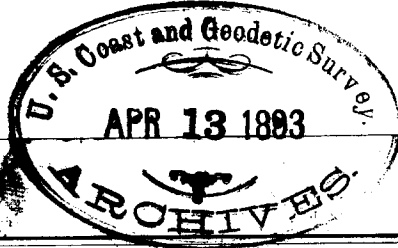


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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: *Florida*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2117

LOCALITY:

Blackwater Bay.

1892.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

P. A. Walker.

2117

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

J. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent,

Description Report of Hydrographic Sheet No. 2117.

by

P. A. Walker,

Assistant, C. & G. Survey.

Write me at: Port Townsend, Washington

Telegraph me at:

My Express Office is:

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Tolado, Ohio.

April 6th, 1893.

2-547

Dr. J. C. Mendenhall,
Superintendent, U. S. Coast & G. Survey,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Sir:

In obedience to instructions and
Memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to
submit the following report of Hydrographic Sheet No. 2117.

The work consists of a hydrographic survey on a
scale of 1:10000 of Blackwater Bay, Florida. The base of
the work was established from a triangulation carried
up Pensacola and Escambia Bays from the line Navy Yard
Wharf - Fort Pickens. A topographic survey was also
made with the plane table and during its execution
numerous points were located for the hydrography.

The character of the surrounding country is
described in a report on Topographic Sheets Nos. 2093 & 2094.

The system of execution of the hydrography was of
lines run approximately north and south from 100

to 150 meters apart and crossing these lines by others that were run approximately east and west and about the same distance apart; occasionally a diagonal line was run; close to the shore zigzag lines were run, crossed by lines parallel to the shore; in the rivers and small bays one line was run through the middle of the stream.

The bottom of the bay consists of a very soft mud of a dark gray color. A few oyster beds are scattered about. Close to the beach and near the mouths of the rivers and bays, where the land is firm, there is a crust of sand, but it is all mud underneath. In the vicinity of Bay Point and near the mouths of the Yellow and Blackwater Rivers, numerous piles have been driven; some of these are far out from shore. They were placed there for facilitating the handling of timber rafts which are brought down the rivers and taken to the saw mills. Numerous snags and logs are scattered about the water; some of them are partially sunken and are dangerous for navigation.

The bottom of the bay is uneven. The channel is nearly straight as far as Robinson's Pt.,

where it passes very close to the bank. From here it follows mostly the west shore as far as Milligan's Point, where it turns towards the mouth of the Blackwater River. Coming up from Pensacola Bay the entrance to East Bay is marked by a red and black buoy, after that there are three red beacons, the last of these being opposite Grassy Point, at the beginning of this sheet. From here on there are no marks.

The Wearn River and Yellow River are not navigable on account of the shallow water near their mouths. After entering there is good deep water, but the banks are lined with fallen trees and sunken logs and navigation would be difficult. Oakland Basin, at the head of the bay is shallow and the bottom is uneven. The deepest water is on the west shore. Small boats drawing not over 3 or 4 feet can safely be taken to within about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the land.

The Blackwater River, only the entrance to which is shown at the head of the bay, is the only navigable stream. Boats drawing 8 feet of water can be taken up beyond Milton. The towns of

Boyd and Miller are located near the mouth of the river. At each of these places there are large saw mills. At Boyd there is a floating dry dock, which is capable of handling the smaller class of vessels.

At Bay Point there is a collection of houses occupied almost entirely by people employed at the saw mills located here. There is no post office, telegraph office or telephone office nearer than Miller, which is distanced by wagon road or water about 6 miles. There is but one small general supply store. The saw mill at this point does an extensive business.

The Blackwater and Yellow Rivers drain a vast extent of country and an immense amount of timber logs are floated down annually. These are taken to the different saw mills in the locality and are cut into lumber.

As the water in the bay is not deep enough to allow the large ocean vessels to come up from Pensacola Bay, the lumber is taken down to deep water in flat boats and small schooners. The distance from Bay Point to the anchorage for ocean vessels is about 12 miles.

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The tide gauge was established at the Bay Point
Saw mill. Observations were made continuously,
night and day, from May 2nd to May 31st. The
difference between the highest and lowest tide
was 2.65 feet. The tides are usually diurnal,
there being one high and one low tide each
day.

Very respectfully yours,

P. A. Walker,

Assist., C. & G. Survey.