

Maryland from West Virginia to Pennsylvania near the town of Hancock at a distance of a little more than two miles.

I, myself, very nearly was born a Virginian, and would have been, save for the fact that Maryland, after a long series of failures and frustrations, finally won a border dispute with Virginia, and the lower part of Somerset County, including the town of Crisfield, claimed by both states, was awarded to Maryland just 80 years ago.

I shall not recite here the long history of Maryland's border controversies with its neighbors, as interesting as it is to those of us who cherish its glorious past. Most of you know the details of that story as well, if not better, than I. It may be appropriate, however, to say just a word about that episode having to do with the establishment of the "Middle Point," since we are here today to dedicate a marker commemorating that event.

By a royal edict of 1685, the Maryland proprietary was forced to accept a division with William Penn of the land lying east of the Chesapeake Bay. And in 1732, Charles, the fifth Lord Baltimore, agreed, perhaps unwittingly, to a boundary adjustment under which a line would be drawn due west from Fenwick's Island to a point at the center of the peninsula, from which "Middle Point" the line would be extended in a northerly direction a point hitherto agreed upon near New Castle.

This agreement, as all the others had, produced new disputes, and when the surveyors, establishing their line from the Atlantic Ocean to the Chesapeake Bay to find the point halfway between, reached Slaughter Creek dividing Taylor's Island from the peninsular mainland, the question arose as to whether they had reached the bay or whether they should continue on the other side of the Island. This provoked another frenzied quarrel between the Calverts and the Penns, and once more the Calverts lost, with the result that the middle stone was placed where we know it stands today and Maryland surrendered some more of its land.

Many of the discussions between the contending parties, it is said, took place in the Chapel of Ease, which was the Taylor's Island branch of Old Trinity Church.

Since that time—more than 200 years ago—old wounds have healed and old animosities have been allayed. None of us today begrudges Pennsylvanians the territory they acquired, regardless of what we may think in retrospect of the means used by their forebearers to acquire it. We are happy that William Penn's "three lower counties" became our good neighbor, the State of Delaware, which was the first American state to ratify our Constitution. We no longer wish to revive the controversy