A History of the Boundaries Surveyed

The State of North Carolina
How did North Carolina get its shape?

• NC Boundary Commission recommends that we start work on the NC-VA boundary

How did North Carolina get its shape?

• North Carolina/Virginia boundary
  - In 1728 by his Majesty's Order, assented to by the Lords Proprietors [appointed rulers], "The Dividing Line" was to be surveyed, "that neither the King's Giants may hereafter encroach upon the Lords Proprietors, nor theirs on the Right of his Majesty."
  - William Byrd's crew surveyed the line in 1728, but ran into a few issues:
How did North Carolina get its shape?

- North Carolina/Virginia boundary
  - Charter of 1665 by King Charles

“All that province, territory, or tract of land, scituate [situate], lying or being within our dominions of America aforesaid; extending north and eastward, as far as the north end of Currituck River, or inlet, upon a strait [straight] westerly line to Wyonoak Creek, which lies within or about the degrees of thirty-six and thirty minutes, northern latitude; and so west in a direct line as far as the South Seas [Pacific Ocean].”

I like the part about North Carolina extending to the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, Tennessee eventually becomes a state and gets in the way, but that is another story.
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- **North Carolina/Virginia boundary**
  - 1728-29 survey: William Byrd (commissioner not a surveyor)

- Began at Currituck Inlet on the Atlantic Ocean and then surveyed through the Dismal Swamp, which was very difficult.

- Did their “Blackwater Creek to Wyanoke” jog, continued on surveying for a total of 73 miles, and then stopped for a break in April 1728

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How did North Carolina get its shape?

- **North Carolina/Virginia boundary**
  - 1728-29 survey: William Byrd (commissioner not a surveyor)

  Returned to the boundary survey in the fall of 1728, surveyed through stream after stream for a total of 100 miles, and then the North Carolina commissioners and surveyors quit along with one of the Virginia commissioners.
How did North Carolina get its shape?

- North Carolina/Virginia boundary
  - 1728-29 survey: William Byrd (commissioner not a surveyor)

After half the party left, they continued to survey for another 64 miles and stopped at Peters Creek, because winter was approaching and they were running out of food.

However, they lamented at stopping, because they could see a place about 30 miles westward (Fisher Peak) where two ledges of mountains closed that the “Hand of Nature” had made so very remarkable.
How did North Carolina get its shape?

- **North Carolina/Virginia boundary**
  - 1749 survey: Joshua Frye and Peter Jefferson

- Began at the terminus of the 1728 survey (Peters Creek)
- Surveyed to the Alleghany Ridge and crossed over at Fisher Peak
- Surveyed to the Stone Mountain Range and ended at Steep Rock Creek, which is at the base of White Top Mountain
How did North Carolina get its shape?

• North Carolina/Virginia boundary

- 1728-29 survey: William Byrd (commissioner not a surveyor)
- 1749 survey: Joshua Frye and Peter Jefferson
A.D. 1728
N. CA & VA
Boundary
Rec. 1837 Run
W.D. Pruden, N.C.
C.P. Howard, Va.
County
H.T. G., Engineer
A.M. Scales
Gov. N.C.
Fitzhugh Lee,
Gov. Va.
Questions?

Gary W. Thompson, PLS
Office: 919-733-3836
Direct: 919-948-7844
Email: gary.thompson@ncdps.gov

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<th>Building (shipping) address:</th>
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<td>Gary W. Thompson, PLS</td>
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<td>NC Geodetic Survey</td>
<td>NC Geodetic Survey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bowers Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raleigh, NC 27699-4298</td>
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