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

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: Md. & Va.

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES,
MAR 22 1905
Acc. No.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydc. Sheet No. 2662

LOCALITY:

from
Potomac River, Kettle
Lower Cedar Pt. to
Bottom Shoals, from
Swan Pt.
~~Swan Pt. to Cob Pt.~~

1904

CHIEF OF PARTY:

M. E. Parker

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Descriptive Report of Sheet # 2662.

U. S. G. & G. SURVEY,
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The survey required on this sheet consisted in the examination of a number of shoals, of which indications had been found in previous surveys, but which had not, as yet been developed. The work was done by both ship and whale-boat. At first the ship was used entirely, the spots being covered by an irregular system of radiate. Great difficulty was experienced in doing this work, however, the smallness of the spots, and the extreme irregularity of the bottom, together with the difficulty in handling the ship with sufficient precision to place her exactly on the required spot making this method a slow and laborious one. Accordingly, the whaleboat was used, either to make a complete development of the spot, or to work over the ground which the ship had already covered, with a view to ascertaining whether the least water had been found. The method used in the whaleboat was much simpler; to feel around in the vicinity of the spot until a shoal sounding or hard bottom was found, which was marked by a small buoy, and by working around this buoy, the ground was covered. In the ship's work, the soundings were taken from the starboard gaging, and the angles from the bridge. In this way, thirty six spots were developed, a number of new ones being found in addition to the ones already given. These shoals seem to be oyster banks, and are always

small and of very irregular shape. The depth of water varies greatly on them; a leadman in the whalboat by simply feeling around with his lead could get variations in depth of from one to two feet.

There were usually two indications which gave notice of the approach to one of these shoals; the bottom changed from soft to hard, and the water deepened considerably around it; the latter due probably to the squaring action of the current.

On the Virginia side of the river, off Welbourn's Wharf, it was found impossible to find water as shoal as that called for. A possible explanation was found for this in the statement of an oysterman who declared that fresh water coming down that side of the river, and from the creek had killed the oysters, and consequently the shoals were wearing away.

In addition to the development of these spots, the whalboat developed the shoaline on the Virginia side, the creek above Welbourn's Landing, and the Lower Cedar Point Bar, the latter with special reference to determining the channel to the landing.

A careful search was made for the eleven foot spot shown on the chart off Lower Cedar Point Bar, and in range between the beam and light, but no indication of it could be found on the spot where it was located on the chart, and it seems probable that instead of being an isolated spot

it was only a part of the large sheet which had been
erroneously located when reported.

Sigal Point was found to have been blown over. However,
it was made available for use by dragging it into a position
where the end of the leg of the tripod which was in the air,
was directly over the monument, and making a flag to the
leg skin. A number of new signals were built or cut in also,
as the work close under demanded them.

The sheet was protected by P. S. Patton Ltd.

P. S. Patton.

Ltd, 608 Surrey.

Reports
on
Hydrographic Sheets
of
Potomac River,
Upper Part of Kettle Bottom Shoals,
Va.

No. 2662.
by
Assistant Young.

The records of this work were not well kept.

Soundings from 54-57c and from 59-64h not plotted on account of bad recording.

65 ft. at 114f, also the 65 ft. at 144f are doubtful. Soundings from 37-38c are apparently wrong.

H.L. Simons. (Signed).

No. 2662a.
by
Assistant Parker.

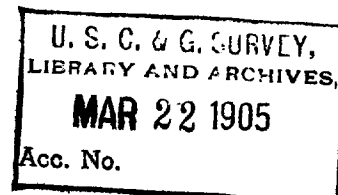
The beginning of zigzag lines are run from the position (?) of end of previous line. Some of the sounding lines are run with the time recorded at each minute. Some of the work is done with the leadman sounding at will. All of these methods make it difficult to plot the soundings and at the same time makes the location of soundings doubtful.

The records are well kept.

F.O.Denn. (Signed).

2862 bis

U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey,
C. H. Pittmann, Superintendent



Hydrography of
Potomac River Virginia.
from Snow Cedar Point to Swan Point.
by the party in charge of Assistant U. S. C. G. Parker,
Steamer Hydrographer
Began October 10, 1904
Ended December 14, 1904
Scale 1: 10 000

Officers; Asst. U. S. C. G. Parker, Watch Officer W. B. Crocker. Aid. F. H. Hardy,
Aid. R. S. Patton. Chief Eng. H. H. Rice; Boatsman Robert Brown

Second; Aid. F. H. Hardy. Aid. R. S. Patton.

Steadsman, Quartermaster Jan Peterson Johan Stuan, W. Hoffman

Tide observer, Samuel R. Gabrielsen & P. E. Ahernstein, special
observer, Mr. Granty, & Mr. Bolte

Plotted & inked furnished by F. C. Dorn

Verified by J. W. Atkins

4-20-05