

boundary of the county. The line generally accepted has been that run by Lieut. Michler in 1859-60 in accordance with a joint resolution passed by the legislatures of Maryland and Virginia. Since that time attention has been called to the fact that a true north line drawn from this point would cross the Potomac River and exclude part of the territory lying on the left bank of the river which, according to the charter should be in Maryland. A more important discrepancy has also been shown, namely, that the Fairfax Stone does not represent the head of the North Branch of the Potomac, which really rises on the slopes of Backbone Mountain at a higher point and a mile or more to the westward of the present line. In 1897 as a preliminary to the final adjudication of this dispute by the United States Supreme Court lines were run northward from the Fairfax Stone and the "Potomac Stone" placed at the true head on Backbone Mountain. These lines were both true north lines, one practically coincident with the Michler line, the other approximately parallel to it but a mile and an eighth to the westward. These lines converge slightly to the north on account of the curvature of the earth, the distance between the two being about 42 feet less on the Mason and Dixon line than at their southern ends. Should the final decision be favorable to the Maryland contention the land between the two lines would be added to Garrett County.

The northern boundary of the county is formed by part of the famous Mason and Dixon line surveyed prior to the Revolutionary War. Messrs. Mason and Dixon were not able at the time to mark this line with permanent stone monuments and there have been occasional discussions as to the exact location of the line. The recent resurvey of the entire boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania under the direction of commissioners representing these two States involved the accurate marking of the line with stone monuments placed a mile apart.

The southern boundary of the county lies on the right bank of the North Branch of the Potomac, whose waters are accordingly within the limits of Garrett County.