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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent.

State: *Va.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheet No.

LOCALITY:

*York River - Mt. Tolly to West  
point and vicinity*

\_\_\_\_\_  
1901-12  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*G. W. Ferguson*

3343

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. TITTMANN, Superintendent.



Revision Survey of the York River, Virginia.

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TITLE SHEET  
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For Hydrographic Sheet ~~722~~ *3343*  
covering approximately the same area as  
Original Topographic Sheet 722.

between  
Latitude 37° 26' and 37° 33' N.  
Longitude 76° 43' and 76° 49' W.

SCALE 1/20000.

From Nov. 1st, 1911 to Feb. 22nd, 1912.

SCHOONER "MATCHLESS".

O.W.Ferguson, Assistant, C. & G.S., in command.

OBSERVERS.

O.W.Ferguson, Assistant, James E. Marsh, Mate,  
Forrest F. Harbour and Frank S. Borden, Aids,  
John W. Clift, C.W. and M.L. Tabor, C.B.M.

RECORDERS.

H.W. Godsey, S.W. 2nd cl., John W. Clift, C.W.

LEADSMEN.

R. Myrdle, Q.M. 3rd cl., H.C. Tong, S.M.M.

TIDE OBSERVERS.

M.L. Tabor, C.B.M., Fred Francke, M.A. 1st cl.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. TITTMANN, Superintendent.

Revision Survey of the York River, Virginia.

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For Hydrographic Sheet C.  
 covering approximately the same area as  
 Original Topographic Sheet 722.

between  
 Latitude  $37^{\circ} 26'$  and  $37^{\circ} 33'$  N.  
 Longitude  $76^{\circ} 43'$  and  $76^{\circ} 49'$  W.

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This sheet shows the upper seven miles ( the head ) of the York River, having a width of about 1 1/2 miles. Red Beacon #6 is shown on the lower portion and Bell Rock Light House four miles below Westpoint.  shows the confluence of the Mattaponi and the Pamunkey, forming the York, also Westpoint and its environs, which lies on the point between the two rivers and fronts on both. This sheet shows the Mattaponi and Pamunkey as far up as they have ever been surveyed, but this party is continuing a thorough survey of these rivers to the head of tide water or navigation.

#### SHORES.

This sheet maintains the characteristic of the York, a wide river with good depths in channel but very shallow and muddy near the shores and quite bad for landing at low water. The largest portion of these shores are marshy and muddy, other portions are low and sandy with the country behind rising to from two to twenty feet.

#### CURRENTS.

The tidal currents of these rivers are strong on all, the wide York bringing an influential wave to the mouths of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey which is maintained with force for thirty or forty miles. The currents on this sheet near the confluence reach 160 feet per minute.

#### LANDMARKS.

Entering onto this sheet from below, Red Beacon #6, Bell Rock Light House, the large Terminal Hotel at Westpoint and the City Water Tank are prominent objects, also the timber dike that shuts off the large flats at the mouth of the Pamunkey is seen.

#### NAVIGATION.

The navigation of the York over this sheet is not difficult; keep within 75 yards of the Beacon, 50 yards of the Bell Rock Light, and then

run for black can #15, then close to the line of buoys until can #25 is reached, for the Westpoint wharf and the Pamunkey, when the wharf may be steered for.

○ To enter the Mattaponi, be careful: strangers require a pilot, as the channel though ample is narrow. Red nun #18, which is opposite black can #15, can be left on the port hand about 300 yards, then steer for the very prominent oyster house of Marshall, then keep 50 yards from the wharves for  $3/4$  mile, when the middle of the channel can be run. If desired, pilots can be obtained of tug boat men at Smither's dock.

There are two wrecks out of the way on the port hand between the end of the dike and Fillbates Creek.

#### BARS & CHANNELS.

The channel is about 600 meters wide, except at Bell Rock Light House, where it is about 375, and between black spars 17 & 19 it is only 210 meters wide, all furnishing a depth of 21 feet.

On either side of the channel are wide flats; sailing vessels should follow the buoys with fair winds or exercise caution in beating or close haul by the wind. The Pamunkey furnishes 21 feet to end of sheet.

Entering the Mattaponi as given furnishes 10 feet, but by following directions for the Pamunkey up to black spar #21, then steering for middle ground buoy, leaving it on the port hand 75 yards and then steering for the same prominent oyster house dock, 12 feet can be carried.

There is a long narrow shoal extending 2 miles from point of land at Westpoint in a S. E. direction, which must be rounded with care when passing from one river to the other. The middle ground buoy on this shoal is  $3/4$  mile below Westpoint. The depth of water from middle ground buoy to end of shoal is from 10 to 12 feet. It would be a great aid to navigation to maintain a red beacon light on this shoal  $5/8$  of a mile.

N. E. from the end of the dike.

#### LANDINGS.

There are three ferries running to and from Westpoint; two across Mattaponi and one across the Pamunkey. At the ends of these ferries and opposite Westpoint on both sides there are landings. On the Mattaponi there are Brooks' landing and Chain Ferry landing, and on the Pamunkey is Plumpoint landing, but Westpoint is the only place of importance on this sheet from which great growth is expected. It is an old town and the shipping point of much cotton in former days. A tri-weekly line of large steamers runs to Baltimore, and a smaller steamer to Norfolk, also one up the Mattaponi to Walkerton.

The town has 1600 inhabitants, and at present ships out a large quantity of tobacco and miscellaneous products. The town is supplied with an abundance of artesian water of an excellent quality. The surrounding country is all occupied by farms partially cultivated.

The timber is largely cut off, still there is a great deal remaining, especially farther back, and much is shipped out in barges and schooners to Baltimore, Philadelphia and Norfolk and New York.

The farms constantly produce miscellaneous quantities of foods, corn, wheat, cattle, poultry and vegetables.

#### CHANGES IN DEPTHS.

The soundings along the Mattaponi front of Westpoint are 2 to 5 feet deeper than shown on the printed chart.

On entering the Mattaponi River abreast of Goff Point, the printed chart shows about the same depth as the new work, namely 15 to 16 feet, but the present channel is much narrower.

The shoal between the two rivers shows generally a foot more water now than on the printed chart.

The Pamunkey channel is more regular bottom than the Mattaponi, and shows a deepening of about two feet more than the printed chart.

*O. W. Ferguson,*  
Assistant.

## GEOGRAPHIC POSITIONS

To accompany Hydrographic Sheet C.

	°	'	m	°	'	m
RICHARDSON 2 △	37	25	990.5	76	43	613.0
HOLT 2 △	37	26	19.4	76	41	1406.9
MOUNT FOLLY 2 △	37	26	327.6	76	44	401.8
Beacon # 6 ★	37	26	1163	76	43	171
ROANE 1, 1911 △	37	27	212.4	76	43	154.8
WARE, 1911 △	37	27	659.2	76	45	204.3
ROANE 2, 1911 △	37	27	839.5	76	43	514.1
Ruins of watch box, center of pilings	37	27	1755	76	45	457
Stovepipe of watch box -- " Box "	37	28	376	76	43	1393
Cen. old house on beach -- " Old "	37	28	661	76	45	1044
Up river gable white shed on beach	37	28	1107	76	43	1291
Up river ch'y red roof house "Roof"	37	28	1458	76	43	1370
TERRAPIN, 1911 △	37	28	1672.7	76	45	1077.4
BELL ROCK LIGHT HOUSE △	37	28	64.6	76n	45	3.7
Cen. old shed on beach -- " Shan "	37	29	489	76	46	524
Highest front pile old pier, RICHARDSONS	37	29	617	76	46	47
ANDERSON 2 △	37	29	707.8	76	44	736.2
FILLBATES 2 △	37	29	798.2	76	46	1413.8
ROBINSON, 1911 △	37	30	263.5	76	45	1267.9
Stove pipe watch box below Goff "Ho"	37	30	945	76	46	949
BRICK HOUSE 2 △	37	30	1418.0	76	48	441.7
GOFF POINT 2 △	37	30	1595.8	76	46	1210.0
Highest ch'y Plumpoint ferry house	37	31	516	76	48	531
Center of Terminal club house	37	31	1017	76	47	1005
Old windmill -- " Tow "	37	31	1193	76	47	843
S.E. corner Marshall's oyster house	37	31	1198	76	47	601
S.W. corner steamboat wharf house	37	31	1111	76	47	1424

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GEOGRAPHIC POSITIONS.

To accompany Hydrographic Sheet C.

	°	'	m	°	'	m
Railroad water tank -- " Yel "	37	31	1352	76	47	1447
Brooks' ferry flag -- " Flag "	37	31	1427	76	47	12
Ice plant stack -- " Stack "	37	31	1551	76	48	51
TANK, 1911 △	37	31	1599.3	76	47	1207.8
PAM, 1911 △	37	31	1678.3	76	48	929.2
BROCKS 2 △	37	31	1615.5	76	47	17.3
CENTER, 1911 △	37	32	514.7	76	49	105.3
⊙ Pile, the highest	37	32	661	76	48	612
MAT, 1911 △	37	32	889.1	76	46	1187.4
GLASS 2 △	37	32	953.3	76	47	503.6
⊙ Mar = Signal	37	32	1121	76	48	1429
⊙ Low "	37	32	1730	76	49	192
PONY, 1911 △	37	33	253.7	76	47	88.5
EAST, 1911 △	37	33	250.2	76	46	655.4
RAIL, 1911 △	37	33	393.6	76	49	308.6