

Pennsylvania to Virginia which crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, stimulated the settlement of the territory.

The "temporary line" referred to in the founding of Washington County was a boundary of great importance to the inhabitants of northern Maryland as is evidenced by its use in defining Washington County eight years after the permanent Mason and Dixon line had been accepted. The "temporary line" was run *ex parte* by a group of Pennsylvania commissioners and surveyors who had started with the Maryland representatives to run a line which should serve as a boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania until their contending proprietors should come to some agreement resulting in a permanent boundary. This temporary line on the east side of the Susquehanna River was about a quarter of a mile south of the present boundary and west of the Susquehanna River an equal distance north of the present boundary. The original surveyors only ran the line to the top of South Mountain, the eastern limit of Washington County, and the westward extension of the line had been accepted by mutual consent. Thus it will appear that at the time Washington County was laid off its northern boundary was defined according to an unofficial, probably rather vaguely located, line when there really existed the recently surveyed and well-marked Mason and Dixon line which had been accepted by the respective proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland and approved by the Lord High Chancellor of England. One wonders whether the rather curious wording of the boundaries arose from ignorance, or patriotism which would disregard the acts of the English courts, or from a latent hope in the minds of the Marylanders that if they were successful in establishing a new confederation they might wrest this narrow strip and add it to the Maryland domain.

The original boundaries of the county remained in force but a few years. The success of the Revolutionary War and the issuing of the Revolutionary Grants for land in western Maryland, the prospective opening of the west and the increased security felt in that quarter stimulated settlement in the vicinity of Fort Cumberland where the distance from the County Court imposed a serious hardship on the new settlers. The new conditions led in 1789 to the erection of Allegany County out