



Historical Sites Along the Trail

The John & Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden

**By Susquehanna Gateway
Heritage Area Staff**

with contributions on the historical information from John Zimmerman, Dr. June Evans and Jan Klinedinst

MDT Map 4 | Mile 2.6 W→E; 15.3 E→W

In the late 1990's, John and Kathryn Zimmerman saved the Zimmerman Center from decay, restoring the home as a historic jewel on the riverfront. In May 2007, the Zimmermans generously donated the home to the Heritage Area, ensuring that it forever serves the community as a regional showcase for preservation, heritage advocacy and education.

The Zimmerman Center is situated on land which has long played a role in the river's history, including the fertile "Long Level" waterfront, which was traversed by Indian paths—an ideal crossroads of land and water travel. It was also at the center of the long border dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania.

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Mason-Dixon Quarterly Meeting and Hike

Quarterly Hike and Meeting

Sat, Sept 22, 2012

Hike:

9:00 am

Meeting:

2:00 pm

Hike 6 miles of the Mason-Dixon Trail, including a beautiful new relocation along Otter Creek. Meet at the YHC John Paul Jones cabin at 9:00 am. The cabin, which is an old stone farm house on Route 425 just upriver from Otter Creek on the river side, is at 1145 Furnace Rd, Airville, PA 17302. Map 4 of the M-DTS maps set it at 15.4 miles. M-DTS Meeting will follow at 2:00 pm. We need to talk about how we are organized so please attend the meeting. Contact Jim Hooper at (717) 252-3784 if you have any questions.

President's Message

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are having major problems filling the board of director positions. The present members are getting old and we need to develop a new generation to run the organization. In addition, most of the active board members are from one county, York County. We need people from all of the counties that the trail goes thru to both handle trail maintenance and the interfacing with property owners and the local governments. If new people do not step forward, we will cease to have a successful organization!

Related to that I want to discuss at the next meeting how the board is organized and if we should change the board composition by rewriting the constitution and bylaws.

CONOWINGO DAM RELICENSING

We had a great meeting with Exelon and their consultants. Basically, they are going to put what we asked for in the final Recreation Plan.

1. **Muddy Creek:** They are going to plan for the parking lot and if any land owner issues are resolved permit us to run the trail down the north side of Muddy Creek.
2. **Line Bridge to Broad Creek:** They agreed with the routing of the trail along the river. We need to resurvey the route to make sure we have a route that avoids the cottages and is where we have permission from the land owners. The problem is that some of the boundary markers are missing.

3. **Relocation off of Shuresville Rd to Fisherman's Park:** They agree with the basic route however want us to resurvey to avoid one area. After an exploration with Exelon, a route close to the original proposal turned out to be the best. For safety considerations they will want to close off the trail if there is flooding of Fisherman's Park. Also, the relocation down at the bottom will be temporary until the detailed plans of rebuilding of the parking lot are finalized and a permanent location is determined.

4. **Route below dam:** When they take the land out of the project boundary they will ensure that the trail route is protected.

We also have a project at Broad Creek where Exelon has asked us to rebuild a bridge. We need to borrow a portable generator for that project.

SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor has started to quietly sell off some of their land. We have to work with them to make sure the trail is protected.

TRAIL WORK

We have a small crew of retired people mainly from the York Hiking Club that meets every Thursday to do trail work. When we get approval from Exelon, we will need additional help to implement the relocations. We will have to start scheduling work trips on the weekends so that younger people can come out and help us.

OTTER CREEK RELOCATION

We will walk a beautiful relocation of the trail along Otter Creek as part of the hike before the next meeting. It is right along the creek. It will add about a mile to the M-DTS. The people who have hiked it love it!

REMOVABLE POSTS

We use wooden 4x4 posts (actually 3.5x3.5) with blue blazes routed into the posts to mark the trail in open fields. We have had problems in both High Point and Native Lands with the posts being knocked over and disappearing. The suspicion is that it is the people that mow. Therefore we are looking for a removable post design. DCNR people have recommended burying a two-foot long box out of pressure treated wood so that the posts fit inside. Another solution is to use 4x4 composite deck posts that are designed to have a 4x4 fit inside. To provide drainage, we would put some gravel in the bottom of the hole before putting the box in. The treated lumber would be cheaper but the composite would last longer. Does anyone have experience with removable posts?

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In 1632, England's King Charles I granted the second Lord Baltimore a charter for Maryland, with the northern boundary fixed at the 40th parallel, about two miles north of here. In 1681, William Penn was granted a charter for Pennsylvania from King Charles II. Since the 40th parallel did not follow a natural landscape feature, the true boundaries of these royal charters were difficult to define.

Marylander Thomas Cresap arrived in 1730 with a 150-acre land grant from the fifth Lord Baltimore, including this property, which he named "Pleasant Garden". Cresap established a fort and the Blew Rock Ferry, and served as a Maryland agent by collecting taxes and remaining loyal to Lord Baltimore.

Pennsylvanians came to despise Cresap as the "Maryland Monster" for his aggressive behavior and ruthless dealings with local settlers. Cresap was eventually arrested in 1736 and driven out of the area after a series of bloody skirmishes known as "Cresap's War". King George II intervened and restored general peace to the area in 1738.

Disputes continued until 1763, when descendents of Lord Baltimore and William Penn settled the issue. From 1763 to 1767, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed Pennsylvania's border with Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The new boundary, about 15 miles due south of here, ran 244 miles west from the Delaware River. It became known as the Mason-Dixon Line and is still marked by colonial boundary stones in some places.

The actual construction date of this house is not known. Historians have dated the house to about 1740, after Thomas Cresap departed. The house is often referred to as the Dritt Mansion, after Jacob Dritt, who lived here from 1783 until drowning in the river in 1817. Dritt served in the Revolutionary War and became Major General of the Commonwealth Militia. His stone house was a residence as well as a place of business, for Dritt was an entrepreneur engaged in wine and liquor trading, farming, milling and operating a river ferry. Dritt had eleven children with his wife, Maria Elizabeth, and the house remained in the family until 1851. The Dritt Family Cemetery, on a hilltop behind the house, is now part of Native Lands County Park. Jacob Dritt is not buried there, but it is the final resting place of his wife and relatives, with graves dating between 1824 and 1879.

The Zimmerman Center is open Friday, 10 am—4pm or by appointment. The Visions of the Susquehanna art exhibit and parts of the historic home are regularly open for viewing by the public, as well as for special events and by appointment. Please visit the web site, www.susquehannaheritage.org, for more information.

You can reach the center from the Mason-Dixon Trail by following the yellow blazes on the Pleasant Garden Trail in the Native Lands County Park toward the river (Map 4, 2.6 miles). One can also see the cemetery from the trail.

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CARL REACHARD

By Ron Gray

Carl O. Reachard, one of the MDT founding fathers, recently passed away at age 90. Carl was a very active member of the York Hiking Club. When he was leading a hike it was sure to go over some very rocky terrain and be several miles longer than advertised. I avoided some of his hikes as too strenuous. He helped members of the York Hiking Club scout and construct much of the original trail between Fishing Creek and Muddy Creek.

He is responsible for the rocky climb on the south side of Cuff's Run. He even found a nest of Yellow

Jackets, dropped his tools and ran. I got stung several times retrieving them. He taught me many of the tricks to move heavy rocks, although he would just as soon walk on them. The rougher, the better.

Once, when he & I were working on the section of Appalachian Trail near the York Shelter, I was quite annoyed with him because he wasn't doing his share of the construction. He could usually work circles around me. When we got home, he went directly to the hospital with a minor heart attack. He never mentioned any problem all day. This was 1987



Carl digging a hole for an Appalachian Trail shelter pier.

and he never did any heavy trail work after that. He and I had many fun days out constructing both the A.T. and Mason Dixon Trail in York's River Hills.

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS board meetings held annually. Submissions are welcomed.

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is a non-profit all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join, send \$25 (which covers cost of M-DT maps and patch) to:

Mason-Dixon Trail System

Rick Maerker

13 Denise Drive

Thornton, PA 19373

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7. Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail web site at: www.masondixontrail.org