

# STATE BOUNDARY LINES AT FAULT

Errors Run From Hundreds of Acres to Many Square Miles.

Washington, D. C.—Work recently begun to check up the condition of monuments marking the straight line boundary between New York and Pennsylvania, and to find how far the line varies from its proper position, brings to attention only one of the scores of 'boundary skeletons' in the national closet," says a bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"It is probably safe to say that not one of the forty-eight states is now administering exactly the territory which supposedly belongs to it," continues the bulletin. "In some cases the differences are only matters of hundreds or thousands of acres, but in others they must be measured by hundreds of square miles. These faulty boundaries are for the most part accepted now, especially in the states longest settled; but the agreements have not all been reached quietly. There have been scores of disputes between neighboring states and territories, dozens of lawsuits have been brought before the Supreme court, and in one or two cases bitterness has been so great that civil war has seemed on the verge of breaking out.

"The chief difficulty is in drawing straight lines. Anyone can draw a straight line on a piece of paper. He can construct a reasonably straight edged flower bed or driveway. But try to lay out a straight line some miles or hundreds of miles long on the face of the earth, over hill and dale, valley and mountain, and you are faced by a vastly more difficult problem.

"Many of the supposedly east and west lines between the colonies, later inherited as boundaries by the states, were laid out with no other instrument than the magnetic compass. The direction in which the needle pointed varied as the surveyor advanced; but in some cases no account was taken of this, and in others inaccurate corrections were applied. The lines, instead of being straight and running in a true east and west direction, were traced somewhat like rail fences between their terminal points, or struck off from the true direction at an angle and had to be brought back at intervals by offsets.

**Plumb Lines Cause Errors.**  
"Later when better instruments, astronomical methods, and higher mathematics were used the errors in running boundary lines were greatly reduced. An absolutely accurate line hundreds of miles long through rough country has never yet been marked out on the earth's surface, however, and probably never will be—chiefly because surveying instruments depend on plumb line or spirit level to establish perpendiculars, and these indicators vary with differences in density of the rocks from place to place. The closest approach to accuracy has been made by the 'triangulation system' which the United States coast and geodetic survey has extended over a great part of the United States. Errors still crop up, but they are almost negligible. It is this triangulation system which has disclosed many of the rather glaring inaccuracies of the earlier boundary surveys.

"A number of boundary difficulties have arisen because of mistakes in geography. Thus the first boundary

between Great Britain and the United States in 1782 provided that the northern boundary of the United States should run from Lake of the Woods 'on a due west course to the river Mississippi—a physical impossibility. This error had to be adjusted later but the tiny projection of United States territory into Canada at the 85th meridian—like the sight on a rifle barrel—is a monument to the mistake.

"Another error that led to trouble was the belief that an east-west line through the southern extremity of Lake Michigan would cut Lake Erie at or north of the latter's western end. The extension of Indiana and Ohio several miles north of this old east-west line testifies to the correction that had to be made. The shifting of the Ohio line north, incidentally, was one of the boundary matters that came near causing civil war. Militia from both Ohio and Michigan were mobilized near the disputed territory in 1835 and bloodshed was avoided by the narrowest margin.

"One of the most peculiar state boundaries in the United States is the northern line of Delaware, which is the arc of a circle nicked out of the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania. Laying out the Delaware boundaries was a rather difficult problem in geometry and surveying combined. While the north line is an arc of a circle drawn from the center of the town of Newcastle with a twelve mile radius, the west line is in the main a tangent to the circle from the midpoint of a base line in the south between the Atlantic ocean and Chesapeake bay.

**Mason and Dixon Line.**  
"No boundary line is more famous than the 'Mason and Dixon line' which divides the North and the South. It is the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and the northern boundary of Maryland. It takes its name from Jeremiah Mason and Charles Dixon, two famous mathematicians sent from England to survey the boundary. The line established by Mason and Dixon

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To William (Bill) Jordan, whose place of residence is unknown, and upon whom personal service of summons cannot be made, defendant. Take notice that on the 20th day of June, 1925, Ella Jordan, filed petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, Doc. 221 No. 149. The object and prayer of it is to obtain absolute divorce from you. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 21st day of December, 1925.  
Per W. G. MORGAN,  
4t-10-23-25 Her Attorney.

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Notice is hereby given: That the creditors of said deceased will meet the administrator of said estate, before me, County Judge of Douglas County, Nebraska, at the County Court Room, in said County, on the 20th day of November, 1925, and on the 20th day of January, 1926, at 9 o'clock A. M., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Three months are allowed for the creditors to present their claims, from the 17th day of October, 1925.  
BRYCE CRAWFORD,  
4t-9-11-25 County Judge.

**ED. F. MOREARTY**  
Attorney-at-Law  
700 Peters Trust Building  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
To Horace S. Adkins, Non-resident Defendant:  
You are hereby notified that Elizabeth J. W. Adkins, your wife, the plaintiff, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 5th day of May, 1925, to obtain an absolute divorce from you on the grounds of non-support and desertion and for the care and custody of their minor children.  
You are required to answer said petition on or before November 7th, 1925.  
ELIZABETH J. W. ADKINS.  
4t-10-9-25

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