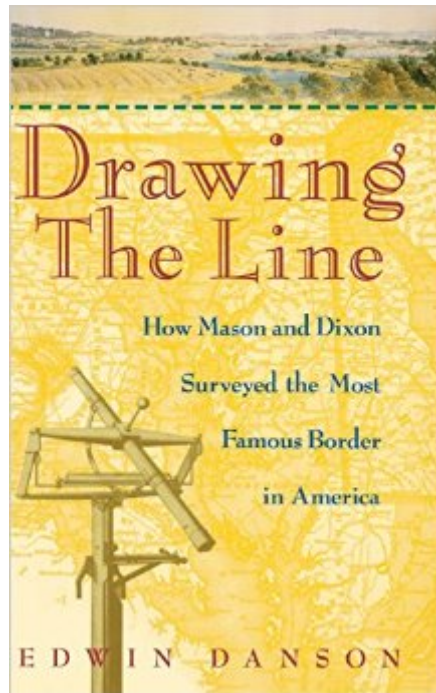


The book was found

Drawing The Line : How Mason And Dixon Surveyed The Most Famous Border In America



Synopsis

THE FIRST POPULAR HISTORY OF THE MAKING OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE The Mason-Dixon line—surely the most famous surveyors' line ever drawn—represents one of the greatest and most difficult scientific achievements of its time. But behind this significant triumph is a thrilling story, one that has thus far eluded both historians and surveyors. In this engrossing narrative, professional surveyor Edwin Danson takes us on a fascinating journey with Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two gifted and exuberant English surveyors, through the fields and forests of eighteenth-century America. Vividly describing life in the backwoods and the hardships and dangers of frontier surveying, *Drawing the Line* discloses for the first time in 250 years many hitherto unknown surveying methods, revealing how Mason and Dixon succeeded where the best American surveyors of the period failed. In accessible, ordinary language, Danson masterfully throws the first clear light on the surveying of the Mason-Dixon line. Set in the social and historical context of pre-Revolutionary America, this book is a spellbinding account of one of the great and historic achievements of its time. **Advance Praise for *Drawing the Line*** "Drawing the Line combines a fast-moving story, a human drama, and a clear account of surveying in the era of George Washington. An intriguing interaction of politics and science."—CHARLES ROYSTER, Boyd Professor of History, Louisiana State University, and Winner of the Bancroft Prize in History

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (December 8, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0471385026

ISBN-13: 978-0471385028

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #454,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Surveying & Photogrammetry](#) #374 in [Books > Textbooks > Engineering > Civil Engineering](#) #497 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > History](#)

Customer Reviews

A few years ago, I was kidding around with a high school senior in our school library in northern

Illinois, and I quipped, "Well, as Mason said to Dixon, you've got to draw the line somewhere." I expected at least a chuckle in return. The student, academically rated in the top 10% of his class, stared blankly back at me. "Mason and Dixon?" I asked. Nothing. "The Mason-Dixon Line?" Nada. "The border between Pennsylvania and Maryland? The boundary between The North and The South? The whole premise behind the Civil War?" Nope. He had never heard of it. The Line, I mean; of course, he knew about the Civil War. Maybe I took it for granted, since I grew up in a suburb about 25 miles north of the Line, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Line was there, but nobody made a big deal about it. I don't recall being taught anything about it, myself. I made a mental note to someday rectify that omission. When Thomas Pynchon's *Mason & Dixon* was released, I was ready and interested. Ready and interested, that is, until I spied a copy in a bookstore, randomly opened it, and tried to actually read and understand the words on that single page. Hmmm. I returned the book to its display and allowed it to entice another potential buyer. As soon as Danson's book came out, I was ready and interested in the subject matter once again. And I believe I made the right choice with this one. There's A LOT of trigonometry and technical information in parts, and all of the math teachers in my past wouldn't be a bit surprised that I sort of skimmed over those paragraphs. But the extent of the politics and 18th-century science involved is intriguing.

No matter what you learned or didn't learn at school about Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon and the famous line(s) they drew. It's quite likely that no-one ever explained to you the how and the why of what Mason & Dixon did and how they achieved it and more to the point, just how extremely difficult and time consuming their task was in the 1760's. To put their achievements in perspective. Then, it was probably the modern equivalent of putting a man on the moon - without a global audience. Nowadays with modern clocks and Global Positioning satellite systems and the inclination to do so, we could do in a few days what took Mason & Dixon nearly 5 years to complete. This book makes a good attempt to cover the how and why. It gives a lot of the back story and related history that covers the original granting by English royalty of grants of land that would eventually become the US states of Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland and why the vague and incorrect nature of these original grants caused the boundary disputes between these colonies. The book also briefly covers what Mason & Dixon did to become the right people in the right place for this surveying job. Then it covers what & some of the how, Mason & Dixon did in the actual survey and boundary determination process and also what they did separately and sometimes together during the cold winters between the surveying 'seasons' when it was too cold to continue surveying which gives some flavour of the times shortly before America declared independence - most of this comes from

the Journal that Mason kept, which is now preserved in the US National Archives having been lost for many years after the War of Independence.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Drawing the Line : How Mason and Dixon Surveyed the Most Famous Border in America Mason Jar Meals: Quick, Easy & Healthy Mason Jar Meal Recipes For Busy People: Cooking For One with Meals In A Jar (mason jar, mason jar recipes, mason ... jar recipes, jar meals, mason jar salads) MASON JAR MEALS: 50 Best Mason Jar Recipes Easy and Delicious Meals in Jar (Mason Jars, Mason Jar Salads) Pots and Jars Box Set (5 in 1): Great Mason Jar Meals and Projects, One Pot Recipes to Release Your Creative Side (Mason Jar & One Pot Recipes) MASON JAR RECIPES BOOK SET 5 book in 1: Meals in Jars (vol.1); Salads in Jars (Vol. 2); Desserts in Jars (Vol. 3); Breakfasts in Jars (Vol. 4); Gifts in Jars (Vol. 5): Easy Mason Jar Recipe Cookbooks Survival Cookbook: 20 Delicious Prepping Recipes In Mason Jar: (Prepper's Guide, Prepper's Cookbook) (Mason Jar Recipes) The Second Life of Nick Mason (A Nick Mason Novel) DIY Projects Box Set: 25 Simple Ways to Cut Your Spending. Tips and Techniques to Create Indoor Garden Plus Drawing and Zendoodle Basic Lessons (frugal living, Indoor Gardening, drawing lessons) By Carol Dixon Hatrick - Dental Materials: Clinical Applications for Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists: 2nd (second) Edition Metis and the Medicine Line: Creating a Border and Dividing a People (The David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History) As the Crow Flies (The DI Nick Dixon Crime Series) A Line in the Sea: The Qatar v. Bahrain Border Dispute in the World Court Machine Interpretation of Line Drawing Images: Technical Drawings, Maps and Diagrams Twisted Sisters 2 : Drawing the Line 21 Famous Portuguese Dessert Recipes -Made Quick and Easy- Portuguese food - Portuguese cuisine- Portuguese Recipes: World Famous Recipes Made Quick and Easy How to Get Famous on YouTube: An Essential Guide for Getting Discovered, Gaining Popularity, and Becoming Famous LÃ chow's German Cookbook - The Story and the Favorite Dishes of America's Most Famous German Restaurant Tycoon's War: How Cornelius Vanderbilt Invaded a Country to Overthrow America's Most Famous Military Adventurer The Beckham Experiment: How the World's Most Famous Athlete Tried to Conquer America John Muir Trail: The Essential Guide to Hiking America's Most Famous Trail

[Dmca](#)