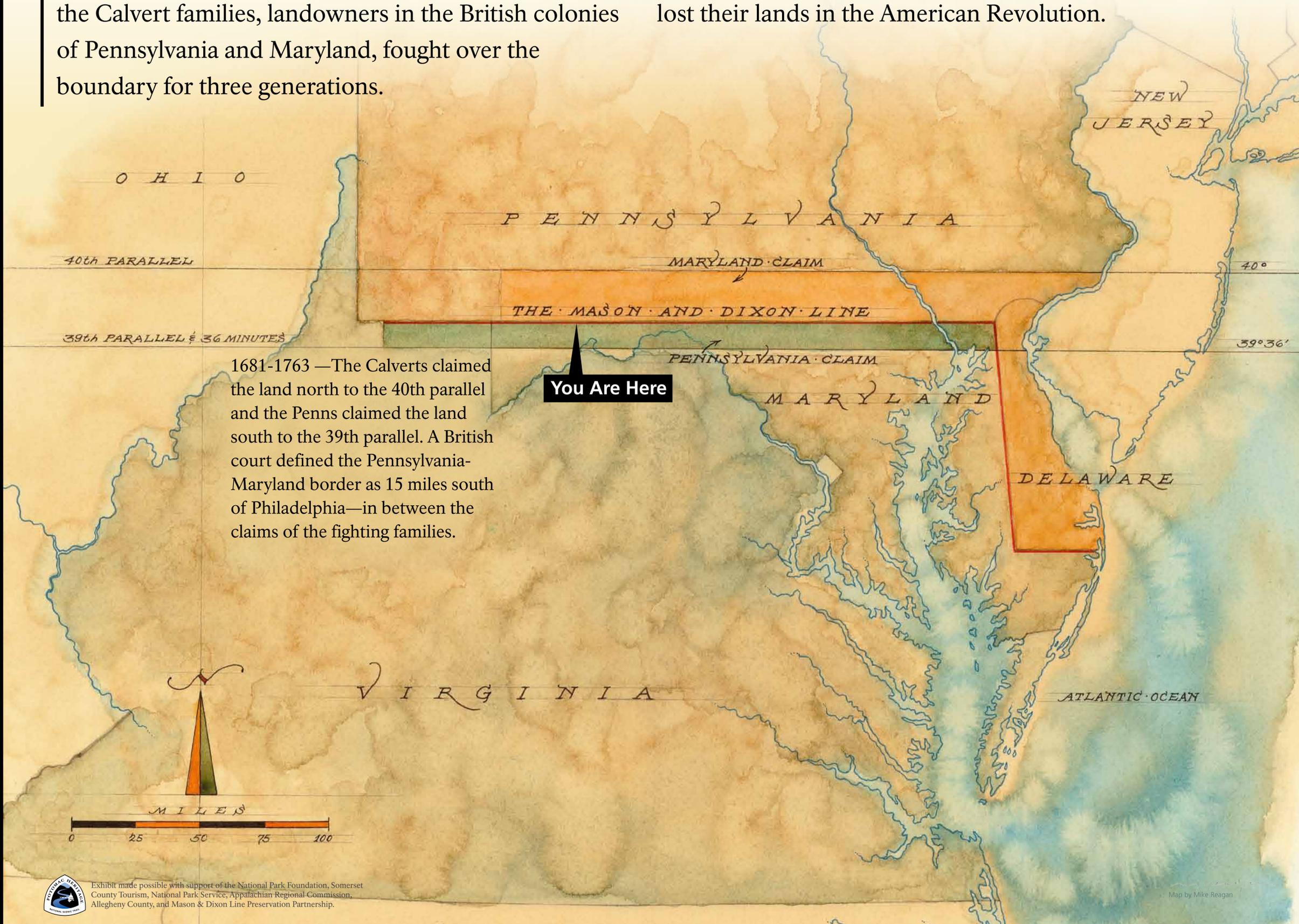


# Disputed land

## The Mason and Dixon Line

You are standing on America's most famous boundary. Known today as the cultural dividing line between the North and the South, the line began as a dispute between two British colonial families. The Penn and the Calvert families, landowners in the British colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland, fought over the boundary for three generations.

Two Englishmen, astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon, ended the dispute when they created the official boundary that now bears their name. Less than a decade later the Penns and Calverts lost their lands in the American Revolution.



1681-1763 — The Calverts claimed the land north to the 40th parallel and the Penns claimed the land south to the 39th parallel. A British court defined the Pennsylvania-Maryland border as 15 miles south of Philadelphia—in between the claims of the fighting families.

**You Are Here**

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