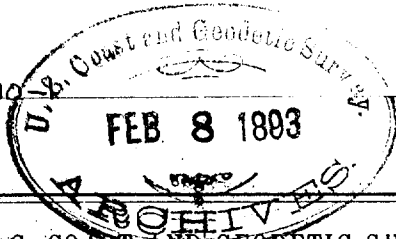


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83  
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1892

Diag. Chy. No. 1210



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*T. C. Mendenhall*, Superintendent.

State: *Massachusetts*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hydrographic* Sheet No. *2131*

LOCALITY:

*Matthes Vineyard  
(South shore)  
Great Tisbury Pond to  
Squibnocket*

*1892*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Henry L. Meridian Asst.*

U S Coast and Geodetic Survey

T. C. Mendenhall, Supdt.

Martha's Vineyard

Massachusetts

Cross-sections of South Shore  
from Great Tisbury Pond to Squibnocket

Surveyed by the Party of H. L. Merriam, Asst.

Assisted by Homer P. Ritter

July 21 to Aug 2

1892

Scale  $\frac{1}{10,000}$

Statistics

Date 1892	Letter	Number of				Vessel
		Vol	Angles	Sdgs	Miles	
July 21	d	1	82	173	2.5	Whaleboat
" 22	e	2	22	49	0.9	"
" 27	f	2	36	85	1.3	"
" 29	g	2	134	334	4.3	"
August 2	h	2	100	246	3.3	"
Total	5	2	374	887	12.3	

The greater part of  
— the shore is low and sandy, with a beach  
of soft sand. Back of the beach lie numerous  
Ponds, some of which are fresh water ponds,  
part of the year until an outlet is  
artificially opened out to sea, either to allow  
the fish to go in to spawn, or to draw  
the water off the marshes for the purpose  
of cutting and making marsh hay. These  
artificially made outlets are not sufficiently  
deep for the passage of boats and almost  
always offer a dangerous line of  
breakers at their mouths. Boats cannot  
land on shore unless during most  
favorable conditions of wind and sea.

In comparison with the Nantuxet  
South shore this is a much more  
dangerous shore to land on.

From section 61 to cross section 77 the shore is low, at section 77 the Bluffs begin and at cross section 83 the highest point of Nashagutta cliffs is reached (these are called "Weyquoque" cliffs by Prof Shaler in 4<sup>th</sup> An Rep of Geological survey) at an elevation of 139 feet above mean sea level.

These cliffs extend as far as section 87. They are a prominent land mark from seaward but coasting or other vessels do not sight this shore unless out of their course or having lost their reckoning. With favorable wind and sea a few fishing boats may be seen fishing for blue fish or mackerel in season.

These boats come from Vineyard Sound around by Gay Head and return there before night fall.

No Pilots, no Tow Boats are available.

At cross section 76 the shore becomes rocky and continues so to the western limb of the sheet. The rocks are detached boulders - stopped by the erosion of the Bluffs.

The prevailing winds in Summer time are from the SW and in winter the NE and East winds prevail. The water is said to be smoother in shore during the winter time than in summer.

No specific current observations were made but observation has shown that the tidal currents run parallel with the shore.

There are no railway or telegraph connections and the postal facilities are by stage from the Igrobroket

Post office (about 2 miles inland) to  
Vineyard Haven.

At the break in the Bluffs which  
occurs between section 87 and 94 is found  
a sluiced way into Squibnocket Pond which  
connects the waters of Vineyard Sound with  
the ocean through Menemsha Pond  
and Menemsha Creek. A boat however  
cannot be introduced into Squibnocket  
Pond because of the narrowness of the  
sluiced way and because of its peculiar  
construction.

At cross section 94 the Bluffs begin  
again rising to an elevation of 63 and 74  
ft at the Headland of Squibnocket

Respectfully submitted  
Henry L. Maurer  
Assistant

Appld to Reconstr 1210 10-23-61 JRB

Show existing chart 1210 & H-1843