

C. S. Looking to the probability that our next meeting may close our labour and preclude the necessity of another meeting to refer the States, we have ordered them into preparation - one to be square with the letters of M. & P. as they designate the North eastern boundary of our State & Pennsylvania, the other triangular with the letters of M. P. & D. on the sides of our respective States for the place where the three States join each other & both so improved with our names as may designate who put them down, & then for what purpose.

20th Nov 1849

State Department

Annapolis Md Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1849

Sir:

Under the Authority of resolutions passed respectively by the Legislatures of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware, Commissioners have been appointed by each of these States for the purpose of ascertaining the location of the beginning boundary of "Mason's and Dixon's line" now lost or removed and for re-setting a suitable stone or monument at the corner where the three States are supposed to join each other. The Commissioners have recently held a preliminary meeting at Wilmington in Delaware, and have ascertained, that in the discharge of the duty assigned them, the services of a skilful and scientific surveyor will be required. They accordingly determined to adjourn until Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November next, and in the mean time to request the Executive of each of the States interested in the matter to address an application to the War Department asking that an experienced officer of the Engineer Corps, furnished with the necessary instruments, may be permitted to perform the service above indicated, and expressing a preference for Col. George M. Hughes. In obedience to the resolution of the Commissioners and in view of the importance of the subject to the States concerned, I have the honor to request that, if not incompatible with the arrangements of the government, you will authorize Col. Hughes or some other officer of the Corps of Engineers, provided with the proper instruments, to engage in the service of the Commissioners. It is supposed that not more than ten days or two weeks will be consumed in the necessary surveys, and of course, the States interested will make provision for paying all costs. As but a short time remains for making the required arrangements, I shall be pleased to receive a reply at as early a period as your engagements will permit.

I have the honor to be  
with great respect  
your obt servant  
Philip S. Thomas

Am  
The Secretary of War