PENN versus BALTIMORE.

JOURNAL OF JOHN WATSON, ASSISTANT SURVEYOR TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA, DECEMBER 13–MARCH 18, 1750/51.

BY JOHN W. JORDAN

The failure of the Commissioners for the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, who met in New Castle, on Delaware, in November of 1750, to agree whether the twelve miles from the centre of the circle was to be a radius or the periphery, and also as to the location of Cape Henlopen, from which the east and west line across the peninsula was to be run under the deed of 1732, adjourned to meet at Cape Henlopen, on April 22, 1751. This deed stipulates in effect, for a line due west from Cape Henlopen across the peninsula, whose centre another line should be drawn tangent to a circle twelve miles from New Castle, while a meridian from the tangent point should be continued to within fifteen miles from Philadelphia, whence should be traced the parallel of latitude westward that was to divide the Provinces. Should the meridian cut a segment from the circle, the segment was to be a part of New Castle county. This parallel of latitude is the Mason and Dixon line of history. It may here also be stated, that
the Cape Henlopen referred to is not the point now known as such opposite to Cape May, but the point where the states of Delaware and Maryland now abut together on the ocean, marked Fenwick Island, about fifteen miles southward of the present Cape Henlopen.

William Parsons and John Watson were appointed surveyors for the Penns, and John Emory and Thomas Jones for Lord Baltimore, who were directed to proceed with all convenient dispatch to Cape Henlopen and commence the survey at a point on Fenwick Island as shall be pointed out by Ryves Holt or Benjamin Chew and Robert Jenkins Henry. They met there on December 20, 1750, and after they had arranged preliminaries, proceeded to run the east and west line across the peninsula.

On Monday, April 22, 1751, the Commissioners pursuant to adjournment, assembled near Fenwick Island; representing the Penns were William Allen, Richard Peters, Benjamin Chew, Ryves Holt and Tench Francis, and for Lord Baltimore, Benedict Calvert, Robert J. Henry and George Plater. The following day the latter were joined by their associates, Edmund Jennings and John Ross, and all "went over to Fenwick Island in order to discover the Cape."

On Wednesday, April 24th, the Commissioners on behalf of the Penns, submitted in writing their opinion as to the true location of Cape Henlopen—"that the ancient Cape Henlopen was on some part of Fenwick Island," and that the line should be run from the middle of that island. The Commissioners for Lord Baltimore disagreed with their conclusions, but on April 26th, the joint Commission agreed that the line was to begin and run due west from a point on the verge of the main ocean, where a stone was placed. On Monday, April 29th, owing to the difficulties which the surveyors encountered as they approached Chesapeake Bay, which delayed their work, the Commissioners
agreed to adjourn to give them additional time to run the line. The Secretary’s minute reads as follows:

“The Line being now extended near to large Morasses at the head of Pocomoke River, which on the best Intelligence the Commissioners can receive from the Neighbours, are near thirty miles in Length, and ten in Breadth, and are covered with Waters of great Depth, fallen Trees of a great Size lying upon one another and other Obstructions which must be removed, and these Morasses can be passed only by men Fording on Foot, and that beyond these there are others on the Waters of Nanticoke and other Waters before the Line can come to Chesapeake Bay, so that the Progress of the Surveyors through those Morasses must be extremely slow and tedious, and it will take up, as we are told, at least six weeks to finish the Line. In order therefore to allow sufficient time for that Purpose the Commissioners do adjourn to the House of the Widow Pollard in Dorchester County in the Province of Maryland on the fourteenth day of June next.” Here, after a conference of three days, they adjourned to meet in New Castle October 7, following.

The ancestors of John Watson, the surveyor, who came to Pennsylvania, were Thomas Watson, a malster of Cumberland, and his wife, Eleanor Pearson, of Yorkshire, England, and being Quakers their certificate of removal is dated Pardsey Cragg, Cumberland, 23d 7mo., 1701. With their sons, Thomas and John, they first settled at a place called “Honey Hill,” near Bristol, Bucks county, and finally about 1704, on a tract of 450 acres in Buckingham township. The emigrant was a man of considerable intelligence, and after establishing himself in Buckingham, turned his attention to medicine and built up a large practice; he was also interested in the education of the Indians. His son Thomas died in middle age, leaving several children who died young, with the exception of John,
later the surveyor, and a daughter Sarah, who married a Lewis.

John Watson, born in 1720, was given all the advantages that the local schools afforded, and finished his education at the well-known academy of Jacob Taylor in Philadelphia, where he developed great aptitude in mathematics. After qualifying himself for the profession of a surveyor, his energy and ability gained him an extensive practice both general and local. He was appointed by Surveyor General Scull Deputy Surveyor for Bucks county; at the suggestion of Franklin, he was appointed Secretary to Governor Morris while in attendance at the Indian Treaty of 1756, held at Easton, and in 1760, John Penn offered him the position of Surveyor General of the Province, which he declined. He is described as being a tall, heavy man, unattractive in appearance and dress, and among his peculiarities he had a fondness for going about barefooted in summer, but while surveying, wearing uncommonly thick boots, and a very great aversion to rattlesnakes, from the bite of one his father had died. He was also given to writing and speaking in verse. On one occasion, a man who had been arrested for stealing a halter, begged him to defend him, and although the evidence was positive against his client, he secured his acquittal through his appeal to the jury in impromptu verse.

In 1750 John Watson was appointed one of the two surveyors to the Commissioners for the Penns, in the efforts that had been carried on for some years to adjust the boundary lines between the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, in which service he continued to his death. Two of his journals preserved in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania contain much valuable data—one in connection with the attempt to determine the twelve-mile circle at New Castle, and the other in running the east and west boundary lines from Cape
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Henlopen, Delaware. The first has been printed in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, October, 1914, the other follows this introduction.

It was while engaged in some survey work for the Commissioners, in the summer of 1761, that he contracted the influenza. He caught a severe cold on a very warm day towards the end of June, and such was his anxiety to return home for medical treatment that he ceased work and rode sixty miles on horseback in one day, but was able to reach the home of William Blackfan, in Solebury township, to whose daughter Hannah he was engaged, where he died on July 3d, and was buried at Buckingham Meeting House. The long and enervating ride, in his enfeebled condition, hastened his death. The following abstracts are from his will, dated 11mo. 8th, 1760: I, John Watson, of Buckingham, surveyor, being about to set forth on a journey to New Castle, on Delaware, to meet the Commissioners to settle the lines between the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland . . . gives £250 to Hannah, daughter of William Blackfan, of Solebury. . . .

The Pennsylvania Gazette of July 9, 1761, contains the follow obituary notice:

"Last Friday, died of an inflammatory and malignant Disorder, Mr. John Watson, of Bucks County, principal Surveyor on the Part of this Province, in running the Division lines between us and Maryland. He was a Man of unbiased Integrity, great Penetration, and singular Depth of Thought. He did not content himself to a bare superficial Knowledge of the practical Part of his Profession, but had closely studied the Principles on which it is founded, even up to the Higher Geometry, and most useful Branches of Astronomy. As a Surveyor, he has left, perhaps, but few Equals in this Part of the World; and his Death is justly regretted by all who had the Happiness of his
Acquaintance, as a Loss to his Friends, to his Country, and to Men of Learning.'”

I am indebted to the courtesy and researches of Hon. Henry C. Conrad, jurist and historian of Delaware, for the following biographical notes of Chief Justice Ryves Holt, of the “Three Lower Counties,” whose activities so often appear on the minutes of the Commissioners at the Conferences at New Castle and Cape Henlopen and in the journals of Surveyor Watson.

Ryves Holt, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth Holt of Philadelphia, was born about the year 1696. On February 7, 1717, he was married at Christ P. E. Church to Katherine Roch, and it is believed that a few years later removed to Lewes, Delaware, where in August of 1723, he purchased the property where he lived to his death. A man of ability and integrity he administered public offices as a public trust, and won and held the esteem and confidence of those who entrusted him with power. It has not been ascertained with whom he read law or when admitted to practice before the courts. In 1724, he was commissioned High Sheriff of Sussex County; later appointed Collector of the Public Levy for Lewes, Rehoboth and Indian River Hundreds; a Justice of the Peace, and Overseer of the Highways of Lewes and Rehoboth Hundreds. In 1733, he was the King’s attorney for Sussex County, and for two years at least Clerk and Prothonotary of the Courts, and from 1738 to 1747, served as Speaker of the Council. On October 26, 1745, he was commissioned by Gov. George Thomas, Chief Justice for the “Three Lower Counties.” In 1750, he was appointed one of the seven Commissioners on behalf of the Penns, to determine the boundary line between the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland. From 1756 to 1758 he served as Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia Battalion of Sussex County. He died May 8, 1763. The judiciary and members of the Delaware Bar in De-
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cember of 1913, erected a memorial tablet to his useful and honorable life in St. Peter's P. E. Church, Lewes, of which he had been a devout and liberal member for forty years.

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December 13th [1750] @ 2 ho P. M. 5th Day.

Set from home in Company with Edward Rice & my Friend John Chapman who rode with me over Ne-shameny Creek, to accompany me on my Journey; call'd at Ja*' Ratcliffs and got a Dram 4d rode to Baldwin's & fed our Creatures, 5d, lodged all night at Benj* Armitage's with Edward Rice. Rained heavily all night paid for lodging, Horse &c 2/.

14th 6th Day.

Came to philad* abt 9 in the morning, paid Stephen Potts for bind* my Book of Logarithms 2/, rec* of Wm Coleman for his Survey in New Brittan 24/. bought of David Hall Ward's Mathematics 13/ for Paul Preston & Boad's Mathematics for my self, price 6/.; a pen-knife at Strickland's, 9d & £ Quire paper 1/ at Halls', an ounce of Wafers 6d, at the same place bought a riding Whip cost me 5/6, received of my Friend Israel Pemberton for his Survey made by me at Cold Spring 30/._—rained a little this morning but cleared up abt 8 & was a pleasant Day for the Season.

Decemb' 15th 1750, 7th

Expences at Philad* 6/4. reacht Chester @ ab*. ½ h*.

16th First Day

Lodged last night at one Prices at Christeen Ferry, Expences there 4/10, set out for New Castle ½ ho after
November, reaeh'd New Castle at 1 o'Clock P. M. dined at Bogg's in Company with my Companion Wm. Parsons who past over Christeen about Nine. Expenses @ Bogg's in the Whole 12/9. set out after Dinner from New Castle at about 1½ ho after 3 & came to Saint Georges @ ab't ¼ after 5, where we took lodging at one Goodwin's. The Road, Land and Weather from New Castle to this place level rich & pleasant; wth this part of my Journey I was much delighted.

17th 2nd Day.

This Morning rose early and was surprised to see the Great Number of Water Fowl haunting the Mill Dam in this Town and their Tameness was extraordinary.

Our Reoning @ Goodwin's 15/. @ Apoquinomy 1/6 @ Sals 6/. Dinners &c. Set out from Goodwin's @ 40' after 8 reaeh't Apoquinomy @ ab't 40' after 10 came to Salsbury ab't 1., where we Dined and came to B. Chew's ab't 4, took up our Lodging in Dover @ the Golden Fleece. Expenses @ Dover 17/, askt Mr. Chew to sup wth us.

18th 3rd Day.

At Breakfast and Dan' Robinson's 3/3 at Sam' Davis's Our Dinners &c. 5/9. came to Lewis Town at about 7 in the Evening the Land exceeding level and for the most part very well timbered and almost every swamp set with Holly some of which, particularly at the Murther Kill; and at the three Runs, there was some ten or 12 Inches thro'. this Day was fair as was every Day since I left Philad'a.

19th 4th Day.

At One Nounas in Lewis Town 40/. @ R. [torn] 4/6. this Day we dined at Lewis at about 1 & set forward immediately after for the Cape, rode ab't 22 miles and came to Blackfoot Town some time in the Evening
where we lodged some at one Carters an Inkeeper & one Reads a private House. Our Expences in this place paid by Chief justice Holt. amount of The way from Lewis to Blackfoot was chiefly thro Barren Grounds; the Weather very fine; this Day much afflicted with a pain in my Bowels and somewt of a Dissentery attend it.

20th 5th Day.
This morng Bros Parsons, Shankland & myself set out for the Cape early where we arrived abt Noon, & found the Maryland Gentlemen & Surveyors on Fen, [Fenwick] Island but soon left it the Weather being very Stormey and our Commissioner Holt having stayed where we Lodged last night at one Carters, where therefore directly proceeded to search out some Lodging which we found at Dr Pikes, a most worthy Gentleman who entertained us very Hospitably & elegantly. in this Days Journey wth was thro the Rain the land not very good, and the Swamps beautified wth holly some of wth were 20 Inches over at the least.

21st 6th Day.
This Day also very tempestuous, & a little after 12 at Noon the Tide rose to a very great Hight so that the event of the High Water about Midnight was much feared by the Settlers in these parts; and became the subject of Conversation in the Interim. at about 10 in the Evening the Water began to come very plentifully into the Garden adjoining the House. We all sat up expecting the Event when abt Midnight the Waters came to their Highth and closely environed the House on every side—but soon began to subside.

December 22nd 6th Day.
The appearance of this Inundation occasioned by a very stiff Gale of Wind from the North East & wth was
surprising to the Settlers in these parts, persons acquainted with things of this Nature, was very shocking to many who were here & had not only never seen but never heard of such a Thing. for my own part I was very easie in my Mind in all Respects but that of Our Creatures w° were (as I apprehended) in very eminent Danger; & indeed so they were for the Waters proved fatal to many at this Time as is common in such Cases. the Settlers of any considerable Estates often losing 20 or 30 of their Cattle thereby and as is supposed will be the Circumstance at this Time, and as the raising of Cattle is a very main Article w° these people, and their Lives wholly at the Mercy of the Winds! tho’ the Lands are level, arable, fit & pleasant to till, & the Marshes affording excellent pasture for Creatures almost all the Year when the Ground is free from Snow. Yet it seems a very disagreeable hazzardous place of abode.

22d December 1750. 7th Day.

This morning (tho mercy) the Waters were much abated but the Storm continued from the N.E. tho not altogether so vehement as Yesterday. about 10 the Weather turned to Snow, and continues snowing: we have received the news of the loss of divers Creatures by this Storm. This morning the Maryland Surveyors paid us a Visit and Emory an elderly Gentlemen, one of them, concluded to stay with us.

Decemb 23d 1st Day.

This Morning the Snow was abated a little as well as the Waters and towards 12 it left off but the Air Remained cloudy till Bedtime tho the Sun shone out a few Min. near the Setting, and some Stars appeared. This day was chiefly spent in Reading and Coll: Henry in the Forenoon read three Chapters in the Bible, a most excellent Reader.
Decembris 24th 2d Day.

This morning being very clear and Chief Justice Holt, our Commissioner, not yet come Wm Parsons Esq'r & Wm Shankland Esq'r set out pretty early to Carters in Order to conduct him here.

Soon after I procured my self a Gun and went out in Order to shoot some Fowl, & shot a Bird called a Curlew as I conceive from the Noise which they make when affrighted, This Day the Waters fell fast, and we had an Acco' of one persons loosing 9 Horses. In the Evening Emory and myself endeavoured to find the Variation of the Needle, but was deprived of a very accurate observation by the Interposition of Clouds about the Time of Observation. The young Maryland Gentlemen paid us a Visit this Evening. A fine Day throughout. I forgot to note in my notes of the 21st Instant, that about 8 in the Evening going out to observe the rising of the Waters, at about 40 yards Distance from the House, I saw floating on the Waves the appearance of a Ball of Fire of about 4 Inches Diameter which glowed like a Bar of hot Iron & lookt of a redish Colour, this appearance (w'ch it seems is not very uncommon in Storms) they call a Corpusant.

25th December 3d Day.

This morning Jnº Emory & myself went out to the meridian Drawn last night, & by Emory (or at least by the Instrument brought by him) we found the variation 3° 20' West. The air pretty clear and cool, but not unlike for Rain to morrow. We also by Turning the Different Ends of the Instrument North found the Difference about 40' Minutes, the mean of which being taken makes the Variation 3° 30'. As the ☉ came to the Meridian we took the Altitude thereof and found the same by Jnº Emory's Brass Quad' of 12 Inches Radius 29° exactly at w'ch Time the ☉ Declination was 22° 42 and the Lat' by Consequence 38° 18, by
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Newhouse’s tables. At the same Time observed the variation and found it to agree with the observation made this Morning.

At about ½ ho. after 2, the Chief Justice Holt, Jacob Collock and Wm Parsons arived at Dr Pikes. With Wm Parsons’s Theodolite and some Provisions.

This Forenoon Col Henry undertook part of the Character of one of the Maryland Parsons & one of no small learning nither. It seems one of the Parson’s Daughters was made suit to by a Country Gentleman of some considerable Estate & a person enquiring of the Parson if the Match was likely to be concluded between them? The parson replyed he knew not but that they commonly lodged together.

The Col likewise informed the Company that the parson came one Day to hear Mr. Whitfield, and after Service resolved to Dine wth him for sake of having some Conversation, & accordingly mounted himself upon a small Creature wth a Sheep Skin instead of a Saddle, his Shirt Tail hanging out of his Breeches, and rode after him, &c.

In the Evening care was taken to have a Canoe ready for carry the Com to Fenwicks’s (otherwise called Phoenix’s) Island early to morrow Morning. Esq Shankland was expected this Evening but not returned. This afternoon grew Cloudy and very likely to rain tomorrow. To Day we had a further acco of the Loss of Creatures in the late Storm & particularly about Lewis Town—we have news of some One person’s loosing 20 Head of Cattle & upwards. This acco of the loss of Creat was further confirmed by Esq Shankland who returned from Lewis later than was expected and brought wth him Divers small articles for the use of the Expedition.

26th

This morning a very Stormy one, rained hard and the Wind South Easterly. by a Pilot who came wth Esq
Shankland, this morning was dispatched a Lett' to Alexr Read ordering him to fetch our Stores from Lewis Town to Dr. Pikes, who lives near Assawamon Creek.

This Day the Storm continued throughout. employed in reading & a small Calculation of the Latitude of a great Circle Drawn at Right angles to the Meridian in the Latitude of 38° 22' N at one Degress Difference of Longitude which I found to be 38° 21' 44" 46" Differen from a parralel of Latitude 74 per & 8 Links.

This Day the Commissioners remained within all the Day & indeed it was impracticable to go out, the Storm from the S. East and South was so great. W. Parsons paid for Copying Letters &c., 5/.

27th Decemb' 5th Day 1750.

This morning at about Nine the Commr hastened to go to Fenwick's Island, where they came about 10, and directly proceeded to Business.

And after some Time spent in viewing said Island the Commissioners agreed that the Surveyors employed on both sides should proceed to Begin to run a West Line across the peninsula to Chesapeake Bay, Beginning at a cedar Post standing on the northermost part of said Island near to the smallest of 4 Mulberry Trees growing near together. This agreem' was indorsed on the Copys of the Minit Directing our Meeting & signed by the Commis' and immediately Col. Henry proceeded to his Habitation & our Com' to Dr Pikes.

After their Departure the surveyors put themselves in all possible Readiness for taking a Meridian this Evening. But as Alioth at this Season transits the Meridian very early we were unable to adjust our plummets before his Transit & therefore were obliged to retire to our Lodging without compleating this necessary piece of Service.
This Morning I arose about 4 °Clook in Ord to find the Variation by the Transit of the Star in the Hip of Casiopeia but the Horizon was Clouded.

About nine Rives Holt & Ja. Collock Esq. Departed for Lewis Town & the Surveyors to the Island, & endeavoured from w' we observed last Night to fix a Meridian But just at the Transit of Alioth Our Candle in the Lanthorn began to burn very dim & soon after went out w' will occasion yet further Trouble.

In the morning Wm Parson wrote a Lett' to Secretary Peters to advise him of our proceed' thus far. Upon the Beach we found to Day a very extraordinary Fish of about two feet in Length and ab'ut one in Breadth. The Head and Body of which make about 3/5 of the whole Length of a black Back and white Belly like a Cat Fish, and a mouth (set w' a Double Row of Teeth) almost as wide as his Body. the Tail whereof was not much unlike that of a Cat Fish: the Eyes were set pretty far Back & it had two Broad Feet put forth just at the Root of the Tail and two more with Toes on under the Belly. The like of this Fish had not been seen by any of the Inhabitants in these parts & therefore it must want a name.

This Day one of Our Surveyors, Jno Emory, described to me the method of making wafers w' was after this manner: Mix a little fine flour w' water so as to make a thin Paste, then couler it w' a few Grains of Vermilion mixt therein, then drop a few drops severally on the face of an hot Smoothing Iron and lay ansy' therein & every drop will be formed into a Wafer.

This morning was spent in making Notes read' &c.; a little after Noon the weather being extream cold we proceeded to Fenwick's Island to fix a Meridian & in Order thereto set up frames on the Beach extend' 4
or 5 perches from East to West to Hang our Plummets on. Then watcht the appearance of the Stars with the utmost Circumspection when (as ill Fate would have it) one of the posts of our Frames happened to stand in the place where it seemed necessary to hang the Plumet & before it could be moved & set up in another Place (which took some Time the Beach being hard frozen) Alioth appeared past the Meridian & should we fail of taking it tomorrow Night (Sunday as it will be) the Time will be past for taking it this Season on this Method.

This Day extream cold & serene throughout.

On the 28th one John Bowden came to us upon Fenwick's Island, and In Respect of the Cedar post from w° the Surveyors were Directed to extend the West Line, he said that his father was Dweller on the Island. That he himself well Remembred His Father upwards of 20 years since sat up Two posts near the Mulberry Trees to Nail a Board against for making Drum lines. That there was no post stand there before, and that, That which is now stand was set up as aforesaid. He said he also well remembred the Time when the East side of the Island was timbred and reacht much Farther Eastw into the Marsh than it now does.

Decemb 30th 1st Day.

This Day in the Forenoon spent in read the Scriptures and hearing them read.

In the Evening (the necessity of the Case requiring it) Wm Parsons, Jn° Emory, his Son & myself who had attended at every observation made heretofore for find a meridian (but Wm Jones who was present at all but this & that made last night was away) we (I say) went to Fenwick's Island & observed very curiously the Transit of Alioth but wch happened so early that he was scarcely Visible before we saw him past, but so little that we were well assured. That in the Distance
of Our Stations wth was 146 per 9 Links we did not vary more than an Inch, and as so small a variation in so large a Distance is imperceptible to any Instrument we had to use, concluded a meridian found sufficiently exact for settling the variation of the Needle. This piece of Success after so many Trials in Vain afforded us great Satisfaction.

31st Decemb'r 1750, 2d Day.

This morning we all rose early and dispatched James Shorat wth Wm Shankland Esq' to The Chief Justice Holt desiring him to send us from Flamstead's Catalogue the Lat: & Longitude of Divers fixt Stars & especially that in the Knee of Cassiopea in Order to prove our Meridian taken by Alioth as aforesd which now ceases to be visible till after his passing the Meridian.

Directly after Breakfast (the Surveyrs Jones only excepted) who was not yet returned proceeded to the Island in Order to apply Our Instruments to the Meridian taken last Night and if possible to settle the Latitude and accordingly as the Sun past the Meridian took his altitude and found the same 29° 38' by Emory's Quad of 1 Foot Rad & divided Diagonally.

At ½ ho. after 12 applied Wm Parsons's Theodolite to the Meridian and by Needle N° 3 found the variation 2° 30' the Instrument remaining fixt @ 2 the variation 2° 38', still fixt @ 4.36' 2° 40' by Emory's Theodolite @ the aforesd Times respectively 1° 45' 2° 0.2° 5.

During all wth Time the air was very serene and moderate, at first a small Breeze from the Northward of the East, and continued veering towards the South & West untill about Sun set when it was nearly S. S. W.

Doct' Pike our most hospitable Host & his Lady paid us a Visit this afternoon upon Fenwick's Island.

Jones, the Maryland Surveyor, returned to the Island this afternoon about ½ after 3 & went upon Business Directly.
After the observation made of Alioth last night we dispared of fixing a Meridian by the help of that Star; we therefore erected a Cabbin on the Island this afternoon in Order for my Lodging there & observing the Transit of the Bright Star in the Hip of Cassiopea. But the evening happening to be very Serene we were so fortunate as to see the Transit of Alioth, at which Time the Polar Star, & the Lanthorn (by us set up) were in the Plain of the same Azimuth Circle. Hence we concluded the Meridian exactly found.

To Day began to be much afflicted wth a Reumatic pain in my outer ankle Joint.

January 1st 1750/1 3d Day.

This Morning we proceeded very early to the Island, and after fixing Wm Parsons’s Theodolite to the Meridian drawn last Night, and found the variation thereby 2° 39’ and screwing the Instrument fast found the same about 1 °Clock the same, or not exceeding one Minit more.

We took the Meridian altitude of the Sun to Day and found the same 29° 51’.

At about ½ ho. after 1 °Clock we began to stake out the Meridian found last Night, & when done endeavoured to set off a Line at Right Angles thereto, wch we partly affected but Night coming on were obliged to desist.

This Evening Wm Parsons and the Doct' entred into some religious discourse in which I found the Doct' very clear in the article of Baptism. This morning the Wind N. Easterly, came round with the Sun to the West' of the South, the air somewhat milder than yesterday, and a little dull and heavy, which I take to be the Reason why the Suns Meridian Altitude was so much more to Day than yesterday. The thickness of the air increasing the Sun’s Refraction.
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2nd January 1750/1 4th Day.

This morning early Wm Parsons wrote to Reed by a person who came last Night from Muskamillion to the Doctor pressing said Reed to bring down our small Stores if possible this Evening to our Lodgings.

Immediately after Breakfast we hastened to the Island, in Order if possible to Draw a Line at Right Angles to the Meridian Line, which we staked out yesterday. But the Snow encreasing (which began to fall before our setting out) so very fast, That it was impracticable to go on with Business to Day, therefore returned to our Lodgings. at about 3 P M the Snow abated but the Sky remained cloudy till about 9 in the evening, when the wind sprang up at N. W. and blew extreamly cold. This evening my ankle painful and very Lame.

January 3rd 1750/1 5th Day.

The weather extream cold, the Wind nearly North and very high, and the Ground frozen so extream hard it was judged impracticable to set any stakes in it, and consequently to proceed on our Business to Day. Therefore stayed about Home, spent our Time in Reading, comparing the Instruments, in Order to find which was to be depended upon for setting off a line at Right Angles to the Meridian already found. wth by repeated Experiments we found to be the Theodolite of Wm Parsons.

In the Evening attempted to prove the variation of the Needle already found but Alioth was considerably past the Meridian before it became visible.

This was an extream cold Day throughout, and very serene.

Late in the Evening just as we were preparing for Bed, Reed came with out Stores and the Chief Justice Holt sent us not only the plans of the Stars but the Books themselves. Holt paid Reed for bringing the Stores 30/.
This Day was spent in Calculations of y* R of divers fixt Stars in Cassiopea in order to find some one of them w* might supply the Use of Alioth in adjusting a Meridian, and after some considerable Time spent, found that the Small Star of the 4th, magnitude in her Girdle, nearly agreed w* the Polar Star in Right Assension. (The Calculation of Both those Stars I may insert hereafter.)

As soon as the Calculations were compleat we made ready, and went to the Island resolute to fix a Meridian if possible the next morning; by the Transit of the aforesaid Star, and accordingly took up our Lodgings in a Small Cabbin on the Beach, the Building of w* was mentioned in the Notes of the 31st of the Last Instant, w* just as we were composing ourselves to sleep, some Sleeping & the rest partly so, a spark from the fire (as is supposed) kindled in the Covering of our Cabbin, by this Time become very Dry, & instantly flashed up into a Blaze, each of the Company (namely Jones, Arthur Emory Mathew Rogers and myself) immediately withdrew and bore w* us such of our Cloathing and Blankets as we chanced first to lay Hands on. The whole Transaction w* took up not more than ¼ a Minit in Time was very shocking, and in its Consequences very grevious, which exposed us to the Open Air the remainder of the Night, w* seemed very long—this accident happening about 10 in the Evening.

In this Surprise Jones lost one of his Shoes burnt to a cynder as was one of Matw Rogers's and his Hat. The Company lost 2 pipes ½ lb. of Tobacco and our Skins w* we slept on Viz* a Bear Skin & 2 Sheep skins.

A Little before 5 we observed the Transit of the Star very accurately and find the Meridian thereby found nearly to agree w* the Meridian heretofore Staked out.

This Day Justice Miller, a Maryland Justice, came to the Doctors (as was conjectured from his forward-
ness of entring on some Discourse wth Wm Parsons) to endeavour if possible to learn what was likely to be the Event their Falling into Pennsylvania. By some words wth this Gentleman let fall In Discourse wth same pfront he seemed very jealous of his Commission on Change of Affairs, and expressed himself much in Favour of his Lordship.

5th January @ 11ho ½ A. M., 7th.

Observed the variation by the New Theodolite Needle No 1. and found the Variation 3° 3' exactly. The air moderate wind southerly yet pretty clear.

The meridian Altitude of the Sun the same Day 30° 33' by Emory's Quadrant.

At 15 P M the variation by Wm Parson's Theodolite Needle No 3 2° 50'.

This afternoon we took our Departure from the Cedar Post near the Mulberry Trees (herein before mentioned), and at Right Angles to the Meridian of the Place, proceeded by the help of Stakes to continue the Line about [torn] this evening, left a House Built on said Island belonging to one Fosset about 40 yards to the Southward.

The Wind blew so exceeding cold (altho from the South) as was intolerable to any but persons not devoted to bear the greatest Inclemency of Seasons.

Jany 6th 1750/1. First Day.

This Morning Doct' Pike read the Lessons appointed for the Day.

After Service spent some Time in comparing the Observations made at New Castle by Wm Parsons's Theodolite for finding the variation & by Needle No 3 found the Mean of the Variations ............ 4° 15'
And those made at Fenwick's Island by the same Needle the Mean of wth was ............ 2° 43'
Hence the Difference of Variation by that Instrument is \( 1° \ 32' \)  
The Mean Variation by the New Theodolite Needle No. 1.  
\(@\) New Castle \( 4° \ 34' \)  
The Mean Variation by the same Needle & Instrument  
\(@\) Fenwick's Island \( 3° \ 3' \)  
Hence the Difference of Variation by the New Theodolite \( 1° \ 31' \) nearly agreeing with the Difference found by the other Instrument From which I suppose the Difference in the Direction of the Needle between New Castle & Fenwick's Island very exactly found.

The Boundaries mentioned in the Grant made by King Charles the First Dated the 20th of June in the 8th Year of his Reign to Cecilius then Baron of Baltimore (the Great-Grandfather of the present Lord Baltimore) are as follows:

All that part of a Peninsula lying in the parts of America between the Ocean on the East and the Bay of Chesapeake on the West and divided from the other part thereof by a Right Line drawn from the promontory or Cape of Land called Watkins Point (situate in the aforesaid Bay near the River Wigheo) on the West, unto the main ocean on the East and between that Bound on the South, unto that part of Delaware Bay on the North which lieth under the 40th Degree of northerly Lat. from the Equinoctial where New England ends.

And All that Tract of Land between the Bound aforesaid; that is to say, passing from the aforesaid Bay called Delaware Bay in a Right Line by the Degree aforesaid unto the true Meridian of the first Fountain of the River Pattowmeek and from thence trending toward the South, unto the farther Bank of the aforesaid River, and following the West and South side thereof unto a certain Place called Cinquack situate near the Mouth of the said River, where it falls into the Bay of
Chesapeake and from thence by a strait Line unto the afores' Promontory and Place called Watkins Point.

Last Night towards Day it began to Rain the Wind about S. by W., and continued turning towards the N. East until the afternoon when the Storm blew hard from the N. East and rained heavily.

This Day Jones Dined with us and in the Evening concluded to stay at the Doctors and Lodge with me.

January 7th 1750/1, 2nd Day.

This morning was misty, the weather moderate as to heat or cold. Spent the Morning in making some alteration in Our Staves which we had found not altogether so commodious as was expected. When alter'd we went to the Island & resuming the Course, continued the same over the Ditch, past one Esoms whose House we left about 8 p° to the Northward of the Line, where Night coming on we left it; having first driven 2 posts into the Ground in the Direction of our Line.

Just as we went out it began to snow and the Wind blew exceeding hard from the N. N. W. & N. W. and continued snowing—during the Time we were out, and until after Bed-time.

January 8th 1750/1, 3rd Day.

This morning the Weather was cleared up. the Wind very high, cold and blustering from the North West. Wm Parsons as a person equal to the Task imposed was full of Spirits and urged as much as he decently could our proceeding to Business to Day. John Emory, the principal Maryland Surveyor, on the other Hand was heartless, pleaded the Danger of his Health, the Inclemency of the Weather, the Great Quantity of Waters overflowing the Marshes, and the impracticability of setting up our Staves so as to make them stand in so high a wind. Either Emory's Reasons or
his age and Infirmity prevailed and we tarried at home all Day.

For my own part I employed myself in Transcribing a Table of Natural Lines from Wm Parsons's Geli-brand.

January 9th 1750/1, 4th Day.

This morning the air a little calmer but extream cold. About $\frac{1}{2}$ after 9 we proceeded to Business (and as it is a bad Wind wch blows no Body any Good) the hard Weather had frozen the Marshes and the Head of Cinapuxon Bay over so hard that it bore us to walk over on the Ice & we continued our Course abt a Mile & an half.

This was the first Day in wch we were able to walk on the Ice since we came down & indeed the first in wch we went on any ways successfully with our Business. With our Success we were much delighted & in great Hopes of getting thro the Swamp Quod Taxit Deus.

Past by the House of one Geo. Hudson. Leaving the same about 55 yds to the N. ward.

The Waters on the Head of Romley Marsh over wch we past to Day were impassable at any other Time than when hard frozen, this Then was of the Greatest Necessity & of the Least Consequence to the Business.

January 10th 1750/1, 5th Day.

At about 9h 30' A.m. began upon the Course where we left the same last Night, and Continued the same abt 1 Mile and a Quarter to Day, at about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile from our place of Beg this Morning we entred into a thick swamp, extreemly full of Brush and these hung wth green Briers.

At about $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile or one hundred part on the Way, past by the House of Wm Hudson about 60 per on the south side of the Line, & by the House of Absalom.
Penn versus Baltimore.

Hudson on the North side of the Line at about the same Distance therefrom.

This Day throughout was moderate and pretty clear, and in the afternoon the Ice began to be Rotten in the Swamps.

January 11th 1750/1, 6th Day.

Began about Nine where we left off Last Night and continued the Line about one Mile and an half thro. two very thick Swamps frozen over otherwise impassable, deep, wet and full of Water; left off at Deep Creek otherwise Miller's Creek (being a Branch of Cinapuxon Sound).

This Day hired 11 Hands who were just Sufficient to clear the Way as far as the Surveyors were able to run the Line.

A very moderate Day and pretty clear throughout.

Past by the House of David Hudson a little before we left off leaving the same about 6 Per^s to the Southward of the Line, and his New House about three Times as far to the Northward.

January 12th 1750/1, 7th Day.

This Morning the Heavens overcast awhile Froast and like for Rain. went to work about 9 extended our West Course about 1½ Miles to Day—crost the Road from Romly Marsh to snow Hill, past by Miller’s Mill leaving the same about 60 Per^s to the Northward, and the House of the Wid^* Patrick, leaving the same ab^t as far on the same side—crost an Arm of the Mill Creek w^th with the rising and falling of the Water was open & gave us some trouble in wading thro’ it. a little after we were over, past by the House of one Walker a Mollatto Fellow. ab^t 20 per^s to the South side soon after passing this House we came to a large swamp. The Ice rotten, the Water Deep, thick with Hollys, Maples, sweet Gums and low Brush hung full of Green Briers w^th renders the crossing it not only impracti-
Penn versus Baltimore.

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cable but next to impossible at this Season of the Year, unless in Time of extreme Frost.

In the months of September and October & some parts of November, these Swamps are usually Dry and passable. Whenever the West Line is continued across the Peninsula this seems the most eligible Time of doing the same.

Fast by the entrance of the Gum Swamp above mentioned we blazed the North side of a Sweet Gum Tree hollow in the Bottom, at the Distance of 9 3/10 Inches from the s\textsuperscript{a} Tree (measured from the Blazed part). our West Course past. In which Course we sat up a large Black Oak Stake the Heart of w\textsuperscript{ch} was distant from said Tree the Number of Inches above mentioned, we also placed one other stake in the same Line about 20 yds to the Eastward of the former in Order to retain the Direction of Our Line. It is also to be remembered that about 20 p. to the Westward the last Stream of Water w\textsuperscript{ch} we cross that we past a Sweet Gum on the North side distant about 3 Inches therefrom at the Distance of about three Feet above the Surface of the Earth this was the 1\textsuperscript{st} Tree any thing near the Line to the westward of the aforesaid Stream and leaned to the Northward.

Just on the East side of the aforesaid Stream was another Black Oak post set up and another on the Hill opposite the Corner of the Widow Patrick’s Field, both exactly on the Line.

January 13\textsuperscript{th} 1750/1, 1\textsuperscript{st} Day.

Last Night just as we were about to leave work it began to rain and continued raining all Night and this Day, whereby much of the Ice was melted and the Rest made extreme rotten, for its remarkable that where ever there is salt Water the Ice is apt to be very spongy and brittle.

Spent this Day in Read\textsuperscript{e} the Scriptures, Spectator \&c.
Penn versus Baltimore.

January 14th 1750/1, 2d Day.

This Morning John Emory & Thomas Jones, the Maryland Surveyors, declared their Resolutions to proceed no farther on the Line this Season.

The Surveyors on the Part of Pennsylvania considering the Shortness of the Days, the changeableness of the Weather, the Impracticability of passing the Swamps but on the Ice, and the uncertainty of the place of Begining being right, thought it advisable not to insist much on continuing the Line any farther this Winter. Wm Parsons therefore indorsed the Minit for our Meet wth a Report to the Gentlemen Commissioners of what was done at this meet wth Report was subscribed by the Surveyors on both sides.

This morning Geo. Glasgow who now keeps a store near Pokomoke Swamp paid me a visit; ab' 12 Thomas Jones took his leave and set homewards in the Rain wth was very heavy most part of this Day and especially in the afternoon.

Employed most of this Day in adjust our Account wth the Labourers.

January 15th 3d.

Rained most part of the Day pretty constantly and the Storm blew hard from the North & N. N. W. This Day put up our Things in Order for the Journey, and purposed to set homeswards, but were informed that several Streams of Water were so high as made them impassable on Horseback.

Went out about 11 °Clock in the Rain and took an Hall or two with Dr Pikes, Net in Asawamon Creek, but took Nothing but one Pike & a Single Taulapin.

Spent the Leisure Time I had this Day in Transcribing the Table of Natural Lines from Gallibrands Institution Trigonometrical.

Received of Will Parsons ............ 20/
Yesterday lent him ................. 0/4d
and 7th Day last ................. 0/4d
This morning the Clouds began to break and about \(\frac{1}{2}\) after Nine we took our Leave of Our most hospitable Host Dr Pike; at about 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) we cross the Head of the Sound which was deep & in which my Beast made a false step and had almost thrown me into the Water, but he pretty readily recovering his Feet got out safe. cross another place of deep water walking over some loggs laid length Ways on the Way 2 or 3 by the side of one ano' upon which our Creatures sometimes walked and between whiles blundred first on one side and then on the other—to conclude we all came safely over by or thro' this [blot] of a Bridge, and proceeded on our Journey to Black Foot Creek thro' wth most of our Horses swam & we walked over the Creek on a Couple of Loggs laid side by side across it—reacht Black foot @ half ho after 1, where we took up our Lodging despairing to reach ano' Stage this evening.

The Ground from Romley Marsh to Black foot Town, distant from each oy' about 15 Miles as far as we could see was near 1\(\frac{3}{4}\) covered wth Water—the far Greater part being Gum Swamps mixed with Holley. The Roads so extream bad that in plain Ground where no Danger could be suspected the Creatures would frequently sink to their knees and sometimes near to their Bellys in the Mire. The Land about Blackfoot sandy Pine-land yet the soil in many places seems tolerable Good.

This Day the air very mild and cloudy throughout.

Last night Lodged at Jo's Carters at Blackfoot Town set out a little after 8 for Lewes Town where we arived at about \(\frac{1}{2}\) ho' after 1 in the afternoon:

The Land from Blackfoot to Indian River a kind of Pine Land some of wth seemed tolerably Good—from Indian River for about 10 Miles very Barren and
broken and in some places perfect plains and ponds of Water thro' with we after times rode up to the Bellys of Our Horses, and some places we were obliged to dismount and lead our Horses out into the Woods where they waded up to their Bellys in the fast Ground.

The land for about 7 or eight miles to the Southwestward of Lewis is tolerably good and exceedingly laden with young and thriving Timber, chiefly of the Oak and Poplar kinds.

As we came into Lewis Town we saw several Beds of snow lying in the Road, Fields adjoining, drifted in the late Storm. I mention this as the first Snow we saw upon our Return for there was no Snow farther to the Southward remaing that we could see. paid Alexander Reed for the Trouble Esq' Shankland & self gave him when we went down to the Cape 2/6—a fine Day.

18th 6th Day.

Lodged last night at one Nunus's, a Jew, where we were Well enteated. Spent the Evening most agreeably in Company with chief Justice Holt and Jacob Collock.

January 18th 6th Day 1750/1.

Set out from Lewis about 10, reached prime Hook about 1 where we dined at one Fowlers—about 16 Miles out of Lewis came to one James Cragues at the Head of the Motherkill about 7. where we took up our Lodging—nearly thirty five Miles out of Lewis.

The Land most part of the Way lookt pretty likely and just as we came out of the Neck from Lewis, My Horse in the midst of the Road had like to have mired sinking up to his Belly in the sand and Water. A very fine Day.

19th 7th Day.

This morning came to Dover about 10 Breakfasted and dined at one Jn° Clairs @ the Golden Fleece in
Company with Justice Davis, Timo Hanson one Smith and ano' Gentleman,—left Dover about 3. and came to one Marshals at Salsbury alias Duck Creek about 7, an exceed's fine Day throughout.

January the 20th 1750/1, First Day.

Set out from David Marshals where we lodged last night early in the morning reacht Blackbird Creek about 10, and a little after we past it we mis't our Way and rode Five Miles about before we came to Saint George's which we reacht at almost 2 in the afternoon, having reid about 27 Miles since we left Duck Creek. dined at Saint George's at one Goodwins, and at about 4 set out for New Castle where we came about ¾ Hour after 7 and took up our Lodging at one Boggs’s, where we resided when at this place before. From S' Georges to New Castle is 12 Miles.

This Day the Weather was better than usual for the season and the Sky serene from Morning to Bedtime. The Roads almost all the Way very mirey and the Land from about 6 Miles Northward of Duck Creek to within one Mile South of New Castle. one Continued Tract of incomparable fine Land. If people Thrive not here it must be owing to their own Misconduct.

January 21, 1750/1 2nd Day.

This Day our Horses being weary and having lost several of their Shoes, we tarried in New Castle to get them shod, our selves shaved and the rest of the Time we employed in making a Draught of Fenwick's Island, Assawamink Creek and Sound and Sinnapuxon Sound as also of the Meridian line we have staked out, and the West Course w'ch we continued from said Island together with the Creeks Houses &c which we past.

Began to rain about ½ ho. after Four and continued raining very hard till about Nine next Morning.
Penn versus Baltimore.

January 22d 1750/1, 3d.

This Morning about 11 set out from New Castle crost Christeen Ferry at about ½ ho after 1., the Water very rough and the Boat out of one swell shipped near a Barrel of Water. reacht Chester about 5, where we took lodging at one Mathers's who keeps very good Intertainment; the Roads from New Castle to this place extream deep & miry. Wet my self in riding a small Run ab' 2 miles on this side Brandiwine w' Run was deep and the Water came up above the Midsides of the Horses.

23d, 4th Day.

Set out from Chester about 9 came to Philad about 12 in w' Distance we saw many tops of Houses blown off by the Wind yesterday. This Day was cold and clear throughout when I had dined went up to my very good Friend Nich Scull and spent most part of the afternoon w' him and Wm Parsons and the evening with Tho Hill and some Mariners at his House. Lodged at W Greys.

Janr 24th 1750/1, 5th Day.

This morning went early to Anthoney Hams to see if my Instrument was sent down to Philad accord to my Direction and found it was not. did some other Business at Christopher Marshalls &c, got my Breakfast at my Lodging & went up to the Surveyor Generals, spent some time with him & Borrowed of him a piece lately arived from England, Wrote by T. Mitchel, Fellow of Queen College, Cambridge, being a Treatise of Artificial Magnets

Expences at Philad ............... 5/6½
Ditto at Bladwins ............... 1/1½

reacht home about 7 in the Evening the Way extream rough & weather Cold/called at Jos. Liveseys to get the Saddle Bags mended and left Philad about 11. a
young Dutch man came home & lodged with me. when I came home I found my Family well and that part of my House was blown off in the late Storm, but was repaired.

January 25th 6th Day.

This Morning heard the News of my Cousin Joseph Watson's having cut himself, paid him a Visit, dined with him, went from thence to my Uncles the Drs, Spent the Evening, and supt wth him; came home late in the Evening. this Day was cold and clear from morning to night.

26th, 7th Day.

This morning set out in Order to go to E. Scarbrough's on some Businesse with him, called at my Kindsman Wm Pearsons who told me Scarbrough was gone to Philad, spent most part of this Day with Wm Pearson, came home In the Evening—this was also a clear day and cool.

27th 1st Day.

This Morning was cloudly and like for snow. began to snow about Noon and continued snowing till about 4, when it turned to rain, and the Rain continued very hard most part of the Night.

This Day Jonathan Ingham paid me a Visit, and so did John Holms. Spent the Evening with them, and the forepart of the Day in Reading, and in Writing out some observations on the Nature of Magnetism.

January 28th 2nd Day.

Spent this Day in Conversation wth my Friend Jonathan Ingham, read, & in Transcribing some part of the ab° mentioned Author. In the Evening Jno Fisher returned from Wrightstown where he went yesterday to see his Sister—fair but cloudy for the most part but moderate in Respect of heat or cold.
Penn versus Baltimore.

January 29th, 5th Day.

this morning set from home with Jonathan Ingham, went with him to Wm Pearsons to take the Demensions of some Dial Boards and thence to Eu. Scarbroughs to get some plates made for them. Jno. Beaumont came to me at Eu. Scarbroughs, and requested my assistance once in a week or two to measure a piece of Ld situate in the Jerseys and by him lately bought of the Executors of Benjamin Canby Decd—went wth him to Jonathan Ingham’s lane’s end where we parted. I to Inghams and he went home: fair to Day.

Janv 30th, 4th Day.

Lodged last night with my Friend Jon’ Ingham at his own House, and came this morning again to Scarbroughs to see about my plates but they not being done was obliged to come home and leave them till another Oppoy. This Day it began to snow about Noon but snowed not very much.

January 31st 5th Day.

this Day spent mostly in assisting John Fisher to clean some Rye. Wm Bradfield came here and paid me in full of all acco’s against him and I paid 20/ to John Fisher after I had done cleaning the Rye—wrote a Letter to Ant’ Ham touch’d my old and new Instrum’s: and afterwards carried the same wth my Compass to Wm Pearson’s to get him to carry them to s’d Ham; at Wm Pearsons found Wm Heaton wrote by him to Wm Saterthwait: came home late in the Night—this morn’ it Drizzled a little but cleared up aft’ Noon and was blustering in the afternoon but not very cold.

February 1st 1750/1, 6th Day.

This morning not very well, spent most of the Day in calculating the Hour Distance for the Dial to be fixed on the West End of Buckingham Meet’s House,
and the Evening in Calculating the Latitude of the Cape henlopen from the Observations made of the Meridian Latitude made at the Cape Decem’ 31st, 38° 34’. North. the Alt° observed being 29° 38’, and the sun’s Declination 21° 48’ by the observation made January the first 1751, 38° 31’ North, the altitude observed being 29° 51’. and the Declination the same Day being 21° 38’. By the observation made January 5th alt° 30° 33’ at which Time the Declination was 20° 56’ and consequently the Lat. the same as made by the last Observation.

Note: I calculated the place for every of the Days aforesaid at Noon (mean Time) from the Flamsteadian Tables. and found the same to be as follows.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Decem’ 31st 1750 vs 21° 14’ 43”} \\
\text{Jan’ 1. 1751 vs 22. 15. 51} \\
\text{5. . . . vs 26. 20. 15}
\end{align*}
\]

and thence the Sun’s Declination will be found to be as above allowing the greatest obliquity of the Ecliptic to be (as Flamstead makes it) 23° 29’.

This Day a little Cloudy but tolerable good weather for the Season.

\textit{February 2nd, 7th Day.}

Went to see my Sister at John Fells, called at Isaac Fells as I went and got him to finish his part of the Stiles for the Meet’s House Dials, came back by John Bradfields where I spent most part of the Evening; brought home the Stiles with me, where I came about ½ ho after nine in the Evening, the forepart of this Day was cloudy, and like for Rain but cleared up about Noon and was pleasant for the Season, at John Fells I heard the very disagreeable News of the Death of James Morris, Trustee of the loan office, and of Jacob Leech a valuable Man for carrying on Busines in his Way of Millering.
went to meet at Buckingham, Samuel Eastburn spoke a few words by way of Information to such as were unacquainted with silent meets, advising all to retire into themselves and wait to know the Lord's Teaching, who according to the Testimony given of him by the Woman at Jacob's Well would teach them as never Man taught and show them all that ever they Did. he it was to whom they would do well to give head: for 'tho a man was acquainted with every State and Condition in a Meet Time would fail him to speak to them all; but the Lord could speak most pertinently to each of them.

Thomas Gill likewise spoke with great Fervency of Spirit earnestly pressing all to a diligent and faithful Improvement of the present opportunity. Jane Bradfield prayed.

After meeting went to Wm Pearson's who sent me Word to come and see him he not being very well in Health. in my Journey homeward met John Vanduren and Tho' Abbot Vanduren was come up to see to buy my stone Colt to morrow. call'd at Sam' Blakers, came home about 10 °Clock—a fine Day for the Season.

This Morning went early to Uncle Watson's to see if his son Thomas was going to Philad to Day, who was not, came home got ready to go to meet and went —this was a Month meet, Sam' Eastburn spoke again advising all to the exercise of brotherly love and Charity. Benjamin Fell also spoke advising all to attend to the teaching of that Spirit in meet of Busines-ness by w'ch such meet were at first established. Jane Bradfield prayed again to Day I think.

To this Meet were brought Testimoneys ready drawn for the approbation of the Meet against Rob' Nary and Dan' Jones, the form of whom by much Im-
Portunity was prevailed upon to request another month to see if he could do what he repeatedly declared he never should. A Testimony was also Ordered to be drawn against Tho' Rathmill and to be brought to the next meeting for approbation. Came home directly from meeting, spent the evening in transcribing from the Book of Magnetism. Cloudy and cold with out rain or snow.

February the 5th, 3rd Day.

Went to Uncle Watson's early in the morning and sent a letter by Thomas Watson to Antho Ham for my compass and relating to a new instrument, employed in some small calculations of the RA of the Polar Star &c. according to the Rev'd Mr Whittys Method with he says was also Mr Flamsteads—a fine day but cool.

February the 6th, 4th Day.

Last night my friend Paul Preston paid me a visit and lodged with me. In the forenoon employed in some further calculations of the same nature with those mentioned yesterday in the evening or rather afternoon, went up to Edward Rice and in company with Mary Wilson and from thence to Paul Preston's school. This day for the most part cloudy and in the evening 2 or 3 scudds of snow. Adrian Davis was here in the morning whom I assisted to load some hay which he came for.

February the 7th, 5th Day.

This morning spent in reading and some calculations—spent the afternoon with Robert Henderson; and in the evening went to Doctor Watsons to see if he had brought my compass home with him, but found he had not, Ham having disappointed him about getting it done—came home late in the night; this day John Brown came here to get me to draw a release from his sisters to him for their estate in the D late their
Penn versus Baltimore.

Fathers, and a Discharge from their executorship—a fine Day but cool.

February 8\textsuperscript{th} 1750/1, 6\textsuperscript{th} Day.
Wrote the Discharge afores—\textit{a} fine cool Day.

February 9\textsuperscript{th} 1750/1, 7\textsuperscript{th} Day.
Wrote the Release above mentioned.

10\textsuperscript{th}, First Day.
Stayed at home employed in Read\textit{ing} settling some Acco\textit{ns} to be laid before the Commis\textit{ees} to morrow at Newtown.

February 10\textsuperscript{th} 1750/1, 1\textsuperscript{st} Day.
After Dinner carri’d Brown’s Writings to him at Uncle Watson’s. Charge w\textsuperscript{th} I have against him in the whole am\textsuperscript{ts} to 25/.
John Chapman came to meet Uncles and presuaided to ride part of the Way with him towards his Fathers which I did, and it grew very Dark and rained mixt with Hail, and he prevailed upon me to go with him to his Brother Abrahams, where we lodged together. This Night it rained very fast.

February 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Day.
this Day the Rain continued and I tarried at Abr\textsuperscript{a} Chapmans until almost Night, and as I came home it rained a very heavy Shower and cleared up—called at Jos. Watson’s and bled his Wife.

Feb\textsuperscript{y} 12\textsuperscript{th} 1750/1, 3\textsuperscript{rd} Day.
Went down to Newtown pretty early and laid my Acco\textsuperscript{ns} as Treas\textsuperscript{u} before the Commis\textsuperscript{ees} and exhibited a Complaint ag\textsuperscript{st} the assessors of The Forks and Northampton.
Penn versus Baltimore.

This Day John Chapman resigned the Office of Clerk to the Commissioners who were pleased to Name me in his Stead, but considering the small Benefit attending it declined the same, and John Hart was chosen in my stead. Appointed on a Committee w* John Chapman to revise the Comº Mints and to engross the same in a Book to be bought by us for that Purpose.

came homewards this Evening as far as Ahrº Champs where I lodged w* my Friend John Chapman—this Day clear and not very cold.

13th Febº 1750/1 4th Day.

came home w* John Chapman as far as Geo. Hughes where we parted—I came home and went to Mill w* some Rye to be choped for the Creatures.

When I came Home Samº Blaker soon followed me, and we appointed to meet to Morrow Morning at his House.

Daniel Ryan came for his leases, Charge 7/6—this Day tolerable somewº cloudy in the Morning and in the afternoon very fine, Weather Moderate & clear.

14th, 5th Day.

Went to E. Scarbrough's with Uncle Blaker, got my Stiles and other things finished for my Dial Plains, came home late in the Evening,—this Day I saw my Kindsman Enoch Pearson at his Fathers lately returned from Virginia. In the forepart of the Day the Weather was pretty clear and cool, but towards Night the Wind turned to the South East and it became Cloudy and like for Snow.

February 15th 1750/1, 6th Day.

This morning it snowed fast and towards Noon turned to Rain and continued rainº all Night very hard. In the Mornº Josº Fenton came to get some Releases
drawn and soon after he went away a young Irish Gentleman came and wanted lodging and stayed all Night, as did [my] Kindsmen Wm and Enoch Pearson who stayed all Night.

16th Feb.

early in the Morning John Holms came and requested Wm Pearson to go home and fetch his Wife, for that the said Holms's Wife was in Labour, brought his wife and came again to my House and stayed a while and then went away wth his Brother Enoch. Yesterday I sent an address to the Commis'rs and Assessors on Behalf of the Moravian Bretheren By Anthony Albright who returned to Day about Noon, and told me the Commissioners and Assessors were gone home without taxing the people, and that therefore he was delayed in his Business. Spent this afternoon chiefly in Discourse with said Albright, who related several odd pranks of Justice Owen as well as some of his Drunken Frolicks.

In the Morning it rained a little but soon ceased, the Wind rising and about 11 in the Forenoon it was quite cleared up and continued a little blustering but not very cold till Night.

Wrote to James Craig by Anto Albright to advise him to pay the Tax due from him to the said County, the said Ant promising to convey it to him in a few Days.

February 17th 1751, 1st Day.

This Morning Anthony Albright set out to go home —this Day being somewhat Disordered wth the Rheumatism in my Right Hip Joint as I had been for some Days past, stayed at Home spent most of my Time in Castalios Latin Testament and calculated the place of Jupiter and Venus for March 31st a 8½ P. M. 1751, and found the Place of Jupiter 11° 51' 4" in 8 and that of Venus 12° 53' 41" in the same Sign—
George Saterthwait came home with my People from meeting—a fine Day.

*Feb* 18th, 2d Day.

This morning was cloudy, and it began to Snow pretty smartly ab’t Nine and continued snowing till ab’ Noon when it turned to Rain and rained hard till near Sun-set. Josiah Fenton here for whom I drew up his Acco’m of his Administ. and wrote some Receipts for him; Philip Wigar was also here to get me to survey some Ld for him over Tohiccon;—ab’t Sun set went to Wm Pearsons where I tarried all Night, Geo. Saterthwait set homeward in the Snow—this Day as ab° Described.

*Feb* 19th 3d Day 1750/1.

This Morning Enoch Pearson set forwards on his Journey towards Virginia and took w’t him a young Stalion he bo’t of Mat’w Beans; his Brother William went in Company with him to Philad’ by whom I sent Mitchell Lib of Magnetism to Nich’ Scull, and a letter to Dav’d Hall desiring him to send me the Books he had bought, if it any for me—came home ab’t 10, calculated the Declinations of Jupiter and Venus at the Time mentioned February 17th, found the Dec. of Jupiter 14° 35 N his amplitude 19° 17’ Northward, the Time of his Setting @ 8th 9’ 23” P. M. and his Central Dist’n from the Center of Venus 1° 28’ nearly—

The Die’ of ♀ 15° 41’ North her amplitude 20° 46’ North, and the Time of her Setting at 8th 16’ 40” in the Lat. 40° 20’ North & proved Law Mergle’s and Wm Kails Surveys. This was a fine Day.

Jupiter sets 7’ 17” sooner than Venus.

*Feb* 20th 1750/1, 4th Day.

This morning rose early and went to Mill—while my Corn was grinding went up to Paul Prestons School, came home ab’t 12 0’Clock and brought with me a Book
of Guageing from the Miller for wth I am to give him Watts’s Preservative against the Sins and Follies of Childhood and Youth; after I came home made a Draught for Wm Bradfield of his Land. and computed the Quantity of Land contained in Law: Mergles Survey: shaved myself—ab′ 3 Holmes fetched Mary to his Wife. Yesterday received news of my Friend Jon’ Ingham’s Illness in Philad′a—Wm Saterthwait came here to Night.

This was a very pleasant morning & continued pleasant until ab′ ½ ho: after 2 P. M. when grew cloudy and very like for Rain.

21st February 1750/1, 5th Day.

This morning went to Wm Pearsons very early who was returned from Philad′a and brought me Buchanan’s Psalms and Dr. Barrows Euclid and a Sheet of Parchment, together with a small pruning Hatchet, for all wth (the Books excepted) gave him 15/. more than what they came to by 3/. came home and spent the Rem′ of the Day in Read′ Buch′ Psalms, some Mathematical Discourses &c Paul Preston came this Evening to get his Shoes mended by Fisher who went away ab′ Noon. This Day Rained almost throughout—Hannah Hutchin’s & Mary Return of the Birth of John Holmes’s Son in the Night.

22d 6th Day.

Paul Preston Departed early in the morning—cleaned or rather winnowed some wheat. Fothered the Creatures, spent the Day in Read′ &c.—this Day fine & mostly clear.

Feb′ 23d, 7th Day.

This morning Wm Saterthwait went away & I accompanied him as far as Sam’ Blakers—wrote some Receipts for Fenton’s. Paul Preston came in the Evening to get his Shoes mended by John Fisher.
Spent the Evening in Buchanan's Psalms. This Day was cloudy in the morning, and continued so most part of the Day, but in the Evening cleared up and was a fine starlight Night.

_Feb' 24th, 1st Day._

This morning was Frosty and cool, but the Weather grew Hasey towards night. Paul Preston went away a little after Dinner. Wm Pearson and John Holms came here and spent the Evening with me or rather the afternoon. Paul Preston & I employed Our selves the Forepart of the Day in Buchanan's Psalms.

_Feb' 25th, 2d Day._

McClain came to get me to resurvey his Land, and Alexander Brown to come and Divide the Tract late in possession of James Evans Dec'd between him & his nephew John Brown. Wrote some Releases & Acquit-ances for the Fentons—a Cloudy Day and like for Rain, rained a little in the Evening.

_Feb' 26th, 3d Day._

This morning wrote a Bond for Samuel Smith and afterward assisted John Fisher in cleaning some wheat. This Day was cloudy and drizzeled a Little for the most part till about 5 in the Evening when it began to rain heavily.

_27th, 4th Day._

Busied about some Leases Between Alexr Brown Nathan Preston of the one part and Henry Preston of the other Part. The Weather Blestring and air sometimes a little thick wth fly's Clouds.

_28th, 5th Day._

This Day employed about said Leases, this day Mary @ the Quarterly Meet* at Wrightstown. Cloudy in the
Morning and cleared towards Noon and in the Evening flying Gusts of Snow.

March 1st 6th.
About the Leases till about Noon, Jeremiah Wms here. Went in the Evening to see my Sister. Lame is John Fells wth a sore leg—fine Day.

March 2d, 7th Day.
Busied about my Compas; John Beaumont here appointed to meet him next third Day Morn at Luther Calvins in Bethlehem or Kingwood—went With him far as Sam' Blakers. this Day Died John Rich of Plumstead, to be buried next 2d Day. at Uncle Watsons in the Evening Thomas Gilbert, and his son Thos. Sam' Blaker Edward Rice here at my Return—a fine Day.

March 3d, 1st Day.
Went to Meet at Buckingham, a woman Friend and John Scarbrough preacht, Scarbrough insisted much and rationally upon the Absolute Necessity of the New Birth. Jane Bradfield attempted to pray—A fine Day for the most part, tho Cool.

March 4th.
Yesterday when I came from Meet my old Blackbird was fallen down and could not get up, could scarce stand when raised: this Morning was likewise so: this was a most excellent Creature, pleased always with the Sight of me wth she expresed by a very affectionate Neighing and tho her Life seems almost Burthensome to her yet to knock such a faithful Friend in the Head seems the Highest ingratitude, and wth I can neither actually nor authoritavely be guilty of. I am almost directly to set out towards meet of Beaumont, at Kingwood; set out about 1 this afternoon, snowed pretty
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fast at the same Time & so continued till I came to my old Friend & acquaintance Moses Marshalls where I stayed all Night: this night my Mare died who had I been at home should have been decently buried, & so deep a sense I have of her many services that were they related wth the imbelisments proper to the occasion it would look more like the Character of an Elizabeth or a Carolina than of an Old Mare.

March 5th 1750/1

this morning spent at Moses Marshals; set out for Luther Calvins about 11. where I arrived about 1. John Beaumont not yet come, saw Abraham Gooding there who told me Wm Morris wanted me much to survey him a piece of Land. this Day snowed a little in the Morning but blew up cold about Noon, the Wind N. N. W. or thereabouts.

March 6th 1750/1.

Lodged at Luther Calvins. John Beaumont came about 11, got Dinner and went about his Survey, and spent the afternoon about it. this Day pretty clear throughout.

March 7th 1750/1.

prosecuted our Survey, and compleated the same a little after Noon; John Beaumont bore my Expences. set out wth him homewards, parted at John Wacfords where I stayed all Night, rec'd 7/6 in full for the Remr of the price of a Deed wth I wrote him—this Day pretty Clear.

March 8th 1750/1, 6th Day.

This Day came home calling in the Way to seek for mony at Jon Stouts, Richd Holcombs, Jon Ingham Euclid Scarbroughs but received none: last Night Wrote to Isaac Leet, and Mr. Bonham to have my Money ready in 2 Weeks at farthest, when I came home
Penn versus Baltimore.

rec'd a Letter from Wm Allen, Secretary Peters and Nich Scull relat'g to the Survey of some Lds in Durham Township and a message from Uncle Watson to acquaint me of Israel Pemberton junr Being at his House —this Day was hazy and not unlike for Rain to morrow.

March 9th 1750/1, 7th Day.

Spent the Morning about my Compass Needles. Went to Eu: Scarbrough got my Colt shod. thence to Jon Inghams to carry some Yarn to be died blew—this Day was cloudy for the most part & about 3 or a little after began to rain and Rained hard all Night.

March 10th 1750/1, 1st Day.

this Day being Rainy spent it at Jn Inghams till about 4 in the afternoon when set out & I came home a little after Sun Set. found my Kindsman Joseph Watson & Heaton at my House. Spent the Evening in Wm Laws ans to Dr. Traps Discourse upon the Sin Folly and Dang' of Being Righteous over much.

March 11th 1751, 2nd Day.

Employed in assisting John Fisher to clean some Wheat: Old John Fisher & one Stout here all Night—this Day blustering and the heavens overcast with flying Clouds.

March 12th 1751, 3rd Day.

Went to New brittan, Surveyed a piece of Land for Sol: McClain Beg: Heap Stones Cor Edwa Doyle Ld thence by the same S. E. 17 to H. Stones th° by Wm Dungans Ld 124. 34. to D° th° by Ld of Elvan Stevens N W 175 to D° th° 124, 3 by Ld of Isaac Evans to the Beg° Cont 136 a. also a piece of the South Cor of the same Cont 50. 104. 44 p Wm Dungan & 76. 6 p Evan Stevans Cor Stones 10/5 apiece. I came home ab° 30' after 7 this Day was moderate but Cloudy Edwa Rice
met me at Wm Doils and went with me to see to buy some of the Land, and as we Returned he gave me a short Hystory of a Drubing he gave a presbyterian Minister in Strawberry Alley who cheated him at Cards.

1751, March 13th 4th Day.

This Day spent in proving Beamonts Survey. John Okely and two more of the Brethern brought me a Pair of Boots wth by a misfortune happened to be too long in the Feet; John Seabring and John Baserof for their Releases;—this Day was pretty clear from the most part 15/

March 14th 1751, 5th Day.

This morning made Draughts of my survey made on the 12th Instant. and searcht up the papers relating to the public Ground at Newtown and made a Draught thereof in Order to present to the Trustees to morrow. Nat Davis came and paid his Rem of Northampton Tax. Paul Preston to get his Shoe mended. Isaac Fell for a Bond to save harmless The Townsp—a Dull Drizly Day.

March 15th 6th Day, 1751.

this Day rained so hard till near Noon concluded not to go to Newtown to Day. carried the papers afforesd to Joseph Watsons where I left them & thence to Wm Pearsons for parchm, who was at Court. Came home by Uncle Watsons to see if any of them went to the Spring Meeting to morrow. after I came home spent the Evening in Buchannans Psalms.—Weather cleared up mild in the Evening.

March 16th, 7th Day, 1751.

Went early to Uncle Watsons, returned and went to John Browns in order to divide his land between him and his Uncle Alexander Brown, but found him not at home but gone to Court; returned by the Way of Ben-
jamin Fells, and Edward Rices, got home about Noon and went about writing a Bond to save harmless the Townsp. of Buckingham &c from Hannah Lowther &c: 2/6 Three of the Moravian Brethern came here; spent the evening in Company with them, as I rode along the Way to John Browns this Forenoon, I attempted to make a few Lines in English run after the Manner of Buchannans 105 Psalm:

Life is short, its purpose Weighty
Well to be considered on:
Have we spent our Days in Pleasure?
   Joyed in ough't below the Sun?
Or the Yoke of the Redeemer,
   Well supported in our Youth?
Ey'd his sight of Life within us,
   Leading in the Paths of Truth,
Then our Minds shall feast on Dainties
   Treasures of the World to come
Laus, Honor, Decusque Regi,
   Sempiterno Celeitum!

This Day was tolerable Weather throughout.

March 17th 1751, 1st Day.

to Day went to Meeting at Buckingham, my mind unsettled and Wandering, tho' received some Benefit from John Scarbroughs Discourse on these Words. Ye search the Scriptures for in them ye think to have eternal Life but ye will not come unto me that ye may have Life: Ann Scoldfield preached and prayed. after Meet' went to W. Pearsons who went with me to Wm Lees whose Son Thomas went with me Jon' Coopers. returned to Wm Lees where I lodged all night—a fine Day.

March 18th 1751, 2nd Day.

came home about 8 A. M. Sam' Blaker, Dan' White here, sent out directly to John Brown's divided the
Land between him and his Uncle Alexander Between N. W. & S. E. 172. & the N. West End 102.45 p the end opposite 100.65 divided the ends equally and ran a line up the Middle, 7/6. To write a Deed from John to Alex' Brown for half said Land the Corner Stones Warranty against John Brown and his Heirs and the Heirs of Geo. Brown and James Evans Dec'd and persons claiming under them. Cond' Money Ninety Five Pounds.

called at Adrian Daws as I came home, when at home found Jos. Heaton, Isaac Minor & my sister there—this Day was pretty good Weather for the most part tho Blustring.