

Annapolis Del<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Sir

Wm. A. Thomas

Governor of Maryland

Dear Sir:

agreeable to an understanding by and between the Commissioners on the part of the States of Pennsylvania Delaware and Maryland for regarding the North Eastern corner of this State at the point where Mason's and Dixon's line commences, and where the States of Pennsylvania and Delaware join each other, we held our first meeting at the Town of Wilmington in the State of Delaware on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of Oct. After examining the laws of our respective States authorizing our Commission, the Commissioners on the part of Delaware and Maryland considered themselves authorized to Co-operate in the re-fixing of the boundary not only of the point where the three States join each other, which is supposed to be the Gaugwitz Point but from a circle the N. E. corner of this State and to see the beginning of Mason's and Dixon's line, where perhaps it will be found that the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland join each other; ascertaining that many of the original States were removed or lost and that becoming accurate in our proceedings would probably require some ten days of field and other labor and involve many intricate mathematical problems and calculations in which our predecessors eighty odd years ago were assisted by many experienced surveyors and finally by those distinguished mathematicians Messrs. Mason and Dixon, we determined to adjourn, when each of us required to appeal to our respective Governors, asking his application to the Secretary at War of the United States for the services of such experienced engineer as will give confidence to our work to meet us at New Castle in the State of Delaware on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov. next.

Without intending to encroach on the public service to be performed by the War Department, we expressed among ourselves a preference for Col. George W. Hughes, whose services and industry we cannot otherwise command and would probably complete and prove our labors in the course of ten days or less from that time.

I permit me to add that in the mean time a conference will be had between the Commissioner on the part of the State of Pennsylvania and his Governor, that will so far remove his dependencies as will insure a prompt and efficient Co-operation for the accomplishment of the whole purposes of our respective States.

I return to the Executive Chamber the papers entrusted to me from my instructions and have explained to the Secretary of State, some of my wants in the shape of copied or printed maps which under your advice he will prepare with such additions and instructions as may be deemed necessary by your Excellency, particularly all the actions of Mason & Dixon relative to the circle of which New Castle is the centre of the radius, and the Gaugwitz spot where the Perpendicular line to the line taken a due north course to the intersection or beginning of Mason's and Dixon's line, the results are laid down in the first vol. of McMechanic's book of Maryland and will from the following instructions (not yet prepared or agreed upon) to such Engineer as may be furnished for our assistance, requesting the absence of your Excellency from the seat of government for the sake of a more rapid and conference

I am Dear Sir your Excellency's  
 Wm. A. Thomas  
 L. G. Key