

## *History Along the Trail* **Dams Along the Trail**

**T**here were dams for several mills but there is limited information in their history.

The first dam the author could find on the Susquehanna is the dam between Wrightsville to Columbia. The dam was to provide enough depth of water for the towing of canal boats across the river. Remains of the dam can be seen from the trail below Wrightsville. When the confederates attacked Wrightsville a battery named Ft. Case was on the Columbia side to prevent the confederates from using the dam to cross the river.

In 1898, the first electric power dam was on Muddy Creek at the spot that the trail goes away from the creek and up a side stream.



Foundations and some iron remains can be found. The Delta Electric Power Company built the dam. It was a wooden dam with a power plant on the trailside of the creek.<sup>1</sup> It was wiped out by flooding and did not last long.

There are four power dams on the lower Susquehanna. York



Haven is located just up river from where the trail turns inland. The dam slopes 8,000 across the river, with the lower end at York Haven and the other end at Ten Mile River Island. It is a low dam that diverts the water to the power plant. It has a 3,000 ft. stone/masonry headrace wall and a stone/concrete main dam. Construction started in 1901 and completed in 1904 with the final of 20 generators installed in 1914. The gears for driving the generators used replaceable wooden teeth that were modernized to plastic (phenolic) teeth. The meters in the control room are mounted on marble slabs. On the Lancaster side of the river there are big potholes carved by rocks born by the water.

*continued on page 2*

York Haven Power Plant and Dam



<sup>1</sup> Engineering News and American Railway Journal, Volume 39

## **Mason-Dixon Quarterly Hike and Meeting**

**Quarterly Hike  
and Meeting**  
Sat., Aug. 20, 2016  
*Hike: 9:00 am*  
*Meeting: 1:00 pm*

The next board meeting of the Mason-Dixon Trail System will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at the North East Public Library, 106 W. Cecil Ave (MD Rt. 7), North East, MD at 1:00 pm. The hike and board meeting are both open to the public. The carpool for the hike will leave at 9:00 am from the Elk Neck State Forest Ranger Station, 801 Irishtown Rd, North East, MD 21901. See directions to the meeting and hike on page 5.

## Dams Along the Trail *continued*

The next dam down the river is the Safe Harbor dam. On map 4 the trail crosses the old parking lot that was used by workers that lived on the York side of the river. They would park and walk down a switched-backed trail and then across the dam to the power plant. The York Hiking Club had a hike called Ron's (Gray) Dam hike that included walking down the trail and across the dam to get a tour of the power plant. The long-term maintainer, Charley Albin, of the Apollo Park section of the M-DTS trail arranged the tour. Charley died so we lost that contact.

The Safe Harbor Dam was started in 1929 and finished in 1931 with the last of seven generators in 1940. Five more generators were installed between 1981 and 1986. Two of the generators are 25 Hertz generators for supplying electric power to the railroads, SEPTA, and Amtrak. There is a rock with petroglyphs just below the dam. Some rocks with petroglyphs were removed from the river and are in the Pa Museum in Harrisburg.

The Holtwood Dam, originally McCall's Ferry Dam, is just above the Norman Wood Bridge. Its construction started in 1905 and was completed by 1910. The last of the original ten generators came on line in 1924. The construction took so long due to financial problems. It also had a coal fired power plant. It was powered initially with coal dredged from the river above the dam. The hurricane Agnes stopped the dredging and the coal power plant's original two units stopped operation. A third coal power unit continued operation using coal brought in by trail until 1999. This plant got torn down and additional generators



Safe Harbor Dam  
from trail crossing  
power line



Holtwood Dam  
from trail



View of Conowingo  
Dam from Fisherman's  
Park

were installed in a new building. The new units more that doubled the power output of the dam. Part of the construction project was to install a kayak course on the York side.

The last dam before the Chesapeake Bay is the Conowingo

dam located at the first fall on the river. The construction of the Conowingo Dam was covered in the May 2014 newsletter. US Route 1 goes across the top of the dam but there is no way for a pedestrian to cross.

# President's Message

## NEW MASON-DIXON TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE

The new 2016 Mason-Dixon Trail maps are available from the website. On average, the M-DT maps are updated with all the trail changes and reprinted every 4 years. Three maps were changed for the 2012 map sets but this time there were an above average number of changes. All but two of the maps were changed. There's a short article on ordering a 2016 map set below.

The above average number of changes required an above average effort to make all the graphic changes on maps as well as all the text changes in the trail descriptions.

I'd like to express my thanks to the Map Committee volunteers, Ron Gray, Rob Campbell, Paul Yatabe, Mike Calabrese and John Beatty for their efforts. Special thanks to Paul Yatabe for his knowledge and skill in drawing all the changes on the base maps and to Ron Gray for his ability to recall just about any section of the trail and write or edit a description of that section.

You'd think after this arduous effort the Map Committee would want to take a couple of years off before starting to work on the next edition of the maps. Not this group, they're already discussing changes they want to make for the next edition of maps including PDF maps that you can view on your smart phone. More on that in next quarter's newsletter.

# Order Your 2016 M-DT Map Set

The quickest way to order a 2016 Mason-Dixon Trail Map Set is to go to the website [www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org) and click on Maps /Membership at the top of the page. Scroll down the page to the image of 2016 map set cover sheet. Click the "Buy Now" button. You will then have the option to purchase the maps with PayPal or a credit card. Either login to your PayPal account or click the "Pay with Debit or Credit Card" button.

If you would prefer, you can pay by check. Just like above, go to the website [www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org), click on Maps/Membership at the top of the page. Scroll down the page to the image of 2016 map set cover sheet. Below the "Buy Now" button there are instructions about making out your check and mailing it to the M-DTS Treasurer.

## MEETING AND HIKE DIRECTIONS

### Directions to the meeting:

From I-95 Exit 100, drive south on MD Rt. 272, North East Rd for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto MD Rt. 7, Cecil Ave/Philadelphia Rd and drive 500 ft. Turn left into the library parking lot.

### Directions to the hike:

From I-95 Exit 100, drive south on MD Rt. 272, North East Rd for 2.9 miles. Turn left onto Irishtown Rd and drive 1.7 miles. Turn left into Elk Neck State Forest and park at the Ranger Station.

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## MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM

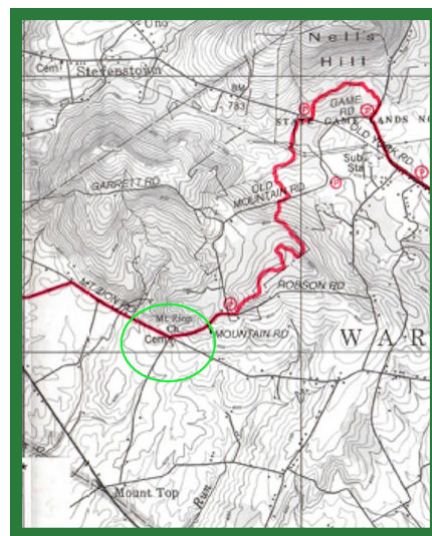
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# Make a Stop at Mount Zion UMC

If you have ever hiked the 6 miles of the Mason-Dixon Trail between Franklinton and State Game Land 242, PA (Map 1) you know that the trail is on roads, the area is mostly farms and houses, and there are not a lot of places to “go”.

Now there is. The Mount Zion United Methodist Church, at the corner of Mount Zion RD and Mountain RD, has built a new privy behind the church. And they have informed us that hikers of the Mason-Dixon Trail are welcome to use it.

The Mason-Dixon Trail currently goes right past this church. In fact, it is a good place to stop and take a break on their front step. When I hiked this section last year I stopped here and used the privy. It was 90% full at that time. So I called the pastor of the church after my hike and informed him of that fact and asked if it was possible if M-DT hikers could use it in the future. I later got a call from a lady from this church saying that the privy didn't meet code so they were going to tear it down and build a new one. About a year later she called me again and said that the new privy was complete. So we now have a place to “go” while hiking this section of the Mason-Dixon Trail. Thanks to Mount Zion UM Church, PA. — *Mike Calabrese*



The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS board meetings held annually. Submissions are welcomed.

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is a non-profit all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 193-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join, send \$20 (which covers initial membership as well as the M-DT maps) to:

**Mason-Dixon Trail System, Frank Kempf, 2174 Esbenshade Road, York, PA 17408**

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$7. Life membership is available for \$250.

**Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail web site at: [www.mason-dixontrail.org](http://www.mason-dixontrail.org)**

**Visit the Mason-Dixon Trail Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/theMDTS](https://www.facebook.com/theMDTS)**