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Diag. Cht. No.
1210L

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Massachusetts

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2132

LOCALITY:

Martha's Vineyard
Squibnocket to Gay Head

1892

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Henry L. Marindin Asst.

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U S Coast & Geodetic Survey

T. C. Mendenhall Supt.

Marthas Vineyard

Massachusetts

Cross Sections of South Shore

Squibnocket to Gay Head

Surveyed by the Party of N L Marindin Asst.

Assisted by Homer D. Ritter

September 3 to 22

— 1892 —

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

Statistics

Date 1892	Letter	Number of				Vessel
		Vol	Angles	Sdgs	Miles	
Sept 3	i	2	164	403	6.1	Whaleboat
" 8	k	2	144	297	5.1	"
" 21	l	2	120	282	4.8	"
" 22	m	3	122	344	4.4	"
Total	4	2	550	1326	20.4	

The most prominent part of the shore represented on the sheet is the high cliffs of Gay Head with its prominent Light House. Directly under the Bluffs on which the Lt House stands is found a very dangerous rocky reef known as the "Devils Bridge"; the end of the reef is marked by a buoy

The shores are more or less rocky with boulders detached by the erosion of the Bluffs (Glacial Drift) these extend off shore and make landing difficult unless during very calm weather and sea.

The South eastern end of the sheet, from Cross Section 98 to 104, is known as Squibnocket (not Squipnocket as printed on the C S chart) this is a prominent headland with Bluff sides.

From Sect 104 to 121 the shore is low with hills rising some distance inland. The hills would be visible to the mariner before the low shore line came in sight. At Cross sect 121 - The Cliffs of Gay Head begin to rise gradually to sect 124 which is 145 feet above mean sea level. At Sect 125 the cliffs decrease in height and at sect 128 the low shore line obtains again and continues to the limit of the sheet. A short distance back of the shore line the hills rise inland.

The velocity and drift of the tidal currents are somewhat complicated by the proximity of Vineyard Sound and in the absence of extended current observations the attempt to describe these would

be more misleading than serviceable

The prevailing winds in Summer time are from the S.W. and in winter the NE and E winds prevail. The only vessels which frequent these shores are such as are passing through Vineyard sound. A vessel stranding on this shore would probably go to pieces in a short time because of the numberless boulders lining the shore.

Fresh water could be obtained at Gay head wharf, but a vessel would not be likely to stop here with a safe Harbor like Vineyard Haven close at hand, where coal, provisions and ship chandlers supplies can readily be obtained.

Signal flags are displayed from a station near Gay Head Lt House

The Life Saving service devolves upon volunteer crews of Gay Head Indians whose bravery has been fully established upon several occasions.

The postal facilities are by wagon road to Squibnocket Post office. The L.H.S is connected with Vineyard Haven by telephone thence by submarine cable to Wood Hull on the main land.

During the summer months excursion steamers ply regularly, semi weekly, between Gay Head wharf and Cottage city, and Woods Hole.

The Gay Head cliffs are noted for their multicolored clays and great beauty.

Respectfully submitted
Henry L. Marandin
Assistant

Appl'd to Reynolds. Chart 1210 thru existing Chart 10-16-61 MR