

Mountain and the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge. The Blue Ridge of Maryland is a continuation of the South Mountains of Pennsylvania and extends as a sharply defined range from the northern border of the state to the Potomac river, which it reaches at Weverton. Its crest forms the border between Frederick and Washington counties. The Blue Ridge reaches its greatest elevation of about 2400 feet at Quirauk, not far from the Pennsylvania border. The Blue Ridge in Virginia is not the direct continuation of the mountains so named in Maryland, but of a smaller range, the Elk Ridge Mountains, which adjoin them upon the west and which are pierced by the Potomac river at Harper's Ferry. Occupying the larger portion of this eastern district and reaching to its western border is the Hagerstown Valley, a portion of the Great Valley of the Appalachian Region hitherto described. It has an altitude of about 500 feet at Hagerstown, which increases somewhat to the northward near the Pennsylvania line, but declines considerably in the vicinity of the Potomac river. The Antietam river and its tributaries occupy the eastern section of the valley and the Conococheague river and its tributaries the western, leaving the central portion of the valley somewhat higher than the sides.

The *central division*, which comprises the Appalachian Mountains proper, is bounded by the North Mountain upon the east and Will's Mountain, near Cumberland, upon the west. Professor H. D. Rogers describes this district as follows in his report of the First Geological Survey of Pennsylvania: "It is a complex chain of long, narrow, very level mountain ridges, separated by long, narrow, parallel valleys. These ridges sometimes end abruptly in swelling knobs, and sometimes taper off in long, slender points. Their slopes are singularly uniform, being in many cases unvaried by ravine or gully for many miles; in other instances they are trenched at equal intervals with great regularity. Their crests are, for the most part, sharp, and they preserve an extraordinarily equable elevation, being only here and there interrupted by notches or gaps, which sometimes descend to the water level, so as to give passage to the rivers [Potomac]. . . . The ridges are variously arranged in groups with long, narrow crests, some