NCGS: Positioning NC today and for the future!

North Carolina Geodetic Survey

National Geospatial Advisory Committee
September 2015
How did North Carolina get its shape?

A History of the Boundaries Surveyed
How did North Carolina get its shape?

- **North Carolina/Georgia boundary**
  (a line defined by 2 survey teams that didn’t meet)

  - **1818 survey led by Mr. Hugh Montgomery**
    - Proceeded east from Georgia’s NW corner for 40 miles along what he thought was the 35th parallel until a point near Pine Knob where he set the “Montgomery’s Corner” monument, but was 4,813 ft south of the 35th parallel.

  - **1819 survey led by Mr. Love of North Carolina and Mr. Terrell of Georgia**
    - Proceeded west from the terminus of the 1815 survey (i.e. Commissioners Rock) for 30 miles where they set the 30 mile stone, which was 1,983 ft north of Montgomery’s Corner.
How did North Carolina get its shape?

Legend:
- 1818 survey: Mr. Hugh Montgomery
- 1819 survey: Mr. Love of NC and Mr. Terrell of GA
NC-GA reference mark
NC- GA Stone
How did North Carolina get its shape?

Legend:

- Ellicott Rock and Commissioners Rock
Ellicott to His Excellency William Hawkins Esq. (Governor of North Carolina)

Lancaster June 3rd 1812

Dear Sir,

I presume the dispute between the state of Georgia and North Carolina is now finally settled. The 35th degree of N. latitude is found to be considerably further south than was expected. Not one water, hill or valley of the French broad falls within the state of Georgia by several miles.

It is contemplated to prepare, and publish an account of the dispute between the two states, with all the observations used for the determination of both latitude and longitude, together with a map or chart of the county in the vicinity of operations.

If the result of my labors should not be agreeable to the state of Georgia, it is not my fault. I was merely the interpreter for the stars and they cannot err. The true boundary between the two states commences on the west side of the Chatoga River, about six miles south of the white sided mountain, and probably not more than eight miles north of the Ocone station! In the parallel of 35 degrees N. latitude, on the west side of the Chatoga river, a stone is set up marked on the south side, (G lat 35 N.) and on the north side, (N. C.) for North Carolina. The Chatoga River is laid down in all maps, I have yet seen, as rising south of the 35th degree of N. latitude, which is manifestly a great error, and may have had its weight in providing the conflicting claims between the two states.

As the state on N. Carolina gains considerably by the determination, would it not be proper that it should bear part of the expense? My pay from the state of Georgia, falls far short of what I expected; --but this you may keep to yourself.

Please to accept the respects of my family, and believe me to be

With great esteem,
Your friend and honorable servant

ANDREW ELLICOTT

(This letter can be found in the NC Archives Search Room General Assembly Papers of 1812-Box # 4)
Commissioner’s Rock

Sid Miller at Commissioner's Rock

Phil Cort at Ellicott's Rock?
Ellicott's Rock?
Ellicott Rock Wilderness
Questions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing address:</th>
<th>Building (shipping) address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Gary W. Thompson, PLS  
NC Geodetic Survey  
4298 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4298 | Gary W. Thompson, PLS  
NC Geodetic Survey  
Bowers Building  
NC National Guard complex  
4105 Reedy Creek Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27607 |

Gary W. Thompson, PLS
NC Geodetic Survey
Bowers Building
NC National Guard complex
4105 Reedy Creek Rd
Raleigh, NC 27607

Gary W. Thompson, PLS
NC Geodetic Survey
4298 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4298

Office: 919-733-3836
Direct: 919-948-7844
Email: gary.thompson@ncdps.gov