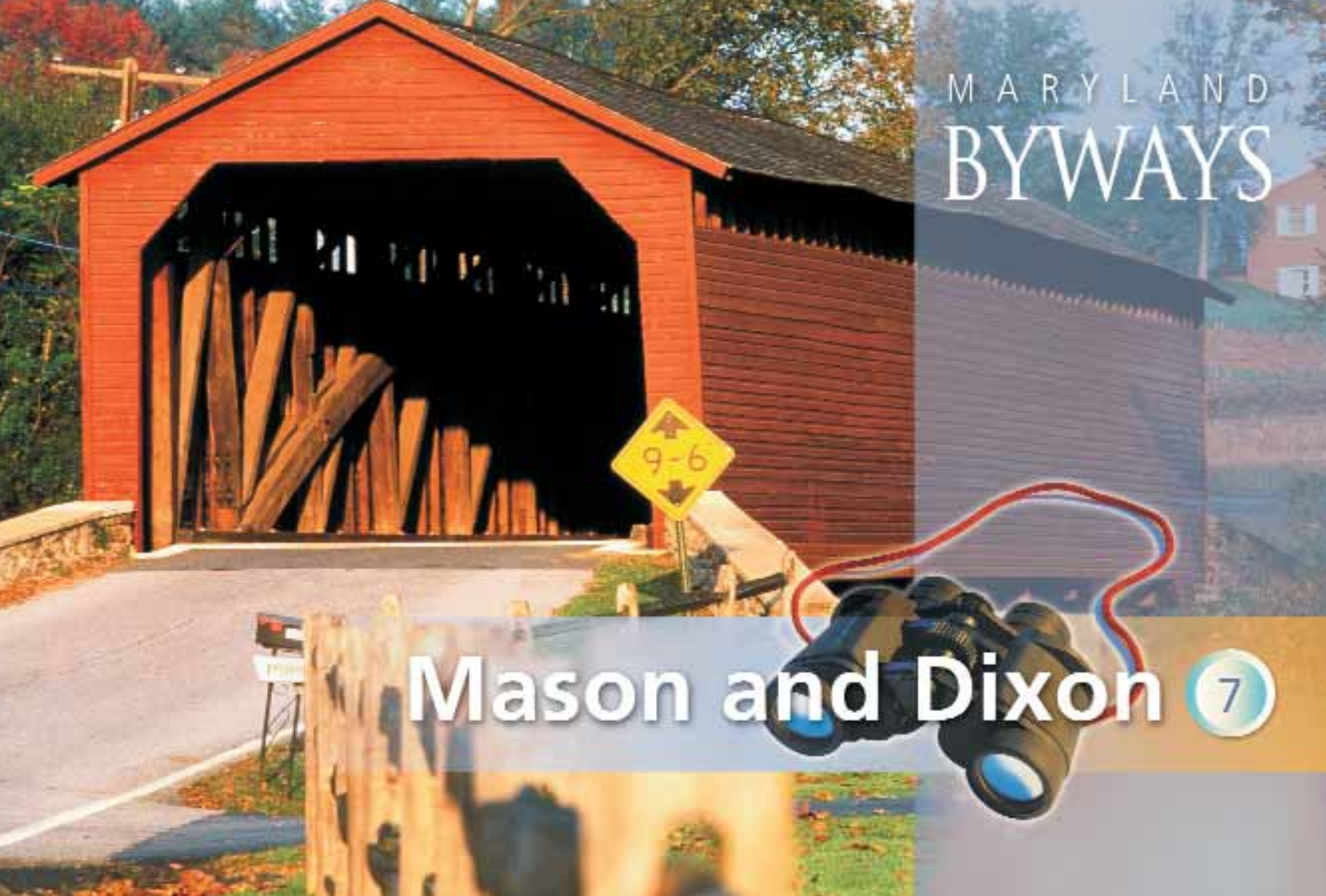


MARYLAND
BYWAYS

Mason and Dixon

7



Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon spent nearly four years in the 1760s helping to settle a land dispute by surveying newly established boundaries between Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware. In decades to come, the line they defined would become a symbol throughout the United States for the cultural divide between North and South.

This easy-going byway, running west to east along the northern edge of Maryland near its border with Pennsylvania, takes a relaxing drive in the country and incorporates both historical encounters and recreational endeavors. You're also welcome to experience life "down on the farm," enjoying the many fruits of Maryland's agricultural entrepreneurs.

Emmitsburg to Harkins – MD 140, MD 97, MD 496, MD 30, York St, Miller Station Rd, Alesia Rd, MD 25, Beckleysville Rd, Kidds Schoolhouse, Spooks Hill Rd, Rayville Rd, Middletown Rd, York Rd, Wiseburg Rd, White Hall Rd, MD 23, MD 136

Begin at the Mason and Dixon Discovery Center on US 15 to assist with all of your travel plans. Follow part of the Old Main Streets byway (page 55) toward Westminster, where the Carroll County Farm Museum has been providing hands-on opportunities to experience mid-19th-century rural life for more than 40 years. Several structures dot the farm's 140 acres, including a croquet lawn, fish pond and heirloom garden.



143 miles from Emmitsburg to Appleton



North on MD 97, the Union Mills Homestead and Grist Mill is a short sidetrack away. On the road to Gettysburg, Union Mills holds Civil War significance for hosting both Union and Confederate soldiers. At the homestead, which is an important site on the Maryland Civil War Trail, one brother sided with the Southern

cause while the other remained loyal to the North.

This byway continues through Melrose on its way to Manchester, a historic community featuring the family-owned Cygnus Wine Cellars. Cygnus, one of more than 20 vineyards throughout the state, is open

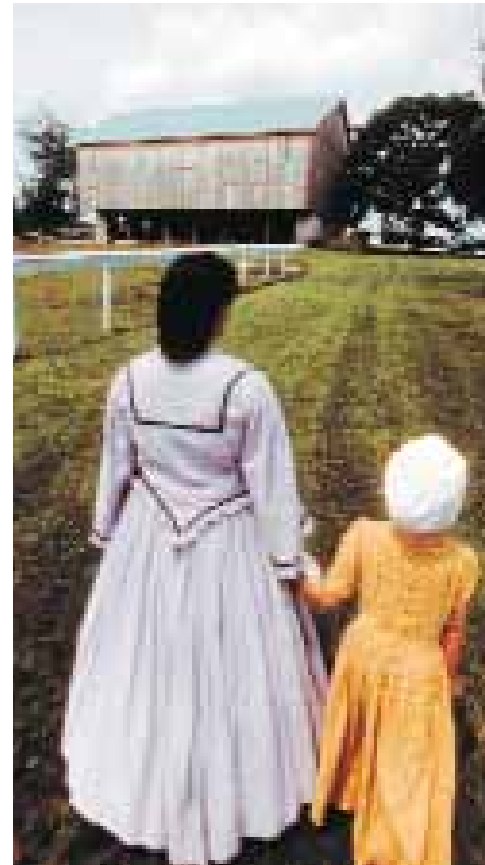
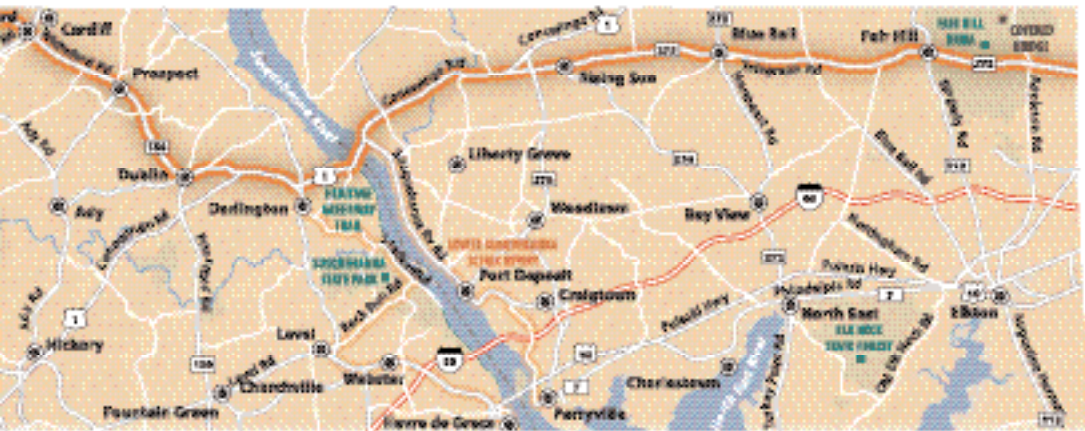
for wine tastings, retail sales and many special events. Picking up MD 25, you drive on a portion of the Falls Road byway (page 71) until veering east toward Prettyboy Reservoir. The reservoir's hiking trails, picnic areas and scenic overlooks can be reached from Beckleysville Road to Kidds Schoolhouse Road, and downstream



from the Prettyboy Dam is a catch-and-release fishing area that has been rated among the best in the mid-Atlantic region for brown trout.

Around White Hall, amid rolling farmland and fenced horse fields, the byway overlaps with a portion of the Northern Central Rail Trail. This abandoned railroad bed is now a packed stone path running for 20 miles from

Hunt Valley to the Mason and Dixon Line, with bike rentals available through local vendors. Nearby is the Greystone Golf Course, a public, 18-hole venue noted for its natural scenery. After a brush with the Horses & Hounds byway (page 77), you head north through Drybranch to Norrisville, and then parallel the Pennsylvania Line heading toward Harkins.



Deer Creek Loop – MD 24, Grier Nursery Rd, Cherry Hill Rd

On your way east, check out the Deer Creek Loop, which runs south on MD 24 and loops around with a series of lefthand turns. The loop begins along the hills and valleys of the Eden Mill Nature Center and Park, on the edge of Deer Creek, a Scenic and Wild River. A restored mill is the centerpiece of the property, serving as the launching point for canoe trips, hikes and nature programs. Next comes the 855-acre Rocks State Park, located where Deer Creek has cut a gorge 250 feet deep. A popular, 190-foot rock-climbing cliff, known as the King and Queen Seat, was once a ceremonial gathering place for the Susquehannock Nation of Native Americans. Tubing and fishing take place in the creek below.

Before returning to MD 24 and completing the loop, travel through Forest Hill. Farms in this rural area are known for their hayrides, corn mazes, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Harkins to Appleton – MD 136, US 1, MD 273

Bring a picnic basket and relax with a bottle of wine at Pylesville-based Fiore Winery, the winner of numerous international honors. Then, depending on the season, your journey to a farm in the nearby town of Whiteford can yield pumpkins, pony rides, tasty produce or cut-your-own Christmas trees.

From Prospect, through Dublin, you brush against the Lower Susquehanna Byway (page 83) and come to the edge of the



Susquehanna River as it flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Spanning the waterway in Conowingo is one of the nation's largest hydroelectric generating stations, and below the dam you are treated to some of the best small-mouth bass fishing in the country along the lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. *Birder's World* magazine also recommends this area for its winter birding opportunities.

Across the Conowingo Dam, Rising Sun offers a variety of recreational outlets, ranging from the peaceful setting of the Plumpton Park Zoo to the high-octane action found at Cecil County Dragway, a quarter-mile-long strip sanctioned by the National Hot Rod Association.

Into the northeastern-most corner of the state, where Charles Mason and

Jeremiah Dixon surveyed a hard angle at the borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware, you arrive at the Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area, where one of the few Mason and Dixon markers remain. Formerly owned by a member of the duPont family who was an avid equestrian, this 5,613-acre facility was purchased by the state more than 30 years ago. In addition to having a turf course that hosts steeplechases, timber runs and flat races, Fair Hill attractions include trout fishing at Big Elk Creek, admiring the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge, and hiking on an 80-mile trail system.

OLD LINE LORE: *Kilgore Falls, found in the Falling Branch area of Rocks State Park, was featured in the Disney film Tuck Everlasting (2002).*



At 17-feet tall, Kilgore is the second highest free-falling waterfall in Maryland.

Applewood Farm

4435 Prospect Rd
Whiteford, 21160
410-836-1140
www.applewoodfarm.org

Carroll County Farm Museum

500 S Center St
Westminster, 21157
410-383-3880, 1-800-654-4645
www.carrollcountymuseum.org

Cecil County Dragway

1916 Theodore Rd
Rising Sun, 21911
410-287-6280
www.cecilcountdragway.com

Cygnus Wine Cellars

3130 Long Lane
Manchester, 21102
410-768-3518, 410-766-4239

Eden Mill Park and Nature Center

1617 Eden Mill Rd, Pylesville 21132
410-638-3616
www.edenmill.org

Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area

300 Tawes Dr
Elkton, 21921
410-398-1246
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/fairhill.html

Fiore Winery

3026 Whiteford Rd
Pylesville, 21132
410-879-4007
www.fiorewinery.com



Northern Central Rail Trail

Gunpowder Falls State Park
Monkton
410-592-2897

Plumpton Park Zoo

1416 Telegraph Rd
Rising Sun, 21911
410-658-6850
www.plumptonparkzoo.org

Rocks State Park

3318 Rocks Chrome Hill Rd
Jarrettsville, 21084
410-557-7994
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/rocks.html

Union Mills Homestead and Grist Mill

3311 Littlestown Pike, MD 97
Westminster, 21158
410-848-2288
<http://tourism.carr.org/unionmil.htm>

