

**The New London Area Historical Society  
& the Franklin Township Historical Commission**

*invite you to*



***Retracing Mason and Dixon's Enduring Line***

**A free talk by Edith Kilby Bacon & Emily Kilby**

The dispute over the location of the boundaries between the Calvert colony of Maryland and the Penn family's Pennsylvania and (what is now) Delaware confounded resolution for more than 80 years. Finally, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, skilled British astronomers, mathematicians, and surveyors, were hired to finish laying out the lines that would define the three colonies. Their survey lasted from 1763 to 1767, and involved meticulous astronomical calculations and remarkably accurate surveying. They marked more than 230 miles of Maryland's and Virginia's (now West Virginia's) boundaries with Pennsylvania at one-mile intervals, using imported inscribed limestone markers as far as Sideling Hill.

Three years ago, Edith Kilby Bacon, a retired educator, decided to visit all 23 markers on the Mason-Dixon Line between Cecil County, Maryland, and Chester and Lancaster counties, Pennsylvania. Over three winters, she and her sister, Emily Kilby, a retired journalist and amateur local historian, accomplished her mission, becoming the only present-day seekers to have seen all 23 sites. Their presentation will provide historical context for Mason and Dixon's achievement, then give an account of locating and visiting each marker, whether on private property or industrial sites, in briar-choked woodlands or roadside ditches, or even underground.

*Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM.*

*New London Township Building, 902 State Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352*

***All are welcome; refreshments will be served afterward.***