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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	<i>1835</i>
Office No.	<i>1836</i>
	<i>1837</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Florida</i>
General locality	<i>West Coast</i>
Locality	<i>Of Florida</i>
<u>1888</u>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>Joseph Hergeshiemer</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	

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1837



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. M. Thorne, Superintendent.

State: *Florida.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. *1835,*
1836 + 1837.

LOCALITY:

West Coast of Florida
Cape Romano
to
Pavilion Key.

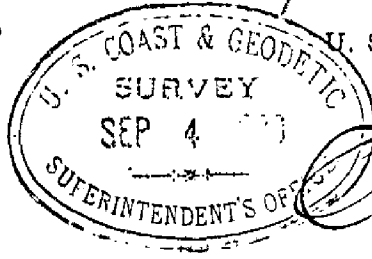
1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Joseph H.engesheimer.

PENN. & MANCOCK,
Germantown,
Philadelphia.

By giving the address to which reply should be sent.



U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Germantown Phila.

May 30th, 1888

H. A. Thorn Esq
Superintendent U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Washington, D.C.

Sir:
I have the honor to forward you my descriptive report of the topographical work on the West Coast of Florida, Cape Romano to Pencil Key, executed by the party in my charge, the past season 1887, in the Schooner Quaker.
The Coast, as shown on the sheet, Cape Romano, to the west side of the first inlet to the Eastward, is dry, sandy, and covered with a growth of grass, palms and buttonwood, with good sandy beach for about one mile to the Eastward.

of the pitch of the Cape.

The land is about three feet above ordinary high water mark.

Cacranuts have been planted about the Cape, and seem to be doing well.

From the first point to the Eastward of Cape Emancipacion to Parilini Key, the general character of the Coast is the same. mangrove islands fringed with shell limestone or coquina reefs on the ocean side, with occasional short beaches, and a growth of oysters along the cap of the mangroves on the backs of the islands and up the creeks. The islands are overflowed at high water, except the dry places on the outside islands, as shown on the charts.

The dry places on the outside islands are receding, where not protected by the reefs, as in many places dead

bees are standing in the water.
The mangroves adjacent to the flats
or shores are on the increase, but
along the channels and deep water
there seems to be little change.
I judge from the size of the
trees. The mangrove islands are
fringed with a growth of oysters
in great quantities and I think
the line will come when they
will be collected and planted.
Fine large oysters are gathered
in the creeks, a few miles back
from the coast. The trees along
the coast are mangroves and
buttonwood, (the buttonwood on
the dry places) from 20 to 50 feet
in height along the coast, and
increase in height as you go in
among the islands. There are a
few palm-trees of small growth
on the dry spots along the coast.
The only cultivation between

Cape Romano and Panther Key is
on Cape Romano and Panther Key
a few coconuts on the Cape with
some and few vegetables on Pan-
ther Key. The only Key inhabited
and worth anything within the limits
of the survey is Panther Key occu-
pied by Pilot Gomez, a Spaniard,
who claims to be over 100 years
old and is yet an active pilot.
He lives with his wife on Pan-
ther Key. There is a well of fair
water near his palmetto house.
The Key he named Panther
Key for the number of pan-
thers on it. They have killed all
his live stock. The only legit-
imate trade carried on in this
locality is in palmetto logs and
battens used in Key West for
building docks and fuel, fishing
and hunting. I saw green turtles
in great numbers in the waters

behind Pavilion Key. I have noticed many suspicious looking small vessels passing in and out among the is-lands. I find a number of good harbors for the Quicks, among the Keys, and am of the opinion that the hydrographic work should be carefully done within the limits from surface and out to 6 feet low water. 20,000 scale. The hydrographic work along this Coast on 40,000 scale does not show these harbors among the islands, which are made empty after, if the many small vessels pass up and down the Coast. The weather during the season was unusually fine, with few storms, and no frost, something unusual. The field work was executed between February 6th and April 17th. 167 miles of shore line. 34 sq miles of area.

Number of miles of shore line to the
sq. mile 5- Cost of survey per sq
mile \$79 Cost of shore line per
mile \$16- Total cost of the
party for the season \$2716-

The field work was executed
between Feb. 6th and April 17th-
The above showing of cost of work
per mile and sq mile includes
expenses of fitting out and time
in repairing vessel, laying her
up, trip Manatee to Key
West and return and the
transportation of four officers
Washington to Manatee and
return, an item in itself of
over \$400- Scale of the survey
20,000- The triangulation points
5 in number located on the land,
were all recovered in good order
they were marked by marble posts.
The water signals used in the
triangulation, within the limits of the

with 5 in number have disappeared.
I decided and determined 4 water
signals, to take the place of
those washed away. These re-
constructed were of the same
construction as the original ones.
The plane table points were
and determined. Number 491
approximately determined and marked
with care. The points consisted
mostly of scantling driven into the
rock, about which was cut a Δ .
The bus was marked by a Δ .
The points were determined di-
rectly from the Δ^2 points by head
lines and cuts for the water
signals. The water signals were
determined by 3 lines from the
 Δ^2 points on shore. The work was
done with great care, all with the
table on good determined points.
The reef line was all surveyed
at low water. In regard to the

names, I got all I could. There is
but one occupied house within the
limits of the park and ^{the account} he is over
100 years old. I interviewed a
number of peasey boatmen in re-
gard to names, but got little or
no reliable information.

In order to facilitate the execution
of the work, I duplicated the
Office projections, which enabled
Mr. Gray and myself, to work at
the same time, & the same
anchorage, thus avoiding the expense
and time lost in keeping up a
Camp. I desire to continue this
work the coming season, and hope
to finish the Coast topography
from Plover's Key to Cape Sabine.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Kershner
Assistant