

within as the bay takes a northerly direction, extending two hundred miles up the country—seventy-five of which is in the state of Virginia, and the remainder divides the state of Maryland near its centre. This bay affords good anchorage every where, and many excellent harbors where shipping may ride in safety, protected from every wind that blows. Innumerable streams of fine navigable waters branch out on either side, penetrating the country in every direction, besides several noble rivers taking their rise at the base of the Alleghany ridge, or near the northern lakes, and flowing from those elevated countries through many a fertile valley, to this great reservoir which might almost be termed an inland Sea, which varies from 7 to 18 miles in breadth, and covers about 2000 square miles, or 1,700,000 acres. It is generally as much as nine fathoms deep. For fifty miles up the Potomac, that river is but an arm of the Chesapeake. The mouths of all the rivers making from the bay into either shore, are of the same character. The Patapsco, Maggothy, Severn, South River, West River, St Mary's and York Rivers, on the Western Shore: The Pokamoke, Wycomoco, Chester, Sasafress, Elk, and North-East Rivers, on the Eastern Shore, have comparatively trifling streams making in at their heads. Their tide and depth is from the Chesapeake, of which all of them are but inlets.