

and Allegany counties, first stated in the Constitution of 1850, is defined by the Acts of Assembly of 1872 as a straight line beginning at the summit of Big Backbone or Savage Mountain, where that mountain is crossed by the Mason and Dixon line, to the middle of Savage River where it empties into the Potomac. Various attempts have been made to run the line which should fit these conditions. The County Surveyor of Allegany County began such a line at the mouth of Savage River but intersected the Mason and Dixon line on Little Savage Mountain more than three-quarters of a mile west of where the law indicates. This is known as the Chisholm line. Somewhat later in 1878 the County Surveyor of Garrett County began a line at the northern terminus, or the intersection of the crest of Big Savage Mountain and the Mason and Dixon line, and ran southward toward the mouth of Savage River. It came out in the vicinity of Westernport, something less than a mile east of the desired point. In 1898 a line was marked which was not only a straight line but connected the two points specified in the original law erecting Garrett County. Because of certain technicalities this line was repudiated by the Allegany County Court and an attempt was made in the Legislature of 1906 to validate this line if the voters of Garrett County saw fit to do so. Since this Act did not specify the place of voting for such as might be transferred from Allegany to Garrett County it has recently been held that the line run in 1898 in accordance with the original Act is still invalid.

The northern boundary of Allegany County is formed by a portion of the famous Mason and Dixon line which was run prior to the American Revolution to settle the dispute between the proprietaries of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The original line was marked by stone monuments east of Allegany County, but from Sideling Hill on, the difficulties of transporting the stones which had been brought from England became too great. Within the last few years this historic line has been resurveyed and stone monuments have been placed to mark its position.

The southern boundary of Allegany County, which is at the same time the boundary between Maryland and West Virginia, follows the right bank of the Potomac River, whose waters are a part of Allegany County.