2093 2094

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic

Field No. 2093 Office No. 2094

LOCALITY

State Florida

General locality Blackwater Bay

Locality

1892

~~194~~

CHIEF OF PARTY

P. A. Welker

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DATE

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U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
T.C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Florida.

Descriptive Report,
Topographic Sheets Numbers 2093 and 2094.

Locality
Blackwater Bay and Tributaries, Florida.

1892.

Chief of Party: P.A. Welker.

Write me at: 2122 Maplewood Ave, Toledo, Ohio

Telegraph me at:

My Express Office is:

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Toledo, Ohio

December 13th, 1892.

2—547

Dr. T. C. Mendenhall,

Superintendent, U.S. Coast & G. Survey,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:—

In obedience to Instructions and Memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheets Nos. 2093 and 2094:

The two sheets consist of a Topographic Survey, on a scale of $\frac{1}{10000}$, of Blackwater Bay and Tributaries, Florida. As sheet 2094 only contains a small portion of the work, which was necessary to make the survey of the head of the bay complete, but one report is made.

The base of the work was established from a Triangulation carried up Pensacola and Escambia Bays from the line "Navy Yard Wharf - Fort Pickens". The plane table was used for the execution of

the topography.

On the west shore of the bay from the Triangulation station Eagle Point to Bay Point the land is low with patches of swamps bordering all of the streams ~~xxxxx~~ entering the bay. The beach is a clean white sand. Near it the swamps have a growth of grass from two to four feet high, but a short distance back they are covered with dense timber and brush. Beyond Bay Point the land is somewhat higher with a low bluff extending a little beyond Shield's Point, where it turns away from the bay, forming a gradual slope in the land around all of the swamps as far as the head of the bay. The land in no place is over 15 feet above mean low water.

At Bay Point there is a collection of houses occupied almost entirely by people employed at the saw mill located here. There is no post-office, telegraph office or telephone office nearer than Milton, which is distant by wagon road or water about six miles. There is but one small general supply store. The wagon road

to Milton is fair, but all of the other roads ... leading into the interior are poorly defined and very heavy for travel on account of the deepness of the sand. There is one large saw mill at this point, which does an extensive business in cutting rough logs into timber. The logs are mostly floated down the Yellow River, which enters Blackwater Bay just opposite. As the water in the bay is not deep enough to allow the large ocean vessels to come up from Pensacola Bay, the lumber is taken down to deep water in flat boats and small schooners. The distance to the anchorage for ocean vessels is about 12 miles.

On the east shore, beginning at the triangulation station Grassy Point, as far as the north entrance to the Yellow River is one vast swamp cut up by numerous small bayous and four large branches of the Yellow River. The most southern of these branches is known as the Weaver River, the next to the north as Broadmouth and the other two are known as the Yellow River. The swamp bordering

Catfish Lagoon to an extent of from two to six hundred meters from the shore line is covered with a tall grass; back of the grass is dense and heavy timber. Most of the swamp from the Wiam to the most northern mouth of the Yellow River is covered with dense brush and timber. This swamp is entirely under water during an ordinary flood or a very high tide. None of these streams are navigable on account of the shallow water near their mouths. After entering the streams for a few hundred yards there is good deep water. The banks are steep and covered with timber and dense brush; much cutting was necessary for the execution of the topography. The Yellow River drains a vast extent of country, and an immense amount of timber is floated down annually.

The remaining part of the east shore of the bay as far as the entrance to the Black-water River is low, but it is dry land with the exception of a few patches of swamp bordering Ward's Basin and all of the streams

entering the bay. There are a few poorly defined roads, one leading to Milton and others into the interior.

The Blackwater River enters the bay at its head. Only the entrance to the river is shown.

The soil of the country surrounding the bay is a mixture of clay and sand; very little of it is fit for agricultural purposes. The timber is dense, consisting mostly of spruce, pitch and yellow pines from 10 to 70 feet in height, but very few of these are of any value at present. There are also scattering live oak, water oak, scrub oak, magnolia, palmetto, red bay and sweet bay. In the swamps there is a thick growth of briers and underbrush; a little juniper and cypress are also found. The country is thinly settled.

Mullet, trout and other salt water fish are found, also oysters. Alligators are numerous in the swamps.

Only the high water line and marsh limits are shown on the sheet.

Very respectfully yours,
P. A. Welker,
Assist, C. & G. Survey.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

T. C. Mendenhall Superintendent.

State Florida

Descriptive Report

of

Topographic Sheet No. 2094.

Hill Head 2093

1893.

Chief of party: Assistant F. A. Wetter.

Write me at: .....

Telegraph me at: .....

My Express Office is: .....

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Taku Ast. Sta., Alaska.

August 24th, 1893.

2–647

Dr. T. C. Mendenhall,

Superintendent U. S. C. & G. Survey,

Washington,

D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In obedience to instructions and memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheet No. 2094, made by the party of Assistant P. A. Welker during the months of February and March, 1893.

The work consists of a survey of Blackwater River, its tributary bayous and basins, and the adjacent country, from the mouth of the river to a point about three and one half (3½) miles above the town of Milton. It was made entirely with the plane table, a plane table triangulation being carried up the river as far as Wright Basin, and traverse lines run from

this back way, checking back other as often as practicable.

The work was begun at the triangulation station Potter, established in 1892, and the table oriented on the stations seen in and around Blackwater Bay, also established in 1892. It was made on a scale of one in ten thousand ($\frac{1}{10,000}$) and includes Langley, Pelican, Stronson, Marquis, Quinn, and Kehoe Bayous; Marquis and Wright Basins; Pond Creek; and the towns of Milton and Bagdad. Most of these bayous and basins are merely short arms or small channels of the river extending back into the swamp, the only exception being Pond Creek, which is a small stream flowing from the west and entering the river at, or just above, the town of Bagdad.

Across the river, toward the east from Bagdad, is the mouth of Stronson Bayou and just below it, the entrance to Langley Bayou, both of which are channels of the river flowing nearly parallel with it, the latter being joined just before it enters the river, about three quarters of a mile below Bagdad, by Pelican Bayou, a small

sluggish stream flowing from the east. Marquis Basin, situated just below and across the river from Milton, is an arm of Stroupeon Bayou, joining it just after it separates from the river. Marquis Bayou enters the river opposite Milton and just above the railroad bridge. The two arms of Quinn Bayou, formerly connected but now separated by a dam and sand bar, are just above Milton and on the west side of the river. Kehoe Bayou extends northward from the river at a point about one mile above Milton, and at its head is connected with the river by a shallow ditch cut through the narrow strip of land separating the two. Wright Basin, the largest body of water shown, joins the river at a point about one and one half miles above Milton, is irregular in shape, and bounded on the south and east by a sandy beach and solid ground that rises rapidly to a height of from 50 to 90 feet, resembling a bluff as seen from the entrance.

The river with its several tributary arms and channels, meanders down through a densely wooded swamp, which is about a half a mile wide

on the average although occasionally almost disappearing. Away from the swamps on either side the land slopes up, at various angles, to an elevation of 50 to 90 feet, and is more or less broken and rolling, owing to the numerous small streams flowing through, or from, it.

All the land at an elevation of more than 20 feet above the river is thinly covered with small pine trees, and occasionally a few live oaks, with an undergrowth of scrub oak, more or less dense. The lowland, outside of the swamps, is mostly covered with spruce, pitch, and yellow pine of usually small size, varying from 10 to 80 feet in height, and is of but little value, all the best having been cut out for lumber. The swamps are densely covered with pine, cypress, oak, cedar, red and white bay, and a mass of briers and brush, and is often so thick as to be almost impenetrable.

The soil is sandy with more or less clay giving it a yellowish or reddish color, and is of but little use for agricultural purposes, although some of the low land around the towns is fairly well tilled.

Two small towns, Willow, with a population

of about 1800, and Bagdad, population about 400, are shown on the chart on the right or west bank of the river. Both owe their existence mostly to the lumber business of the country, which is still the only industry of any importance. There are two large saw mills at Bagdad and one at Milton, all in full operation, and situated on the banks of the river so as to get the logs from the water where they are held by means of booms both floating and stationary, the latter being made by driving piles in the bottom of the river. These logs are cut back in the country wherever the timber is large enough, and hauled to the marsh stream large enough to float them, into which they are rolled and allowed to float down with the current to the river and thence to a large floating boom placed across the river just above the entrance to Bright Basin. Here they are allowed to collect and when the number is sufficient, gathered into a floating boom and rafted to the mills, where they are sawed into lumber, which is conveyed by means of lighters, to the shipping in the bays

below.

Our railroad is shown on the chart, the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, which crosses in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction, passing through the southern edge of Milton and crossing the river on a low bridge with an iron draw (or swing) near the center. This is the only bridge across the river, the only other means of crossing being by boat or by a ferry located just above the bridge and operated by means of a windlass, on board the ferry flat, around the cylinder of which is wound a rope with an end made fast on each bank of the river. All the other bridges shown were made by driving piles into the mud, spiking longitudinal girders to them, upon which to lay the plank and building a low railing to prevent running off into the mud and water.

The roads represented are not much more than wagon tracks through the woods and not very good owing to the softness of the sand. They lead out from Milton in various directions toward the small towns and villages scattered

around in the woods.

All the fences represented are composed of wood, excepting only a few made of iron in Milton, and are the ordinary picket and board fences, with a few rail or worm fences in the woods away from the towns.

Milton and Bagdad have telegraphic communication with both the east and west and are also connected with Pensacola by telephone. Milton receives mail and express matter daily from both the east and west, via the Pensacola and Atlantic R.R.

Yours respectfully,
O.B. Frueh.