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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: New York.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1772, 1773, 1774 & 1775

LOCALITY:

From Hog Neck to River Head
Little & Great Peconic Bays
Eastern End of Long Island

1887.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

C. T. Iardella, Asst.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

F. M. Thorn Superintendent.

Descriptive Report to Accompany

Plane Table Sheets

Register Nos 1772. 1773. 1774 and 1775.

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Assistant

C. J. Sardella

Chief of party

Geological formation and general description of Coast

The geological formation of the shores of Noyack Little and Great Peconic Bays is composed of long sand beach on each side dotted with small boulders and occasionally with small rocks which are placed by the action of wind and high tides undermining them from the high bluffs. here and there boulders are very scarce. as I found only two of note some 1500 feet from high Water Mark. One is quite noticeable and can be seen at a long distance, said boulder is on the South West end of Robbins Island distant 180 yards from high water. the other is 575 yards from high water and is nearly abreast of New Suffolk. said boulder is called Black Fish Rock is stands about 10 feet out of water at high tide. And can be seen for nearly one ½ mile by vessels running into the harbor. a short distance from said rock there is another just bare at very low tide where a very large quantity of black fish are caught, there are at times nearly one dozen small boats fishing at one time, it is a great resort for Lady Anglers. for they can be seen there at all hours of the day.

The shores of Little Peconic Bay are steep on the south side and in many places a boat can go boiw on at very low tide.

when on the north side at very low water, one cannot land without wading in soft mud for at least two hundred yards but at high tide one can land comfortably.

The general formation of the country is composed of high hills both north and south of the bay, its soil is mostly of sandy loam, and it is impossible at times in case of emergency to find a rock of any description, as I found on several occasions while putting up signals where they were required none could be found.

The shores of Great Peconic Bay is somewhat different, as at very low tide any one can land with a boat drawing 12 inches in depth as far west as James Port after which there is one continuous stretch of marsh from Indian Key to River head on the north side, and from Red Cedar Point to River heads on the south side.

Topographical Sheet No 1773.

Noyack Bay is situated between Hog Neck and Jessups Neck, with a depth of water from 4 feet to 3½ fathoms, its shore is mostly sand with a large Collection of pebbles varying in size from one half to three inches.

Little Peconic Bay, extends from Jessups Neck to North Sea and Robbins Island which divides the two Bays. the shores is also sand with a high bluff running nearly the whole distance and is about 20 feet in height. the most prominent object is North Sea some two hundred feet in height which can be seen in clear weather over six miles, and opposite to North Sea, is Little Hog Neck some 160 feet in height. which can be seen at the same time, as they are composed of White sand and when the sun reflects on the hills makes a very pretty appearance.

Topographical Sheet No 1773

Robbins Island is three miles in length by 3/4 miles in width. said Island is directly opposite New Suffolk running S W and N.E. it divides Little and Great Peconic Bays. on the West side. there is a small Cave about 10 feet in length and about 3 feet high. and distant from eight feet. it is a perfect Iron Ore bed. and I judge that some persons has been exploring the same. as on the edge of high Water Mark. a barrel has been sunk which is always full, with every indication of its being a valuable Spring as the water is highly impregnated with iron. the sand for some distance around the barrel is stained from the water which overflows. large quantities of fish, oysters and escollops are taken in the two bays. which gives employment to over 100 persons.

Topographical Sheet No 1774.

From North Sea to Southport the features of the shore line is entirely composed of sand with several entrances to small ponds between the two points.

The state of New York is having a canal dug from the mouth of pond near Squires Δ Point through to Shinnecock Bay for the purpose of allowing the water from Peconic Bays to pass through for the purpose of propogating fish, Oysters and escallops. as the waters in Shinnecock bay is not suitable for the purpose, the water being still having only one entrance from the Ocean, and they think by opening the Canal at Peconic bay shore they will be able to have a strong current at every flood and ebb tide from Pongnogue Point Light House. They also think it will deepen the water at entrance of inlet on the South shore. Shinnecock hills are high and undulating and the soil is mostly sand, Covered with Wiry grass and black and huckleberry bushes with a shansley growth of trees here and there.

Topographical Sheet No 1775

This sheet extends from Willis' Creek to Riverhead on the North side, and from Southport to Riverhead on the South. the entire shore on both sides is composed of marsh with small patches of sand beach. the most notable feature is that at high tide the whole marsh line is covered, while at low tide it is impossible to reach shore within a distance of two and three hundred yards. from Indian Key to Riverhead a distance of 2 1/4 miles a narrow Channel is dug, to enable vessels drawing six feet to land at the wharf. Not having a tug boat in these waters they are compelled to wait for high tide and free wind in going in and out.