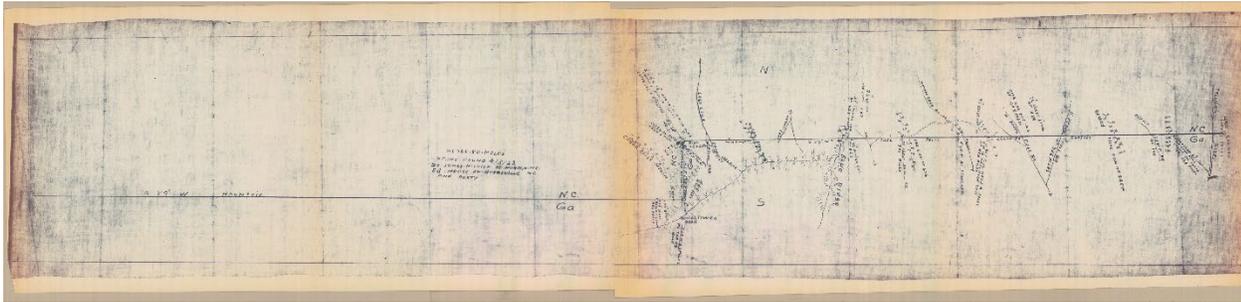


# History of the Georgia – North Carolina Boundary



“In 1806 a correspondence between the Governors of North Carolina and Georgia began with a letter from Governor Jared Irwin of Georgia dated December 10, 1806. He encloses sundry resolutions from the Legislature of Georgia and announces that that body had chosen Thomas P. Carnes, Thomas Flournoy, and William Bennett as commissioners to ‘ascertain the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and plainly to mark the dividing line between the States of North Carolina and Georgia.’”

“Governor Nathaniel Alexander of North Carolina under date of January 1, 1807, responds cordially to this letter from the Governor of Georgia, encloses him a copy of an Act of the Legislature passed at the preceding session, assenting to the proposition of Georgia, and appointing the commissioners. In view of the sparse population of the region, Governor Alexander suggests that the commissioners meet at Asheville, in Buncombe County, for the purpose of organizing and agreeing upon the plan of procedure. He announces Messrs. John Steele, John Moore, and James Welbourn had been appointed commissioners on the part of North Carolina.”<sup>1</sup>

“In June 1807 Professor Josiah Meigs and Surveyor General Daniel Sturges (representing Georgia) and Professors Joseph Caldwell and James Hall (representing North Carolina) met at Buncombe Court House (now Asheville) in North Carolina to determine the location of the thirty-fifth parallel. The observations they made indicated that the parallel lay considerably south of its previously assumed location. The commissioners thereupon broke off further proceedings and headed home to report these findings to their respective governments.”<sup>2</sup>

“Within a short period after the close of the War of 1812, when conditions and interests again became normal, efforts were begun looking toward a survey of the line as described in the agreements of 1807. It is probable that the necessity of a survey was called to the attention of the authorities by the westward movement then taking on such proportions and importance, and the consequent demand for definite and reliable land grants. Georgia assumed the initiative in securing a line when her Legislature took definite action in favor of a joint survey. Basing their action on the desire to promote harmony between the States, the Legislature passed a

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<sup>1</sup> The North Carolina and Georgia Boundary, Daniel R. Goodloe; Vol III no. 12 pgs. 202-204

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<sup>2</sup> Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data. Cadle, Farris W. Georgia Land Surveying History and Law/ Farris W. Cadle. Pg. 116; Includes bibliographical references and index The University of Georgia Press Athens and London; c1991

resolution on November 9, 1818, directing the governor to appoint commissioners, the number not to exceed three, who should “ascertain, run and plainly mark” the dividing line. The governor was requested to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Governor of North Carolina requesting that it be laid before the Legislature and urging that he appoint commissioners to join in carrying out the purpose of the resolution.”

“Governor William Rabun of Georgia immediately transmitted the resolution to Raleigh where the Legislature of North Carolina was in session. He stated that, if the purpose of the resolution were approved by North Carolina, the question of time and place of meeting of commissioners should be taken up immediately after he received notification of such approval.”

“The Legislature of North Carolina lost no time in taking favorable action. A resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of commissioners, a copy of which was forwarded to Governor Rabun in January following.”<sup>3</sup>

“...Benjamin Cleveland, Allen Daniel, James Camak and Timothy Tyrrel (representing Georgia) and Jesse Franklin, James Mebane, and Robert Love (representing North Carolina) marked a line from Ellicott’s Rock in a westerly direction for thirty miles along what they believed to be the thirty-fifth parallel but which – as discovered later – angled slightly southward from that parallel.”<sup>4</sup>

“The commissioners met at Ellicott’s Rock on the appointed day and began the survey. The line was begun at that point which was the termination of the North Carolina-South Carolina survey of 1815, and extended “just thirty miles due west,” supposedly along the thirty-fifth parallel. By September 25, they had reached a point eleven miles beyond the first crossing of the Blue Ridge, where they erected a stone on the parallel; at the end of sixteen miles a locust post was set up beyond the Cowee River, dated October 14, 1819; at the end of the twenty-one and three-fourths miles – after the second crossing of the Blue Ridge – a second stone was erected. At the end of the thirty-mile survey a stone monument was erected “on the north side of a mountain the waters of which fall into Shooting Creek, a branch of the Highwassee...”<sup>5</sup>

...When in 1821 North Carolina and Tennessee had run their mutual dividing line, the Legislature of North Carolina passed an act ratifying the work of the commissioners.

The original stone marker at this site, falls along the referenced 1819 survey line 10.8 miles from the Chatuge River. It was damaged during an automobile accident in 2021 and was replaced by a brass Geodetic Monument tied to the North Carolina State Plain Coordinate System. This disc was set by joint effort between the Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia and the North Carolina Society of Surveyors.

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<sup>3</sup> The North Carolina and Georgia Boundary, Daniel R. Goodloe; Vol III no. 12 pgs. 202-204

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<sup>4</sup> Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data. Cadle, Farris W. Georgia Land Surveying History and Law/ Farris W. Cadle. Pg. 119; Includes bibliographical references and index The University of Georgia Press Athens and London; c1991

<sup>5</sup> The North Carolina and Georgia Boundary, Daniel R. Goodloe; Vol III no. 12 pgs. 202-204

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