

1773 the lands had been patented to the Pennsylvania line, although most of the settlements were still along the necks of the tidewater areas or extending along the streams and routes of travel across the Piedmont. Of the latter at this time there was the main road passing from Baltimore through Joppa to Elkton and branch roads from Abingdon to Stafford, Conowingo and Pennsylvania. There were numerous other routes of less importance branching off from the post road, such as that leading to Jarrettsville and Belair. About this time an east and west road through the northern part of the county was established.

According to the Acts of Assembly erecting Harford County it was ordered

That after the second day of March next all that part of Baltimore county which is included within the bounds following, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the little falls of the Gunpowder river, and running with the said falls to the fountain head, and from thence north to the temporary line of this province, and thence with the temporary line to Susquehanna river, thence with Susquehanna to Chesapeake bay, and thence with said bay, including Spesutie and Pool's islands, to the mouth of Gunpowder river to the beginning aforesaid shall be and is hereby erected into a new county, by the name of Harford county.

These are the limits of Harford County to-day with the exception of the northern boundary, which now follows the Mason and Dixon line and not the "temporary line" called for by the original Act. The use of this term in this place is of interest. The temporary line had been run as an *ex parte* line by the Pennsylvania commissioners in 1739. This line was to serve as a temporary boundary until the Penns and the Baltimores could come to a settlement regarding their controversy and have a permanent boundary marked. When Harford County was erected such a settlement had been reached and Messrs. Mason and Dixon had spent several years in this county surveying and marking the permanent line as it stands to-day. Their work was completed and they had returned to Europe five years prior to the erection of Harford County. It would, therefore, seem that the legislators had overlooked this fact for they could not have been ignorant of it after all the controversy, bitter feelings, and large amount of actual work involved in the establishment of the Mason and Dixon line. The fact that the tem-