

83 SHA  
2431-32  
1899

2431

2432

Diag. Cht. No. 77-1

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*Henry S. Pritchett* Superintendent

State: *Md.*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY.  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.  
MAY 29 1900  
Acc. No. 51621  
Class

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Hydrographic Sheets Nos* { *2431*  
*2432*

LOCALITY:

*Susquehanna and North  
East Rivers*

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*W. J. Vinal*

2432

2431

W. B. B.

Desc. Report

MAY 8 1900 9000

FORM 65.—Field Letter.

Library and Archives.

Write me at:.....

Telegraph me at:.....

My Express Office is:.....

U. S. O. & G. SURVEY,  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES,  
MAY 30 1900  
APR 21 1900

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Schooner "Mitchell",  
San Juan, P. R., May 19th, 1900.

Dr. Henry S. Mitchell,  
Superintendent U. S. Coast & Geod. Survey,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I beg leave to submit a report relating to the territory covered by the hydrographic survey of 1899 at the head of Chesapeake Bay, north from the line Turkey Point - Sandy Point. The channels of the Susquehanna and North East Rivers, when they enter the Bay, are separated by an extensive area of flats, which, during a great part of the year, are covered with a dense growth of grass, wild celery and pond lilies. They afford excellent feeding ground for ducks, which are found here in great numbers during the colder months.

There are many logs on these flats, deposited there by freshets when the rafting of lumber was an important industry of this section.

MAY 20 1880

Acc. No.

Class

2.

On the north side of these flats, near the shore, and running nearly parallel to it, is a "pocket" channel of good depth, but separated from the river by shoal water. The isolation of this channel is due to the ice movement from the river.

Near the mouth of the Susquehanna River, on Fishing Battery Island, there is a U.S. Fish Hatchery and a Lighthouse. From here to Concord Point Light House, Havre de Grace, the west side of the channel is defined by marine growth. The ship channel is marked by a number of buoys, and the least depth of water, at mean low tide, is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

Havre de Grace, a town of 3000 inhabitants, on the west bank of the river, is directly opposite Perryville, and the two places are connected by the Pennsylvania Railroad Draw Bridge. Formerly fishing and the rafting of lumber were the principal industries here and at Port Deposit. The Tidewater Canal, built along the west bank of the Susquehanna from Columbia, Pa. to Havre de Grace 70 years ago was a great help to the prosperity of this section. The canal has fallen into disuse and the lumber interest has ceased entirely.

The people now find employment in canneries, lumber and saw mills, shoe and cotton factories.

and in cutting and storing ice.

The quarries at the north end of Port Deposit afford a fine quality of granite, which is taken out in large quantities.

The Jacob Tome Institute, a finely endowed school, is located at Port Deposit.

About one mile north of Wave de Grace the river is crossed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Bridge at a height of 90 feet. One of the piers of this bridge is built on Watson's, formerly Palmer's, Island. This island is interesting as it is the site of the first English settlement in Maryland. It was bequeathed to his alma mater, Oxford University, in 1634 by Edward Palmer, a captain of Sir Thomas Overbury, for the purpose of establishing a college in the New World, to be called the Oxford Academy in Virginia.

The "Highlands of the Chesapeake" begin just north of the B. & O. R. R. bridge, their rocky spurs forming natural abutments on both sides of the river.

Above Port Deposit the river bed is filled with large boulders and rocky ledges, and navigation ceases at this point.

A railroad, along the east bank of the river, connects Port Deposit and Perryville. Coal is shipped in considerable quantities from the latter place.

MAY 20 1900

Acc. No.

1011

4.

There is a steamboat line from Port Deposit and Havre de Grace to Baltimore, Md. A steam ferry boat runs from Port Deposit to Lapidum on the west side of the river.

There are several rocks, covered by less than six feet of water, lying off Havre de Grace, south of the P. & O. bridge, the removal of which is contemplated.

North East River is broad and of moderate depth, until within a mile of the village of North East where the channel has been dredged to a depth of seven (7) feet. On the north-west side of the river is the town of Charles Town, a place of resort for gunners and fishermen. Only two or three small vessels trade on this river, carrying grain and produce to Baltimore. Steamboats do not run on the North East River. This description applies to Hydrographic Sheet Nos. 51 and 52, volume of Chesapeake Bay.

Respectfully yours,  
W. Irving Sinal,  
Assistant U.S. Coast Survey.