



Hike will mark 244th anniversary of the end of the Mason and Dixon Line survey

11 A.M. SUNDAY, OCT. 16, 2011

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CORE, W.Va. (Sept. 9, 2011) — Has it really been that long?

It will be 244 years ago next month that the Mason and Dixon survey was halted by Native Americans about 3 miles southwest of Mount Morris, Pa., less than 23 miles short of the team's goal at the present-day southwest corner of Pennsylvania.

To commemorate this anniversary, a special hike will be held at **Mason-Dixon Historical Park**, Buckeye Road, off Route 7 near Core, W.Va.

The hike to the third and last crossing of Dunkard Creek by Mason and Dixon **will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011.**

Pete Zapadka, founder of the Web site exploretheline.com, will lead the hike and talk. Zapadka is a journalist, historian and astronomer who will guide participants along the banks of Dunkard Creek to the seldom-visited area at which Mason and Dixon in 1767 were confronted by their Indian companions who said they could not take "one step farther" westward.

The hike, which will be held weather permitting, covers easy terrain and is about 1 1/2 miles out and back. Participants should gather by 10:45 a.m. in the parking lot next to the park's red barn.

The hike is a great opportunity for history buffs to learn about Mason and Dixon, their contemporaries and the true meaning of their line, which has nothing to do with the Civil War or slavery, as so often believed today — The Line was drawn 100 years before the war!

Participants also will be able to visit the marker atop Brown's Hill that was erected in 1883 resurvey by Cephas H. Sinclair. It sits at the site of Mason and Dixon's last earth and stone mound and wooden post. Visitors will learn more about the Native Americans of the area.

While the hike runs along a mostly flat area next to the creek, visitors who also wish to climb to the marker atop Brown's Hill should be prepared for a steep trail.

For directions and information about Mason-Dixon Historical Park, call 304-292-3946. To learn more about the western end of the Mason-Dixon Line, visit exploretheline.com.

Note to media: Mr. Zapadka is an online editor at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. If there are any media conflict-of-interest concerns regarding a potential interview, he gladly will direct you to other sources for your publication or broadcast.

These events are being held to celebrate local (and national) history.

Thanks in advance for you understanding and cooperation!