ceded territory. The first was held at Durham, below Easton, in 1734; another was at Pennsbury, in May, 1735, and the negotiations were concluded at Philadelphia, Aug. 25, 1737. The last meeting resulted in an agreement that the treaty of 1686 should be consummated, and the extent of the purchase was decided in a novel manner. The proprietaries were to receive such portion of the Indian territory as should be included within a line drawn northwesterly from a point in or near Wrightstown as far as a man could walk in a day and a half, and a line drawn from his stopping-place straight to the Delaware, which was of course the eastern boundary.

While the treaty was in negotiation the proprietaries caused a preliminary or trial walk to be made to ascertain what amount of ground could be secured. It appears that this was undertaken as early as April, 1735, and that the trees along the route were blazed, so that the persons to be engaged in the walk deciding the ownership of land might have the advantage of a marked pathway. As soon as the treaty of Aug. 25, 1737, had been consummated, James Steel, receiver-general under Thomas Penn, took measures to secure for the performance of the purchase-walk the man who had "held out the best" in the preliminary walk. It was proposed that he should walk with two others, who were actively to engage in competition, and that Timothy Smith, sheriff of Bucks County, and John Chapman, surveyor, should accompany the trio, provide provisions, etc. The time fixed for the walk under the treaty was Sept. 12, 1737, but it was postponed until the 19th. The preliminaries were all arranged in advance, and Edward Marshall, James Yeates, and Solomon Jennings, all noted for their powers of endurance, and one of them undoubtedly the champion of the trial walk, were employed by the proprietaries to make the decisive effort. It was arranged that the Indians should send some of their young men along to see that the walk was fairly made. The walkers were promised five pounds in money and five hundred acres of land. The place of starting was fixed at a well-known point, a large chestnut-tree near the junction of the Pennsville and Durham roads, at the Wrightstown meeting-house, in Bucks County, very close to the northern boundary of the Markham purchase. Marshall, Yeates, and Jennings stood with their hands upon the tree, and as the sun rose above the horizon the signal was given by Sheriff Smith, and they started. Their route was as straight as the inequalities of the ground and the numerous obstructions would permit, and led for a number of miles along the Durham road (which was then a road in little more than name). It is said that Yeates led the way with a light step, and next came Jennings, with two of the Indian walkers, while Marshall was last, a considerable distance behind the others. He swung a hatchet in his hand, and walked with an easy and careless lope. The walkers reached Red Hill, in Bedminster, in two and a half hours, took dinner with the Indian trader Wilson, on Durham Creek, near where the old furnace stood, crossed the Lehigh a mile below Bethlehem, at what is now Jones Island, and passing the Blue Ridge at Smith's Gap (in what is now Moore township, Northampton Co.), slept at night on the northern slope. The walk was resumed at sunrise, and terminated at noon, when Marshall, who alone held out, threw himself at length upon the ground and grasped a sapling, which was marked as the end of the line. Jennings first gave out, about two miles north of the Tohickon, and then lagged behind with the followers until the party reached the Lehigh River. He then left for his home, in what is now Salisbury township,[1] Lehigh Co.

Yeates fell at the foot of the mountain, on the morning of the second day, was quite blind when taken up, and died three days later. Marshall, the champion of the walk, was not in the least injured by his exertion, and lived to the age of seventy-nine, dying in Tinicum, Bucks Co.[2]

The walk is said to have followed an Indian path which led from the hunting-grounds of the Minsis down to Bristol, on the Delaware. The Indians showed their dissatisfaction at the manner in which the so-called "walk" was made, and left the party before it was concluded. It is said that they frequently called upon the walkers not to run. The distance walked, according to the generally-accepted measurement, was sixty-one and one-fourth miles. Nicholas Scull says it was only fifty-five statute miles, while others estimate the distance as high as eighty-six miles.

When the walk had reached the extreme point in a northwesterly direction from the starting-place, it still remained to run the line to the Delaware, and here arose another ground for disagreement. The Indians had expected that a straight line would be drawn to the river at the nearest point, but instead it was run at right angles and reached the river at or near the Laxawaxen, taking in about twice as much territory as would have been included by the other arrangement. The lines embraced nearly all of the lands within the forks of the Delaware (that is, be-

[1] Solomon Jennings had settled some years previous to the "Walking Purchase" on what is now the Geisinger farm, two miles above Bethlehem, and, living on the extreme frontier, had become famous as a hunter and woodsman, a fact which led to his being selected as one of the walkers. He is said to have been extremely fond of whiskey, and it has been averred that it was because of that weakness that he failed in the walk. This, however, may be an injustice to him. It is certain that he never recovered from the effects of his overexertion, though he lived for twenty years. His son, John Jennings, was elected sheriff of Northampton County in 1762, and again in 1768. It is traditionally asserted that Solomon Jennings received what is now known as the Geisinger farm as a reward for his taking part in the walk, but there is no foundation for that theory of his ownership, and it is well known that he resided upon the property for a number of years prior to 1737. The farm was sold to Jacob Geisinger at public sale in 1764.

[2] The date of his death was Nov. 7, 1789. He was a native of Bustleton, Philadelphia Co., where he was born in 1710. He was twice married, and the father of twenty-one children. He lived for a time on the island in the Delaware opposite Tinicum which bears his name.