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Diag. Chart. No. 1263-1

Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: *Florida*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic Sheet No. 2589

LOCALITY:

St. Andrews Bay

1902

CHIEF OF PARTY:

P. C. Melker

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United States Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann Superintendent

State Florida

Discriptive Report Topographic and Hydrographic

Sheet Number. 25897

Locality St Andrews Bay

1902.

Chief of Party P. A. Welker. Assistant.

WRITE ME AT:
TELEGRAPH ME AT:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
U.S.Coast and Geodetic Survey, Str. "Bache",
Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. O. H. Tittmann,
Superintendent of the U.S.C. & G. Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In obedience to "Instructions" and memoranda for descriptive reports 1887 I beg leave to submit the following report on topographic and hydrographic sheet. This sheet is a resurvey of the lower end of and the entrances to St. Andrews Bay Florida, on the scale 1-to 10,000, by the party of P.A. Welker, Assistant U.S.C & G. Survey. Commanding the steamer "Bache". No triangulation points were discovered whose position came within the limits of the sheet, hence no definite point or direction could be obtained for fixing the position or azimuth of the work executed. A position and direction were assumed as being approximately correct, a short base measured and on this data a position of the shore line was surveyed. Afterward, a more desirable location was found that admitted of a base of 1250 metres being measured. From this later base, a plane table triangulation was executed for an approximate control for the topographic and hydrographic features of the survey.

To aid in swinging the survey into approximate position, cuts were made to a granite stone, supposedly a triangulation station, near

Buena vista point, and line drawn through West Base. The position of triangulation station Davis Point 2 as indicated by Hawk Massaline, who was employed with the party that did the original triangulation, was determined and placed on the sheet. A large pine tree, now dead, to the North East of Davis Point was determined. It is probable that this tree was used as a signal in either the original Topographic or Hydrographic survey. This sheet is a compilation from the sheet used in the field, which on account of having no determined starting point was made in detached, parts, and not in shape for office use. A triangulation from points of known position should be executed so that points, for accurately swinging the survey into proper and accurate position, may be obtained.

General character of the main land is low flat sand, intersperced with low well timbered sand ridges. From sea the beach shows a low unbroken line of woods, upon nearer approach the sand beach shows in a white unbroken line with exception of the entrance through East and West Passes, which show as dark breaks in this white expanse. These breaks, together with the Beacons of the Light House Board are the marks by which the entrance can be identified. The smoke from the saw mills at Millville and vicinity will at times be of aid in picking up the entrance. In entering, the sea buoy, should be brought close aboard, while pointing approximately on the range lights or beacons, which show over a small sand Island on the East side of East Pass. Continue on this range (approximately) passing the nun buoy, which leave about 20 metres on the port hand, up to abreast of black buoy No 1. Then haul to the range red and black beacons, passing buoy No 1 about 20 metres oway. If the buoys are not on the ranges indicated by the beacons, it is safer to follow the channels as indicated by the buoys, as the buoys are replaced about every six months and will generally indicate the best water. There is no pilots association. From information

obtained at St. Andrews, Hawk Massaline who lives at Davis Point, about three miles to the southward of the town of St Andrews, is best acquainted with the bars and channels, and will serve as pilot. The anchorage outside of the bar is not reliable the bottom is hard sand and at times there is a heavy swell. From (9) nine to (10) ten feet can be carried over East Pass bar, and about one foot less over West Pass bar. On account of the swell vessels drawing within two (2) to three (3) feet of these depths should not attempt passage except in smooth weather and when there is no swell. The water in the vicinity of the passes is most remarkably clear, even in rough weather the outlines of the channels end and spits can be distinguished. In smooth weather the details of the bottom can be distinguished at depths of 20 feet. West Pass is changing in depth and location. East Pass the main entrance is stable, and shifts but very little either in depth or location. There are no tow boats. Gasoline launches are employed in towing logs and small schooners at Millville and St Andrews. A limited amount of stores can be obtained at St Andrews, also a limited amount of fresh water. There is no coal to be had. Pensacola Florida, 100 miles to the westward is the nearest Port for general supplies coal and repairs. Prevailing winds North East and South West. Fogs are of very rare occurrence. Nearest Marine Hospital is located at Mobile, Alabama. The islands and peninsula on either side of the passes are low sand, with irregular ridges and dunes; in their higher parts there are covered with grasses. Fresh water can be obtained by digging. Shoals make well out on either side of the passes. There is one line of well defined breakers with several lines of smaller breakers in side. The breakers are composed of tightly packed rigid sand. A stranded ship would last but a short time in heavy weather. The beach shifts in each storm. From local information and evidences of trees and vegetation the shore

line is washing away at the rate of 4 to 10 feet per year. The islands to the Eastward of East Pass are being builded up. There is a wreck near station Log which probably was the nucleus of these island. Local information is that these islands were built up during the last ten years. Hurricane Island is growing in arear and is shifting inshore. The wash on the gull side not being as rapid as the deposit from the Bay side of the Island. The peninsula on the west side of West Pass is shifting similarly to Hurricane Island. Pine palmetto, oak and scrub oak is the forest growth average height of trees fity feet. There is a very limited amount of land in cultiwation. No towns are villiages on the sheet. Numerous towns are situated further up the bay, whoes water communication is through these passes, into St Andrews Bay. The steamer Alpha, running between Mobile Alabama and Apalachicola Bay Florida calls at Millville and St Andrews, bimonthly. There are nuerous sailing vessels engaged in the Coastering trade, which consists of Naval stores, lumber and fish. Millville which has 600 to 800 inhabitants is the largest town on the Bay, there are a numerous saw mills and turpentime farms that ship thier product from here. St Andrews a town of 400 to 500 inhabitants is a summer and winter resort, 300 to 500 guests are entertained each year. All points in the Bay have a mail service daily except sunday, by post road from Chipley Fla, to Bay head thence by naptha launch. Telegraphic communication is by telephone to Chipley Florida, and thence by Western Union telegraph Company. No express office or agent. Freights by schooner to Pensacola or steamer to Mobile. There are no riverers emptying into the bay. Millville has grown with the saw mill industry within the last few years. In general, there

has been little increase in the number or wealth of inhabitants of this region since previous survey.

Respectfully yours.

E. B. Latham, Jr. P. A. Walker
Assistant U.S.C. & G. Survey.

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