

significance. The boundary from the Sassafras to the tangent stone in the vicinity of the Pennsylvania Railroad is a part of the general tangent line which was run from the middle point of an east and west line extending from Fenwick Island to the Chesapeake. The northerly line was run from this middle point in a way to be tangent to a circle of twelve miles radius whose center was in Newcastle, Delaware. Such a line was the result of a long-pending suit between the Penns and the Baltimores, and the attempt of the Lord High Chancellor to express specifically what was intended by James II and his Council in their decree of 1685. Numerous attempts were made to run this difficult line during the years 1760 to 1763, but it was not finally located and marked until the work of Messrs. Mason and Dixon a few years later.

At the time the boundaries were determined the exact conditions of the country were not known and the provision was made that if the tangent line touched the circle south of the east-west diameter that the due north line from the tangent point should not subtract any portion of the circle from the possessions of the Penns.

The second portion of the eastern line is a small part of the twelve-mile circle which lay west of the due north line, passing through the tangent point. The circle itself represents the attempt of James II while still Duke of York to retain the integrity of the old settlement on the Delaware when the King, his brother, granted Pennsylvania to William Penn. The actual location of this circle was the occasion of much controversy during the long-drawn dispute between the Penns and the Baltimores. Their commissioners wrangled regarding the center of the circle, whether it should be twelve miles in radius or circumference, and whether or not the miles should be measured horizontally or surficially. The arc itself, so far as it forms a boundary of Cecil County, was originally run by Mason and Dixon and has subsequently been resurveyed by Col. Graham in 1849 and Captain Hodgkins in 1892. The third portion of the eastern boundary is a straight line in the meridian of the tangent point extending from the so-called point of intersection to the latitude of the east-west boundary run by Mason and Dixon. The intersection point at the southern end of this meridian line, situated just south of the