

On WASHINGTON, D. C., nineteen days after the proclamation of peace between the

American Colonies and England, the subject of a permanent capital for the general government of the states was alluded to in Congress. After much discussion, on July 16th, 1790, the bill was passed providing not only for the temporary seat of the government at Philadelphia, but authorizing the selection of a permanent site on the upper Potomac for a National Capital, to be ready ten years later, or, December 1800. January 22, 1791, President Washington appointed three commissioners for the new city, Daniel Carroll and Thomas Johnson of Maryland, and David Stewart of Virginia. January 24, 1791, the President directed these gentlemen to lay down four experimental lines of boundary of the "ten mile square".

The survey was made from Alexandria Court House south to Jones' Point on Hunting Creek, at the Potomac. From this initial point a line was carried due north-west ten miles to what is now West Falls Church, Va., then into Maryland due north-east ten miles to a point near Woodside, then due south-east ten miles to Chesapeake Junction, and lastly due south-west ten miles back to Jones' Point.

This survey was approved by Congress with the amendment that all public buildings should be erected on the Maryland side of the Potomac.

March 29, 1791, President Washington arrived on a visit to the Potomac and put up at Suter's Tavern in Georgetown. The next day, accompanied by the three commissioners and the surveyors, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Major Andrew Ellicott, he looked over the ground. The same night he met the property holders of the land and general terms were agreed to and signed by nineteen "original proprietors". Thereupon the three city commissioners were ordered to have the boundary lines permanently marked. The area of 100 square miles embraced about 64 square miles of Maryland soil, ceded in 1788, and about 36 square miles of Virginia soil, ceded in 1789.

*John
H. ...
K...*

The marking of the ten mile square was carried out by Andrew Ellicott, with four corner stones and nine stones between each two corners, one mile apart, forty stones in all. These stones were sawed from Virginia sand-stone of the Aquia Creek Quarries below Alexandria, and were floated to Washington on barges.

The old part of the Capitol, the middle part of the White House, the facings of the house at Gunston Hall, and in recent time, I have been told, the bank building at the south-west corner of 17th and G Streets, were all built of the Virginia sand-stone from the same quarry. The stones are about one foot square at the base, and are beveled at the top, are from two to three feet out of the ground. On the side facing the District are the words "Jurisdiction of the United States", and the number of the stone. On the opposite side is "Maryland" or "Virginia" as the case may be. The third side bears the date, 1791 for the Virginia stones, and 1792 for those in Maryland. The fourth side has the variation of the compass.

Major Andrew Ellicott, this surveyor of the District, was the son of Andrew Ellicott, who with his brother John Ellicott came from Pennsylvania to take over a large tract of land on the Patapsco River in Maryland in the 18th century, and who in 1774 laid out the town now called Ellicott City. Nine years before he set these stones he served as one of the eight commissioners to establish the west boundary of Pa., where his work still stands as the present line.

In the treaty of peace with England the ambassadors named the 45th parallel of latitude as the international dividing line, from the St. Lawrence eastward to the Connecticut River, 200 miles of dense northern forests. It fell to this Maryland surveyor to solve the astronomic problem of the starting point, which should be precisely midway between the North Pole and the Equator, and then to mark the true curved line demanded by the treaty. He and his party accomplished this heavy task, and thus New York and Vermont secured the peaceful Canadian boundary.

By a treaty of 1783, between Spain and England, a line was described to cut off the Spanish province of East and West Florida from the former British territory,

where we now have Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. President Washington appointed Major Ellicott as joint commissioner to serve with another from Spain, and permanently mark that national limit. In 1812 he became professor of Mathematics at West Point, in which post he served eight years, until his death at the age of 66, and lies buried at West Point.

The first stone at Jones' Point was set April 15, 1791, and it is thus that we get April 15th as the birthday of the District of Columbia. Perhaps a description of that ceremony, taken from an old newspaper, may interest you.

"At three P. M. the municipal authorities of Alexandria repaired to the house in which the Commissioners of Washington were residing, after uniting with them in a glass of wine to the sentiment 'May the stone which we are about to place in the ground remain an immovable monument of the wisdom and unanimity of North America' the Company proceeded to Jones' Point in the following order; Town Sergeant; Daniel Carrell, Commissioner, and Mayor of Alexandria; Andrew Ellicott, Surveyor and Recorder; the Aldermen and Common Council not Free Masons; strangers; Master of Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria, with David Stewart on his right, and James Muir, Pastor of that Episcopal Parish, on his left; followed by the rest of the fraternity and citizens, two by two. Ellicott, 'Geographer General', then ascertained the precise location, as defined by the President's Proclamation, whereupon the Master of the Lodge and Dr. Stewart, aided by the craft, planted the original or corner-stone of the Federal Territory in accordance with the impressive rights of Masonry, after which a deposit of corn, wine and oil was made upon it. The Rev. James Muir delivered an address; and after partaking of refreshments the procession returned to the city and closed the ceremonies with a banquet and appropriate toasts and speeches". A toast by Dr. E. C. Dick, "May jealousy, that green-eyed monster, be buried deep under the work we have this day completed, never to rise again within the Federal District".

On January 1, 1793, Major Ellicott returned to Philadelphia to report the completion of his task, and was tendered a banquet and presented with two silver cups, one of which is now in the Museum at Continental Memorial Hall. Major

Ellicott's report was given in these words, "it is with great pleasure that I report to you that the lines are now opened and cleared 40 feet wide, 20 feet on each side of the line. I have set up square-mile-stones, marked progressively, except in a few places where the miles terminated in a declivity or in the water. In such case the measurement was carried either forward or backward until firm ground was reached, and the exact distance then marked on the stone in miles and poles".

In 1846 the District ceded back to Virginia all that portion of the ten mile square lying in the State of Virginia. The boundary stones are still part of the dividing line between Fairfax and Alexandria counties.

The line from Jones' Point to West Falls Church is actually ten miles, 230.6 feet, the line from west to north corner ten miles and 63 feet, the line from north to east corner is ten miles, 263 feet, and the closing line is ten miles and 70.5 feet.

December 3, 1914, The Committee for the Preservation of Historic Spots and Records of the District of Columbia, D. A. R., held its first meeting of the year in the Auditorium of Woodward's Store, Mrs. George P. Conway, Chairman, presiding. Mrs. Conway spoke of preserving the Mile-stones of the District of Columbia, and introduced Mr. Fred C. Woodward, who explained the locations of the stones, and told of his efforts to interest people in their preservation.

On April 7, 1915, The Committee passed a resolution to recommend to the District Chapters the preservation of the Boundary Stones. Mrs. Conway reported to the State Conference the recommendation of the Committee, that the D. A. R. take up for part of their patriotic work for the year the preservation and protection of the old boundary stones on which are recorded the oldest records of the District, by placing an iron fence around each stone, to be done by Chapters collectively or individually. This recommendation was endorsed by the State Regent, Mrs. Greenawalt. Mrs. Charles W. Richardson moved that the District take up the work.

Grants for the use of the land were made to the Committee, which read as follows;

"at the request of your representatives, Mrs. George P. Conway, Chairman, and Mrs. Velma Sylvester Barber, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, of your said Committee, I, The Undersigned, for and in consideration of One Dollar in hand paid; Do Hereby give and grant to your said Committee, permission to erect on my land surrounding the Boundary Mile-Stone Marked 'Jurisdiction of the United States,' which is located on Avenue, a suitable iron fence for the preservation of said monument, the area of said grant not to exceed one yard square of ground of which the said Mile-Stone is the center, the same to be placed under the special care of Chapter, D. A. R., is now the Regent.

Witness my Hand and Seal the day of A. D."

In addition to the Boundary Stones of the "Ten Mile Square", a District Chapter, Mary Bartlett, has under its protection the Jefferson, or Center Stone, "about 100 yards west of the Washington Monument, and on a line almost due south from the President's House at a distance of about one-half mile".

Jefferson Pier is the monument which marks the intersection of the meridian passing through the center of White House, and the east and west line through the Capitol.

The general opinion seems to be that the exact center of the ten mile square is "C" street between 17th and 18th streets.

A few facts gathered together by Louise Coffin Chase, Historian Eugenia Washington Chapter, D. C. D. A. R., 1930.

BOUNDARY MILE STONES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

South or Initial Corner, Dedicated by the D. C. D. A. R.
 Transferred to Mt. Vernon, Va. Chapter April 30, 1926.

Southwest No.		Mt. Vernon, Va. Chapter	Dedicated
"	"	2 " " " "	"
"	"	3 American Liberty "	" June 23, 1917
"	"	4 Continental "	"
"	"	5 Keystone "	" Nov. 6, 1921
"	"	6 Fairfax Co., Va. "	" June 15, 1916
"	"	7 " " " "	"
"	"	8 Unmarked	"
"	"	9 Falls Church, Va. "	" May 19, 1916
West Corner		Virginia D. A. R.	
Northwest No.	1	Richard Arnold "	" Nov. 1, 1916
"	2	Old Dominion, Va. "	"
"	3	Sarah St. Clair "	" June 1918
"	4	Now named Descendents of '76 Columbia Chapter	" July 12, 1915
"	5	John Hall "	" Oct. 1, 1916
"	6	Independence Bell "	" June 1917
"	7	Patriot's Memorial "	" 2nd Sunday Oct. 14, 1915
"	8	Col. John Donelson "	" Nov. 4, 1916
"	9	Margaret Whetten "	"
North Corner		Maryland D. A. R.	" Apr. 14, 1916
Northeast No.	1	Mary Washington "	"
"	2	Major L'Enfant' "	"
"	3	Our Flag "	" Oct. 19, 1916
"	4	Elizabeth Jackson "	" Nov. 18, 1916
"	5	Constitution "	" Oct. 20, 1917
"	6	Livingston Manor "	" June 2, 1916
"	7	National Training School for Boys	"
"	8	Little John Boyden Chapter	" June 30, 1926
"	9	Captain Molly Pitcher "	" May 6, 1918
East Corner		District of Columbia D. A. R.	" Apr. 15, 1916
Southeast No.	1	Sarah Franklin Chapter	"
"	2	Marcia Burne "	" May 17, 1916
"	3	Ruth Brewster "	"
"	4	John Lindsay "	" May 1916
"	5	Now under the protection of American Eagle Chapter Louisa Adams Chapter	"
"	6	Martha Washington "	" June 26, 1926
"	7	Lucy Holcomb "	" Oct. 28, 1916
"	8	Monticello "	" Oct. 14, 1916
"	9	Potomac "	"

BOUNDARY MONUMENTS.

South Corner -stone. The first one set (April 15, 1791), at Jones' Point Lighthouse on Potomac River, below Alexandria, Va. Protected by D. C. D. A. R., care of State Historic Committee. Transferred to Mt. Vernon, Va. Chapter, D. A. R. April 30, 1926.

- Miles 1 S. W. Line, near 1200 Wilkes street, Alexandria, Va., D. A. R. of Alexandria, Va.
- " 2 S. W. Line, near junction Leesburg Pike and D. C. road, Alexandria, Va. Mt. Vernon, Va. Chapter, D. A. R.
- " 3 S. W. Line, South of Leesburg Pike, Va. (Cunningham Farm). American Liberty Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 4 S. W. Line, North of Leesburg Pike, Va. (Courtland Smith Farm) . Continental Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 5 S. W. Line, several rods from Leesburg Pike, Va. (James Payne Farm), on bank of Lucky Run. Keystone Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 6 S. W. Line, on valley rim across from Columbia road, west of Barcroft, Va. Fairfax County Chapter, Virginia D. A. R.
- " 7 S. W. Line, in cultivated field west of Glencarlyn, Va. on road to Leesburg Pike. Fairfax County Chapter, Virginia D. A. R.
- " 8 S. W. Line, South of Georgetown road at Upton Hill, Va. (Greer Farm). Unmarked.
- " 9 S. W. Line, near brook in Park of East Falls Church, Va. Falls Church, Va. Chapter, D. A. R.

West Corner-stone. On De Putron farm between East Falls Church, Va. and West Falls Church, Va. Virginia State D. A. R.

- Miles 1 N. W. Line, One and one-half miles northwest of West Falls Church, Va. near Miner Hill. Richard Arnold Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 2 N. W. Line, near Franklin Park, Va. on Great Falls Branch of Washington and Old Dominion Railway. Old Dominion Chapter D. A. R. of Richmond.
- " 3 N. W. Line, near Walker Chapel, Va. one mile west of Chain Bridge. Sarah St. Clair (now Descendants of '76) Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 4 N. W. Line, First stone set in Maryland, on west bank of canal 9 near Little Falls, Delecarlia Reservation. Columbia Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 5 N. W. Line, near east bank of Delecarlia Reservoir for city water supply. John Hall Chapter, D. C. D. A. R. Now under the protection of Dolly Madison Chapter.
- " 6 N. W. Line, University Place near Fessenden Street, D. C. Independence Bell Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 7 N. W. Line, on Western avenue southwest of Chevy Chase Circle, northwest corner of 41st street. Patriot's Memorial Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 8 N. W. Line, at Pinehurst, three-fourths mile northeast of Chevy Chase Circle, Western avenue and 33rd street. Col. John Donelson Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
- " 9 N. W. Line, in deep woods Rock Creek Park, south bank of Rock Creek. Margaret Whetton Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.

BOUNDARY MONUMENTS -2-

North Corner-stone. On road from 16th street extended to Bethesda, Md.
State of Maryland D. A. R., care of Janet Montgomery Chapter, Md.

- Miles 1 N. E. Line, near Georgia avenue, just south of Silver Spring, Md. on
property of Senator Blair Lee. Mary Washington Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 2 N. E. Line, near corner Maple and Carroll streets, Takoma Park, D. C.
Major L'Enfant Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 3 N. E. Line, near Masonic and Eastern Star Home, south of Slicko Mill Road,
Northeast. Our Flag Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 4 N. E. Line, near Sargent road north of Brookland, D. C.
Elizabeth Jackson Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 5 N. E. Line, on truck farm near Queen's Chapel road, west of Mt. Ranier, Md.
Constitution Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 6 N. E. Line, near Brentwood road and Rhode Island avenue, N. E., Woodridge.
Livingston Manor Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 7 N. E. Line, on grounds of National Training School for Boys, one-half
mile east of Bladensburg Road. Milestone in care of school.
" 8 N. E. Line, at Kenilworth, a few rods beyond end of car line on Kenilworth
avenue, N. E. Little John Boyden Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 9 N. E. Line, at Burrville, near corner of Sheriff road and Eastern avenue.
Captain Molly Pitcher Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.

East Corner-stone. Just south of Chesapeake Junction, at end of car line.
D. C. D. A. R., in care of the Historic Committee.

- Miles 1 S. E. Line, at Capitol Heights, one quarter mile south of Central avenue.
Sarah Franklin Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 2 S. E. Line, at a few rods south of Bowen road, east of Fort Dupont Park.
Marcia Burns Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 3 S. E. Line, a few rods north of Suitland road, S. E., just west of Oxen
Run, on Thos. Young estate. Ruth Brewster Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 4 S. E. Line, on Walker road, S. E., near Oxen Run. John Lindsay Chapter,
D. C. D. A. R. Now under American Eagle Chapter.
" 5 S. E. Line, in a garden east of Rifle Range. Take Good Hope road,
Anacostia to Good Hope, thence taking Hamilton road for one-half mile.
Turn left at brick school-house on country road for three-quarters mile
across Oxen Run. Louise Adams Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 6 S. E. Line, southeast of Congress Heights just south of Wheeler road on
high land. Martha Washington Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 7 S. E. Line, on Livingston road near concrete bridge, Congress Heights.
Lucy Holcombe Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 8 S. E. Line, just below Blue Plains, near Home for the Aged and Infirm.
Monticello Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.
" 9 S. E. Line, on bank of Potomac River at Fox Ferry across from Alexandria.
Potomac Chapter, D. C. D. A. R.

Jefferson Pier. On Washington Monument Grounds. Mary Bartlett Chapter,
D. C. D. A. R.