Since ancient times, conquerors have sent mathematicians to survey their new territory. Andrew Ellicott (1754-1820) had a profound impact on the shape of this country, establishing boundaries of states and cities as well as its international boundaries both north and south. In 1791, he surveyed the territory now known as the District of Columbia and a year later produced the first engraved map of the future city developed from plans of Pierre L’Enfant. In 1796, he surveyed the international border between the U.S. and Spanish territories in Florida under the San Lorenzo Treaty. In 1817, he was appointed astronomer for the United States establishing the boundary between the US and Canada, concluding the War of 1812.

As a teacher his most famous student was Meriwether Lewis who needed field instruction before Lewis’ great expedition to the west. In 1813, he was appointed by President Monroe as a professor of mathematics at the Military Academy at West Point where he was among the first in the country who taught a class in calculus. (Received September 01, 2008)