

1919. 1920. 1921. 1922. 1923. 1924.

6-1870-1 (1) + +

83  
STA  
1979  
1980  
1981



U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*T.C. Mendenhall*, Superintendent.

State: *Ala. & Fla.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheets Nos. *1979,*  
*1980 & 1981.*

*1979a*

LOCALITY:

*Perdido Bay.*

*1890.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Stehman Forney,*  
*Assist.*

1861 of 6261  
1979a

Descriptive Report  
of  
Topographical Sheets Nos. 2 - 4 & 5.

Perdido Bay, Alabama and Florida  
Surveyed by the party of Assistant Stehman Forney,  
January - February & March 1890.

The general character of the country shown on these sheets, is broad and simple and is comprised of moulded drift.

The sea-shore is a low sand beach beaten hard and rigid. The low water line is defined upon the sheets, by dotted lines. A stranded ship might survive a storm on this beach with little risk to loss of life. The beach is backed by shifting sand dunes, from fifteen to twenty feet in height; general direction of fore and rear slopes, east and west, ~~hauling~~ <sup>traveling</sup> to the westward.

The general character of the vegetation is salt grass, palmetto and scrub oak. The trees are of forest growth, and comprise the yellow pine, average height ninety feet, cyprus, average height fifty feet, live and water oak, average height forty feet; fruit trees comprise the sweet and bitter orange, peach and apricot in small numbers, the magnolia grows wild in places, about one tenth of the country is arable and grass land; wagon roads are numerous and not much traveled and consequently in poor condition. The

fences are chiefly built of wood. The climate on the western end of the bay is pleasant and healthy, but unhealthy at Millview on the eastern end of the Bay.

But little commercial importance attaches to Perdido Bay it may be described in general terms as a wide and irregularly shaped Sound, about fifteen miles long, with innumerable ramifications of creeks and bayous; at its north-eastern extremity is the mouth of Perdido River which penetrates the interior for about forty miles, and is navigable for light draft vessels about thirty miles above its mouth. Seven miles above its mouth it branches, sending off an arm to the north-westward called "the Blackwater"; one mile and a half above the confluence with the Blackwater it again divides, the branch running northwesterly being known as "the Styx".

The entrance to Perdido Bay is through a very narrow inlet into a lagoon called "Old River" The bar is shifting and has upon it an average depth of nine (9) feet at mean low water. During the prevalence of southerly winds the bar deepens, but becomes shallow under the pressure of continuous "Northers"

The usual tidal current is about (4) knots, but it must be remarked in this connection, that during the prevalence of a norther there is no tidal current - the volume of water running constantly seaward.

The usual channel into the bay is not now (except during

north winds) through Old River but through a so-called "cut off", made some fifteen years ago by parties living in that locality, through the narrow strip of low land separating Old River from Bayou St. John (or Bay Ornoco). This cut has now greatly increased in width and has deepened to three fathoms of water, although originally it was but a ditch four feet wide and four feet deep. This fact is worthy of mention, only because, if such a scour has developed in this particular channel, and in such a time, it may have a bearing upon the future of the bay as a commercial port.

At present, there is no maritime commerce - the timber (mostly yellow pine, spruce and live oak) being conveyed to Millview, at the eastern end of the bay where there are two large saw mills belonging to the "Southern States Land and Lumber Company" which have a manufacturing capacity of 200,000 feet per diem; here it is sawed and transported to Pensacola by rail. There is no other trade. The soil is light, sandy and little productive.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Stehman Forney,

Assistant C. and G. Survey.

K. L.

1979

C. & G. SURVEY.  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
SEP 25 1911  
Acc. No. -

Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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

*State:* \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

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

LOCALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*190*  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Sept 1979* **1979**  
U. S. COAST and GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITMANN Supt.

PERDIDO BAY

ALABAMA and FLORIDA

Stadia Survey of Inlets

by

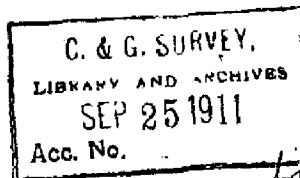
T. E. Smith

Edwin Smith

Chief of Party

Scale =  $\frac{1}{20000}$

February 1911.



*Drawings & plots by T. E. S.  
and plots checked by E. S.*

The soundings written in pencil represent the depth at the two inlets as well as I can give them and are sufficient for all practical purposes as the depth of water on the bar changes with every strong wind.

The west inlet is not now used even by the smallest boats that enter.

When once inside the east inlet the inner bay can be reached by either the eastern or western passage but the eastern passage is far the best.

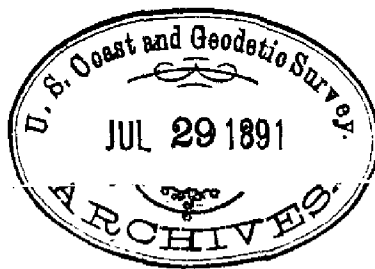
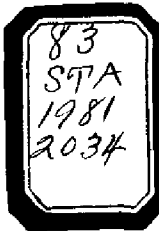
To go through the western passage make straight for the bluff close to the shore and turn to the west as shown by the pencil line.

To go through the eastern passage make straight for the bluff till the narrow channel passing the east point is reached and then turn to east and keep close to outer shoal and shore till well inside.

When we entered this inlet Feb. 3, 1911 at low water there was five feet over the bar. When we came out Feb. 24, 1911 there was seven feet over the bar at low water.

The bar is about as far out as the distance between the two points of land. The depth over the bar changes from four to eight feet with the wind.

*The plots are on Charleston & Louisiana Datum*



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*T. C. Mendenhall*, Superintendent.

States: *Ala. & Fla.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheets Nos. *1981*  
*+ 2034.*

LOCALITY:

*Pedido Bay.*

*See also 1980*

*1891.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Stehman Forney.*





Descriptive Report  
2, Sheet Nos. 1981 & 1984

Topography of  
Perdido Bay Ala. & Fla.  
from

Survey Station on the Florida Side  
to

The Millview Fla. at the Head of Bay,  
from

Survey Station on the Alabama Side  
to

The mouth of Perdido River Ala. Fla.  
1891

The general Character of the Country  
on the Alabama Side is high land  
(20 to 40 feet above the bay), and covered  
with pine and Cypress timber, with  
here and there small patches of Culti-  
vated land. On the Florida Side, at  
Millview and the mouth of Perdido  
River it is low - marshy and sandy,  
covered with Cypress and pine timber.  
Most of the large timber has been

cut-off for lumber, The average height of the trees is from 50 to 100 feet. About  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the land is Arable.  $\frac{1}{3}$  Marsh &  $\frac{1}{3}$  wooded.

Millien is a small town at the head of Perichou Bay on a low swampy shore backed by timber and Cypress Swamps. The greater portion of this town is built on the Saw chest-land refuse from the Saw mills located there, belonging to the Southern States Land and Timber Co., who have two <sup>saw</sup> mills with a capacity of 200,000 feet of lumber per day. Millien has about 300 inhabitants, (mostly negroes). The town is connected with Penzance Bay (nine miles East) by a single track wide gauge rail road, over which the lumber is transported from Millien to Penzance Bay, and shipped from there to all parts of the world.

Millien is unhealthy being subject

to Chills and fear, Most of the  
white employees of the mills live  
from two to four miles from town,  
in the direction of Pemacata.

There is a post-office - two good  
stores - School house & two churches  
at this place.

Respectfully Submitted  
Stephen Horney  
Asst. C. & G. Survey