

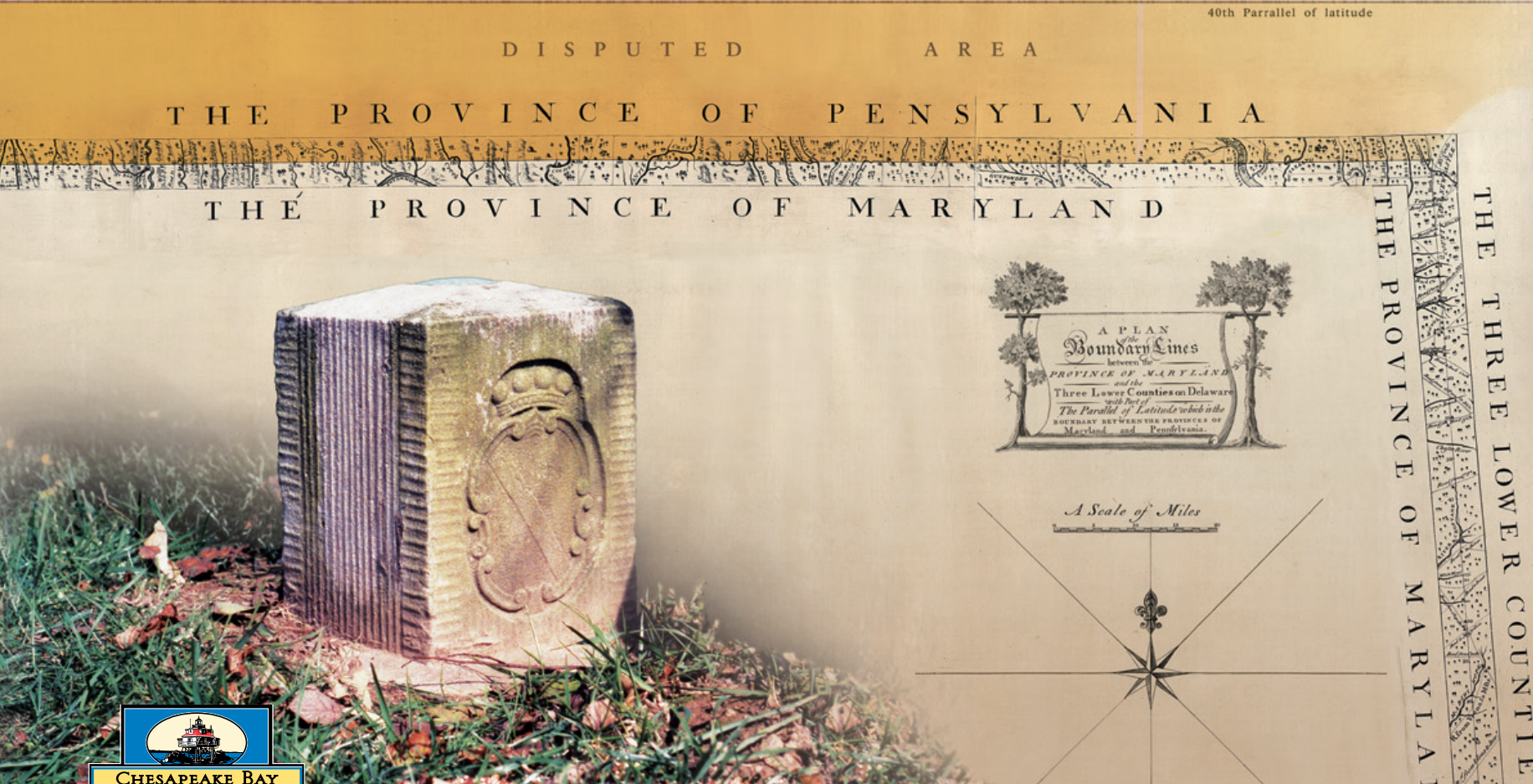
# Colonel Cresap's War

The wide and rocky Susquehanna was an impediment to westward travel for early settlers so entrepreneurs established ferries to help them cross the river safely. One of the most interesting ferry operations was owned by a rugged frontiersman from Maryland named Thomas Cresap. Cresap established a ferry operation known as "Blew Rock" (now Blue Rock) in 1730, about a half-mile south of here at his "Pleasant Garden" plantation. His activities during this time helped fuel a bitter and sometimes violent border dispute between the colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

In 1682, William Penn, relying on an inaccurate map, mistakenly placed Philadelphia five miles into Maryland territory. Penn, wanting to ensure his title to Philadelphia, along with access to the sea, subsequently claimed that the Pennsylvania border lay further south. After fifty years of failing to resolve the matter, Cresap was hired by Maryland officials to defend Lord Baltimore's claim of land. For nearly eight years, Cresap and his followers clashed with area residents and local law enforcement officials. His enemies nicknamed him the "Maryland Monster." Finally, in 1760, the proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland agreed to establish the border fifteen miles south of Philadelphia. The line, however, was not officially defined until British astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon completed surveying it in 1767.

Mason & Dixon Line Crown Stone Marker located in southern York County, Pa., delineating the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Courtesy Tom Babcock



Dritt Mansion (1900), home of Captain Jacob Dritt who ran the Blew Rock (now Blue Rock) Ferry after the Revolutionary War until his death in 1819. The two and one-half story blue-stone mansion, located a quarter-mile south of here, is built on Thomas Cresap's Pleasant Garden plantation. Courtesy York Heritage Trust



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## Susquehanna River Water Trail

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