

Blue (or Blew) Rock Ferry

The Nov. 9 Scribbler column described the blue rock in the Susquehanna River near the end of Blue Rock Road at Washington Boro.

A reader, Chris Armstrong, adds to the story.

Responding to the establishment of Wright's Ferry between present day Columbia and Wrightsville, Thomas Cresap built the settlement of Pleasant Garden at Long Level, York County, in the 1730s.

He began operating the Blue (or Blew) Rock Ferry from Long Level to the site of present Washington Boro.

The purpose of the ferry was to lure early settlers to cross into present-day York County below the 40th parallel.

Both Pennsylvania and Maryland claimed that section.

Cresap, at the prompting of Lord Baltimore, wanted to sell land to the southern settlers under Maryland law. Then they would have had to pay taxes to Maryland.

"Cresap's War" ensued, with Marylanders pitted against Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvanians eventually took Cresap prisoner and imprisoned him in Philadelphia.

The boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland was resolved by the Mason-Dixon survey in the 1760s.