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Diag. Cht. No. 1222-2

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. A. Plattman
Superintendent.

State *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hyd C Sheet No. *2850*

LOCALITY:

*Chesapeake Bay,
Entrance to York River
& Mobjack Bay Back River
Point to New Point Comfort*

1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. Irving Vinal

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES,
FEB 16 1907
Acc. No.

2850

Library and Archives Descriptive Report V

POST-OFFICE ADDRESS: MOBJACK, MATHEWS COUNTY, VA.

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS: RECEIVED

EXPRESS OFFICE: COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

2850

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Department of Commerce and Labor

FEB 16 12 52 PM 1907

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, SCHOONER "MATCHLESS",

MOBJACK, VA., FEBRUARY 15, 1907.

FILE REFERRED:

Mr. A. H. HARRISON

Superintendent, C. & G. Survey,

Washington, D. C.

ANSWERED
FEB 18 1907
Library and Archives.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report with reference to hydrographic sheet No. 76, resurvey of Chesapeake Bay, sent to the Office with accompanying records on the 15th instant, as follows:

2. This sheet extends from Back River Light House to New Point Comfort Light House and includes the entrances of Back, Poquoson and York Rivers, and that of Mobjack Bay.

3. Back River is approached by a very narrow but well buoyed channel, and there is a least depth of 9.0 feet on the bar at mean low water. This depth can be carried to Buoy No. 13 three miles inside. The river is buoyed as far as a point opposite the entrance to Harrison's Creek, above which place the channel is outlined by stakes.

4. The settlements along the river are usually some distance back from the shore, which is mostly marsh, Rip Raps, locally known as Fox Hill, is on the east side of Harrison's Creek about 1 1/2 miles from its mouth. Messick is on the north side of Back River, 1 1/2 miles from Amory's wharf. Earneest is a post office station located at Amory's wharf, but there are no houses in the immediate vicinity

5. The "Jessie Lewis", a large gasoline power boat, belonging to J. F. Amory & Son, carries passengers and freight to Old Point Comfort, making daily trips in the summer and three trips a week during the rest of the year. This is the only regular and direct means of communication. A number of small vessels, pungies, sharpies, etc., freight farm produce, wood and oysters. Rafts of logs are made up in the tributaries and towed out. Telephone communication is also obtainable throughout this District.

6. The fish oil and guano factory, formerly in operation on Northundean(North End)Point, appears to have been abandoned. The buildings and wharves are in a dilapidated condition.

7. The Poquoson(so spelled locally, name of post-office, bank, etc.)River enters Chesapeake Bay about seven miles north-west of Back River Bar. Extensive flats make out into the bay from points at the entrance of this river. From 15 to 18 feet draft can be carried to a point opposite the entrance of Bennett's Creek, The river is navigated to the mouth of Cheesman's Creek, abreast of York Point. A black spar buoy marks the end of the shoal making out from Hunt's Point.

8. There are large beds of planted oysters in the vicinity of Poquoson Flats, and smaller beds in the river. Pound or weir fishing is an important industry. Rafts of timber are made up on the river and creeks; wood, corn, etc., are shipped on transient vessels. Regular communication with Old Point Comfort is kept up by the power boat "Poquoson"; daily in summer and three times a week during the rest of the year when the weather permits. This boat is not licensed to carry passengers.

9. Formerly steamboats of the Old Dominion Line made landings at Hunt's and Wainwright's wharves, and at Yorkville and Crab Neck; but for lack of paying patronage this service was discontinued four or five years ago. Hunt's wharf is the only one now in use on the river, the others going to decay.

10. The Poquoson Canoe, a class of boats built on this river is notable for fine modelling, durability and seaworthiness.

11. As on Back River the settlements, except in isolated cases, are distant from the shore. Those nearest the river are Jeffs, Poquoson, Yorkville and Dare, all of which are post offices. A banking house is located at Odd about half way between Hunt's wharf and Amory's wharf.

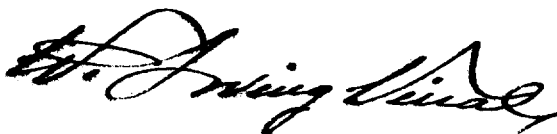
12. The roads, particularly south and west of the river, are very poor and out of repair. It is difficult to obtain fresh water in any quantity in this section, and that which was found was not pure. There are no artesian wells in the vicinity, as in many localities along the Bay, and the water generally in use is gotten from near the surface by drive wells.

13. York River entrance was surveyed only a short distance above the light house at Tue Point. This river has a direct and unobstructed channel, three-fourths of a mile wide, with a least depth of 30 feet. On its upper or northern side this channel is sharply defined, to its entrance into Chesapeake Bay, by York Spit, a submerged ridge separating it from Mobjack Bay.

14. A fourth order light house, showing a fixed red light, stands close to the south-easterly end of York Spit. The light at Tue Marshes, on the southerly side of York River, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles below Yorktown, is fixed white and is of the fifth order.

15. Steamboats from Baltimore touch at points on York River as far as West Point about 30 miles above its mouth, and sailing vessels of deep draught can load at the wharves.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Irving Lindley".

Assistant, C. & G. Survey,

Commanding.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

U. S. C. & G. SURVY.
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.
FEB 16 1907
Acc. No. ✓

O. H. TITTMANN, Superintendent,

HYDROGRAPHY

OF

CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA., FROM NEW POINT LIGHT
HOUSE TO BACK RIVER LIGHT HOUSE.

*Chesapeake Bay
Entrance to York River and Mobjack R.
Back Riv. Pt. to New Point Comfort
Va.*

By the

Party in Charge of W. Irving Vinal, Assistant,

SCHOONER MATCHLESS.

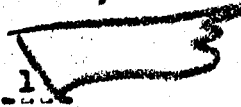
BEGUN July 26, 1906.

ENDED November 22, 1906.

LIBRARY

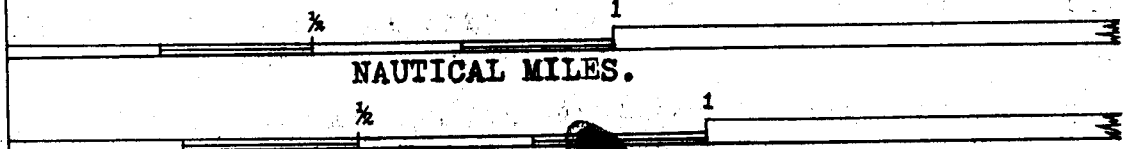
Place with descriptive report
of hydrographic sheet No. 2850

Scale $\frac{1}{20000}$



STATUTE MILES.

Drawing Section. *A*



OBSERVERS.

Mate, James E. Marsh, Aid, Arthur Crowell,

Chief Writer, John W. Clift.

RECORDERS.

Aid, Arthur Crowell, Chief Writer, John W. Clift.

LEADSMEN.

S. M. M., John Christensen,

Q. M. 3Cl., Andrew Isaacson.

2850

TIDE OBSERVERS.

C. B. M., C. P. Holland, Q. M. 3Cl., A. Isaacson,

Seaman, Evensen, Godsey, Isaksen, Wegener.

*Soundings plotted by Vinal Party
Checked & indexed by H. L. Linn*

STATISTICS.

DATE 1906.	Number Of-					Vessel.	
	Letter	Vol.	Angles	Soundings	Miles.		
July	26	a	1	100	385	12.3	Steam Launch
	27	b	1	118	430	14.0	
	28	c	1	102	389	13.7	
	30	d	1	210	802	26.9	
	31	e	2	274	1048	34.3	
Aug.	2	f	2	106	362	12.0	
	3	g	2	120	479	16.1	
	4	h	2	76	290	10.5	
	6	i	3	32	126	3.7	
	20	k	3	164	642	19.8	
	21	l	3	166	612	21.3	
	23	m	3	198	800	27.1	
	24	n	4	250	744	32.4	
Sept.	5	o	4	50	159	5.4	
	6	p	4	239	802	27.2	
	7	q	5	230	838	27.9	
	12	s	5	60	262	8.6	
	13	t	5	148	473	15.2	
	19	u	5	148	533	17.2	
	20	v	6	198	697	23.4	
	21	w	6	170	630	19.5	
	22	x	6	98	378	11.3	
	26	y	6	20	38	1.1	
	27	z	6	102	434	12.9	
	28	a.	7	172	641	19.5	
	29	b.	7	102	366	11.0	
Oct.	4	c.	7	138	531	15.5	
	11	d.	7	12	35	1.0	
	12	e.	7	74	301	8.0	
	20	f.	8	180	752	19.5	
	25	g.	8	220	807	24.7	
	26	h.	8	106	455	14.5	
	27	i.	8	109	447	12.5	
	29	j.	9	228	973	30.0	
	30	k.	9	120	459	15.1	
Nov.	8	l.	9	152	674	18.1	
	8	m.	10	29	120	3.5	
	9	n.	10	258	929	28.8	
	10	o.	10	206	805	24.1	
	12	p.	10	92	324	8.25	
	13	q.	11	262	947	30.7	
	14	r.	11	238	844	28.0	
	16	s.	11	56	157	4.3	
	17	t.	12	130	443	15.3	
	19	u.	12	69	239	7.1	
	21	v.	12	232	740	25.0	
	22	w.	12	190	564	18.7	
Total		48	12	6754	24906	796.95	

2850

V.E.C.
May 11, 1907.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 2850

New Point to Back River, Virginia, by Assistant W. I.
Vinal in 1906.

TIDES

	Northend Point	Bradshaws Wharf	Amorys Wharf	Poquoson River Entr.
	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
Mean low water, or plane of reference on staff	1.6	1.7	2.6	3.4
Lowest tide observed " "	0.9	1.0	1.9	2.7
Highest " " " "	5.5	5.6	6.5	7.7
Mean range of tides	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2

Applied A. Ege. 4/12-07

Hyd. Sheet No 2850

May 18, 1907.

The ground within the limits of the work is well covered. Soundings were plotted correctly and the records kept in a satisfactory manner.

H. L. Simon