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C. & G. SURVEY,
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Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann

Superintendent.

State: La.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydr. Sheet No. 2996

LOCALITY:

Four Leagues Bay, Oyster Bay and part of Atchafalaya Bay

1909

CHIEF OF PARTY:

N. L. Beck

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Sheet H. 2996

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Descriptive Report

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This hydrographic sheet includes that part of Atchafalaya Bay which lies east of a line drawn south from Plumb Island Pt., all of Four League Bay, and Oyster Bayou.

It is a body of water which, probably on account of its unimportance to navigation, had never before been surveyed.

Four League Bay, especially that part of it south of Mosquito Point, is very shoal. However a large number of small sailing vessels principally "oyster luggers" pass through the bay during the oyster season. The people in charge of these vessels have a good knowledge of the waters and coast line in this region. Few of them would be able to make use of a chart, even if they needed one.

Sheet 2996
Descriptive Report (continued)

The country surrounding Four League Bay is all flat marsh land with no distinctive features.

It is all covered with a heavy growth of tall "grass". This is frequently burned off during the winter months. Dense volumes of smoke which may be seen for many miles, rise from the burning grass.

Signal "Rab" in the pass between Atchafalaya Bay and Four League Bay was on a clay bank which bares at low tide. Until very recently it was a small grass covered island known as "Rabbit Island" locally. It is probably all that remains of what was shown as "Halter's Island" on the plane table survey of 1855. The island has disappeared and the adjacent coast line has receded about 200 meters.

Any vessel which can pass through Four League Bay

Sheet 2996
Descriptive Report (Continued)

can easily go through Oyster Bayou as far as depth of water is concerned. The channel is crooked however and the tidal currents very strong at times.

There are many oyster reefs in the bayou which are being constantly dredged during the season.

The best channel hugs the west bank of the bayou nearly all the way through. However, from a point just north of "D" it cuts straight across to a point just north of "F", passing very close to "E" — known locally as the "Devil's Elbow."

On account of the unimportance of the place, time was not taken to locate the oyster reefs in the bayou.

There are private oyster "bedding grounds" in the extreme southern end of Four League Bay. The water there was always salty. In the northern end of the bay it was at times almost fresh.

Report for Hyd. Sheet 2996

This area comprising a part of Atchafalaya Bay and Four League Bay is shallow and unimportant. The bottom is mostly very flat and is mud and sand except where oyster beds occur. The passage separating Atchafalaya Bay and Four League Bay is the only place where cross lines have been run and the results of these lines are surprising considering the evenness and regularity of the remaining area. This place was shown to Mr. Beck who ascribed the differences to irregularity of the bottom.

The developement is as much as the importance of the locality demands and the records are well kept.

In plotting the hydrography the holes pricked at each position should have been filled with colored ink and the colors used should correspond with the colors in the records.

R. L. Johnston
Draftsman
10/22/09

Verified JGW
2-17-10