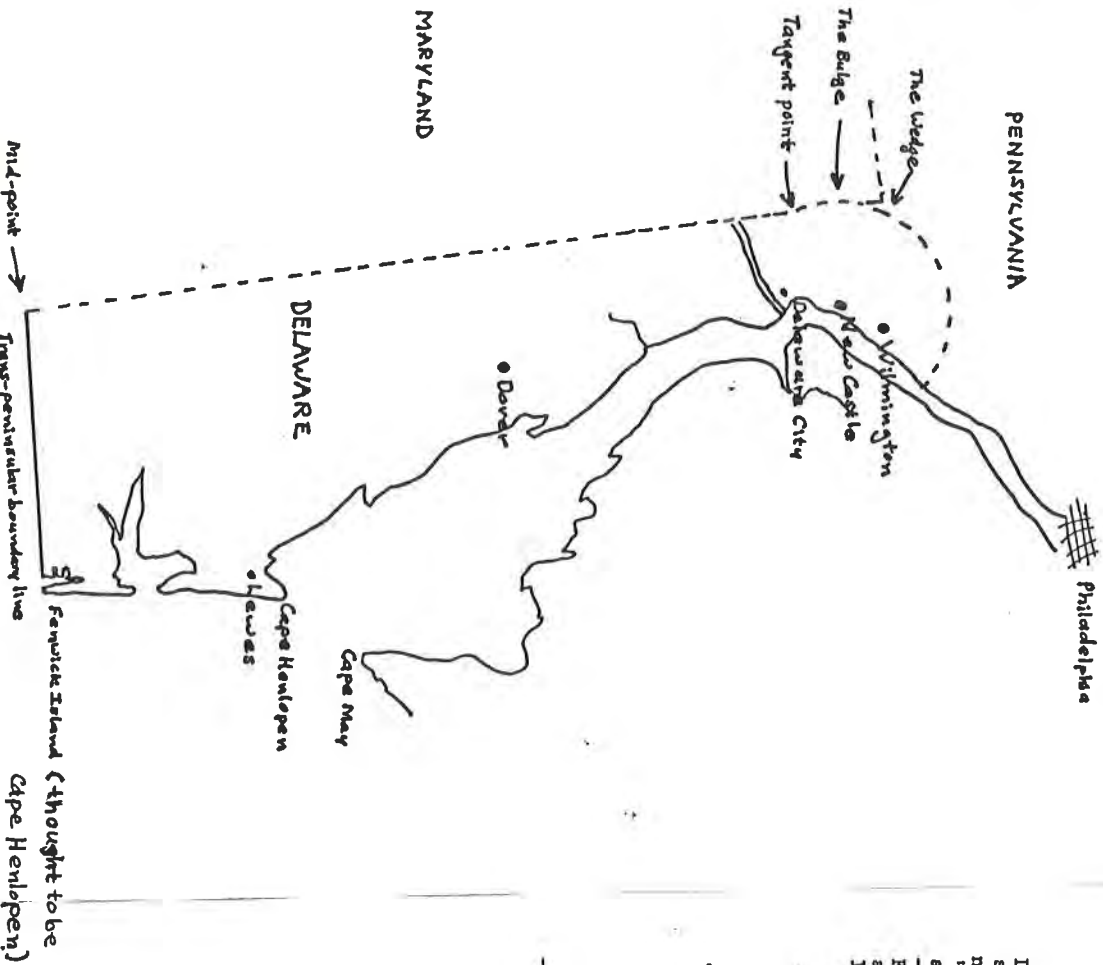
In the course of time doubts arose on the boundaries of the three states in the vicinity of the northeast corner of Maryland. Maryland, of course, had no claim to territory east of the North Line. Delaware appeared to accept as its boundary the New Castle Circle clockwise from the Intersection Stone. This left to Pennsylvania a wedge or triangle of land having its base in the straight line joining the northeast corner of Maryland and the Circle and having its apex at the Intersection Stone (figure 7).

Pennsylvania was either uncertain or indifferent about its claims to the Wedge. Some Pennsylvania maps showed this territory as belonging to Pennsylvania; other contemporary maps showed the Wedge as lying outside of Pennsylvania. Prior to his resurvey in 1849 Graham investigated the subject and reached the conclusion that the Wedge was part of Pennsylvania. Accordingly, the stone which he erected at the Intersection Point is a triangular prism designed to mark the apex of the Wedge. On the three faces of the prism Graham cut respectively the three initials M, P, and D, and below the initial P the date 1849.

It might seem that Graham's resurvey, his conclusions, and his boundary markers should have settled all questions of jurisdiction over the Wedge, especially since the arguments over this territory had been free of any bitterness. Graham's views however seemed to furnish fresh material for a debate which was largely academic. In 1889 Pennsylvania passed an act authorizing a joint Pennsylvania-Delaware commission to determine the boundary between the two states and to settle, once and for all, the jurisdiction over the Wedge. Delaware passed a complementary act, a joint commission was appointed, and the commission submitted its report in 1894. The joint commission recommended that the Wedge be given to Delaware, and in 1897 the Pennsylvania legislature passed an act accepting the recommendation of the joint commission. Delaware either declined or neglected to concur in the Pennsylvania act and the debate continued.

In 1920 the Wedge, which contains 714 acres, was divided among 39 owners and occupied by 19 families. All of these owners had always voted and paid taxes as residents of Delaware. Finally, in June 1921 the legislature of Delaware concurred in the act which had been passed by Pennsylvania in 1897. On June 30, 1921 Congress passed a resolution assenting to the concurrent acts of Pennsylvania and Delaware, and the Wedge became officially a part of Delaware. Since that date the north-south line between Maryland and Delaware has been continuous from the Middle Point to the northeast corner of Maryland.

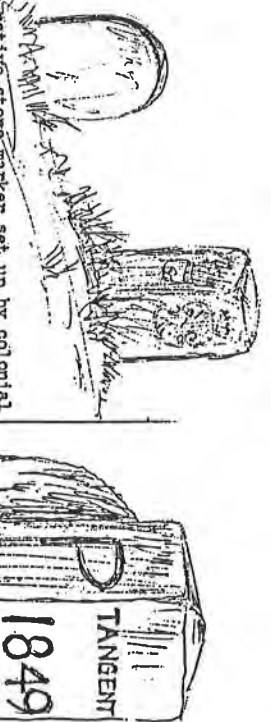
THE BULGE and THE WEDGE



SOURCE: THE STORY of the PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE BOUNDARIES,
George and Virginia Schawn, 1963

LEFT: The native-stone marker set up by colonial surveyors in 1760 (32 inches north of what is now the "true Middle Point"). RIGHT: The double "acromstone" placed in 1768, by Mason and Dixon, at the "true Middle Point". See map.

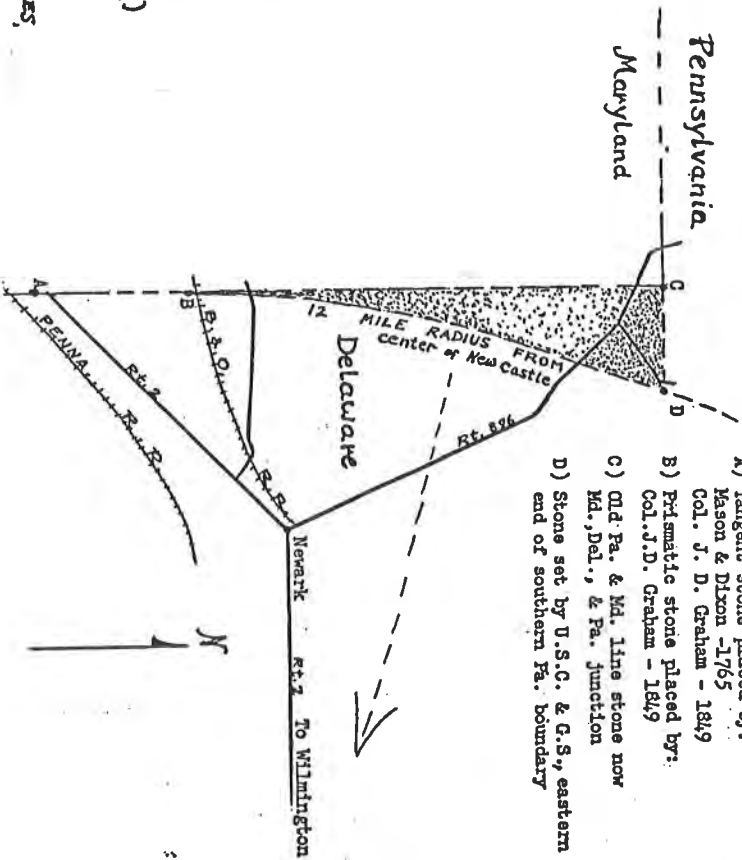
BACKGROUND: The granite marker set up in 1849, by Colonel Graham and his surveyors, at the "Tangent Point." NOTE: A part of the weather-worn marker installed here in 1766, by Mason and Dixon, can be seen behind Colonel Graham's marker. See map.



The Wedge

This formerly disputed "wedge" area was officially ceded to Delaware June 30, 1921.

- A) Tangent stone placed by:
Mason & Dixon - 1765
Col. J. D. Graham - 1849
- B) Prismatic stone placed by:
Col. J. D. Graham - 1849
- C) Md. Pa. & Md. line stone now
Md., Del., & Pa. junction
- D) Stone set by U.S.C. & G.S., eastern
end of southern Pa. boundary



THE WEDGE

HERE BETWEEN MARYLAND AND THE DELAWARE CURVE IS A WEDGE SHAPED TRACT OF ABOUT 800 ACRES. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY CLAIMED BY PENNSYLVANIA BUT GOVERNED BY DELAWARE. A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED 1889 FROM BOTH STATES AWARDED IT TO DELAWARE. RATIFIED BY PENNSYLVANIA 1897. BY DELAWARE 1921. AND BY CONGRESS 1921.

General Collection - Historic Markers

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Box 1 Folder 2 # 46n (Marker K-4 ... P)

46 dn (Marker K-25 ... M)

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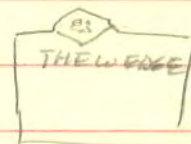
~~Box 1 Folder 2 # 46n (Marker K-2 ... M short)~~

~~46 an (Marker K-9 ... P short)~~

Box 1 Folder 2 # 46n (Marker K-3 ... Penn Crest)

Box 1 Folder 12 B/w photo of marker

THE WEDGE



HERE BETWEEN MARYLAND AND THE
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RATIFIED BY PENNSYLVANIA 1897. BY
DELAWARE 1921. AND BY CONGRESS 1921.

on reverse of photo

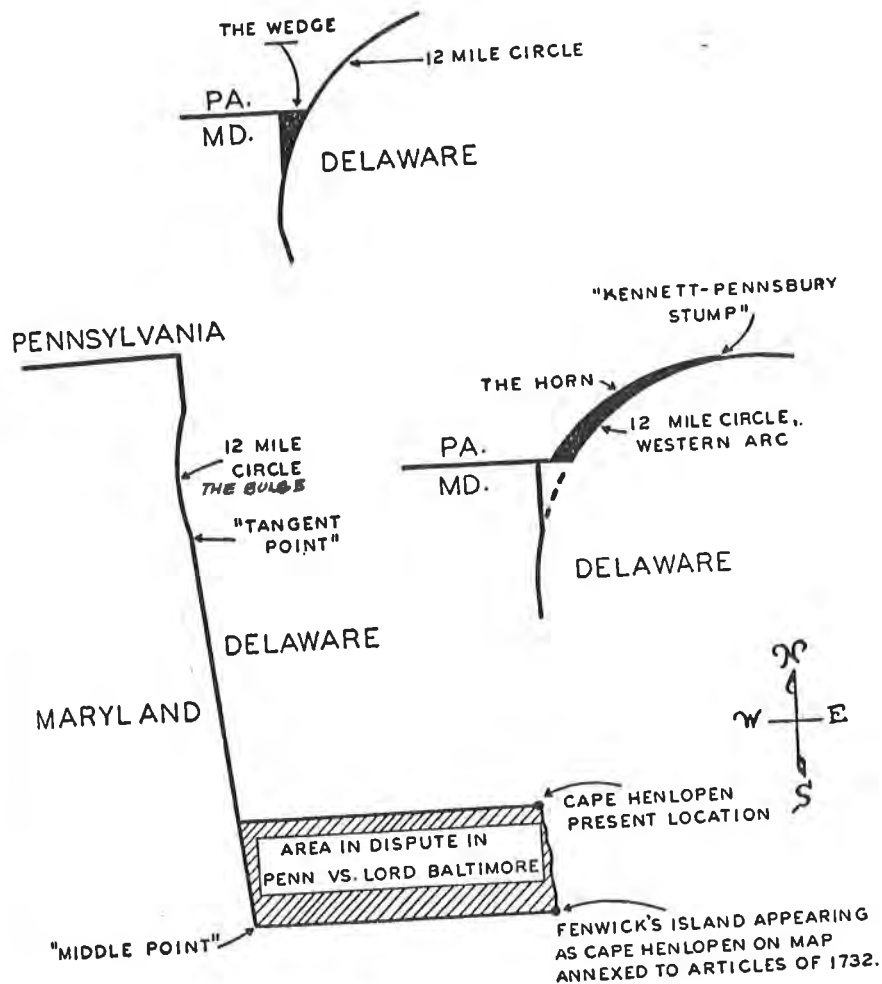
N.C. 37 June 1956 handwritten with pencil

PRINT 189

Delaware State Archives
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware

Photograph No. Hist. M. N.C. 37

PLEASE GIVE CREDIT



MASON AND DIXON SURVEY — FROM MIDDLE POINT NORTH AS INDICATED AND THENCE WEST TO FORM MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA LINE, THE SO-CALLED MASON AND DIXON LINE.

Illustrative sketches of the Mason and Dixon Line and the twelve mile circle reflecting in shaded portions the controversies in the settlements of Delaware's bounds of the Wedge and the Horn and likewise the dispute in Penn vs. Lord Baltimore resulting from the uncertain location of Cape Henlopen. These drawings are not accurate in scale being for the purpose of graphic presentation.

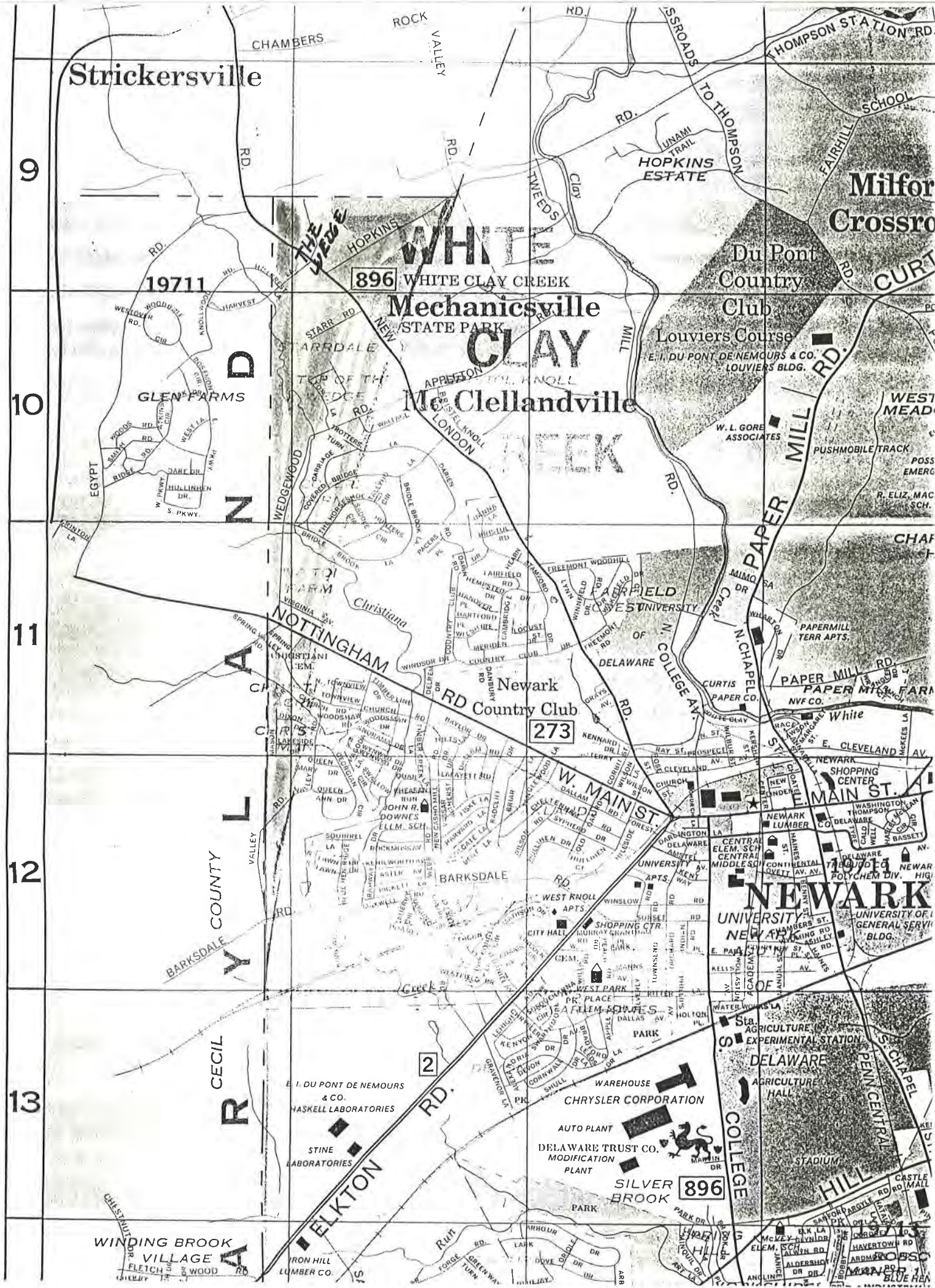
THE
Bounds of Delaware

By DUDLEY LUNT



WILMINGTON

Printed by The Star Publishing Company



DELAWARE-PENNSYLVANIA WEDGE

(Owned by one State — Governed by another.)

Address before Hiram Lodge of Newark in 1933.

The record of the establishment and change of ownership of the land along the famous Delaware Curve, including the Wedge, is one of rival claimants, of numerous surveys and of long drawn out lawsuits. To one like myself who began his career as a civil engineer and changed to that of a lawyer, the task was not so much to find sufficient material, as it was to determine what material must, for the sake of brevity, be omitted.

A careful examination of the boundary lines of every State of the Union would doubtless fail to reveal any so unique as those of the State of Delaware. On the North we have a curved line, the only State line of its kind in the United States. Two other of our boundaries have been in dispute for more than two centuries. One of these which relates to the famous Wedge, was not settled until the year 1921, and the other which relates to the boundary line between Delaware and New Jersey, on which jurisdiction over a part of the Delaware River and Bay depends, is now being contested in the Supreme Court of the United States.*

Any reference to the Wedge will be understood to mean that tract of land between the Delaware Curve and the State of Maryland. Its widest part is at the Northeast corner of Maryland, and the point is a few yards below the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

A glance at almost any map dating from Colonial times un-

*The Court awarded to Delaware all of the River within the twelve-mile circle, to low water line on the Jersey shore.