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2160 2161

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey

Field No. Office No.

LOCALITY

State

General locality

Locality

194

CHIEF OF PARTY

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Fla.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 2157,
2158, 2159, 2160 & 2161.

LOCALITY:

Pensacola, Escambia,
Blackwater and East
Bays.

See also 1984

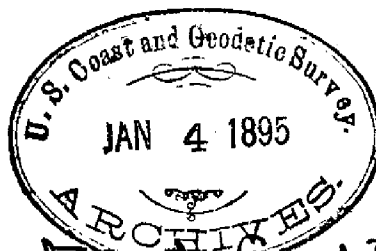
1894.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

P. A. Welker,
Assist.

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U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
General W. W. Duffield, Superintendent.

State : Florida.

Descriptive Report.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160 and 2161.

Locality,

Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Blackwater Bay and East Bay.

1894.

Chief of Party : P. A. Walker, Assistant.

22

Write me at: 2122 Maplewood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

Telegraph me at: _____

My Express Office is: _____

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Toledo, Ohio.

Dec. 29th, 1894.

2-547

General W. W. Duffield,

Superintendent U. S. Coast & G. Survey,

Washington, D. C.,

Sir:

In obedience to Instructions and Memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheets Nos. 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160 and 2161. These are all adjoining sheets and consist of a resurvey of Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, East Bay and Blackwater Bay, Florida, on a scale 1:10000.

The base of the work was established from a triangulation carried over the bays mentioned, from the line Navy Yard Wharf - Fort Pickens, near the entrance to Pensacola Bay. The plane table was used for the execution of the Topography.

Sheet no 2157 consists of a portion of

Escambia Bay. The small village of Bohemia, which is distant about seven miles above Pensacola is shown near the southeastern edge of the sheet. It is a station on the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad. Here is located a railroad section house, one shingle mill, one general merchandise store, a post office and a telegraph office. There is only a small collection of houses and they are mostly occupied by people employed by the railroad company and at the mill. There are no wharf facilities. Boats drawing eight feet of water can go within about one quarter of a mile from the beach. The timber used at the mill for making shingles is brought down the Escambia River and is towed in rafts or booms from the mouth of the river distant about 6 miles. Roads lead from Bohemia to Pensacola and the interior of the country, but they are not much traveled and are of little consequence.

About $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles above Bohemia is another small collection of houses but of no importance, it is the railroad station called Triestia.

A high bluff follows the beach closely to within about 400 meters of West Escambia, where it turns back from the shore and follows around the swamp. The bluff at some places, especially where it is close to the shore, is very abrupt and considerably broken and cut up by large gullies. Springs of water leak out from these places some of which disappear in the sand upon reaching the shore. The slopes where they are covered with vegetation range from 25° to 50° . Back of the swamp the slope is more gentle and uniform.

At Devil's Pt. there is a long shoal extending from the point east to the old lagoon. This shoal shifts from north to south with the prevailing wind.

The Pensacola and Atlantic Division of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad follows the shore, except for a short distance near Devil's Pt., and crosses Escambia Bay over a wooden trestle. About one third of the distance across the trestle there is an iron swing bridge, which is tended by a man day and night.

The general character of the bluff shows

a mixture of clay and sand of a yellowish color. The beach is a clean white sand, very little of the soil is good for agricultural purposes. On a small portion of the low land close to the beach, oranges, peaches, plums and vegetables are raised.

At the northeastern end of the Trestle crossing Escambia Bay is a large grassy swamp which extends north around Bayou Mulateo and east and south to the head of Indian Bayou. This swamp is flooded with water during spring tide. In numerous places it is very boggy and dangerous to cross.

Indian Bayou is very shallow as is also the entrance and it is not of much importance. Boats drawing two feet of water are occasionally taken up there for the purpose of bringing out fire wood.

Fast land again begins about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile southeast of the entrance to Indian Bayou and continues to a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the entrance to Trout Bayou. In the locality about Trout Bayou there is quite a collection of houses occupied mostly by people engaged

in fishing raising vegetables and carrying fire wood to the Pensacola market. The land is not of much value. At a high tide boats drawing three feet of water can be taken about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile up the bayou. Very fair roads lead from here over to Blackwater Bay and to the Town of Milton, the county seat. Close to the shore along the remainder of the sheet is a stretch of grassy marsh land, which in several places extends back as far as $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. There is a narrow fringe of white sand beach along the entire shore and there is no difficulty in traveling along the whole length with the exception of crossing the bayous.

All of the land on this side of the bay is low, at no point does it rise to a height of as much as 15 feet above the water of the bay.

The entire country described is densely covered with timber, mostly pine, but little of it is of any value at present, all the best having been cut out for lumber. The trees are from 20 to 70 feet high and consist of spruce, pitch and yellow pine, scattering live oak, water oak,

scrub oak, red bay, sweet bay, magnolia and palmetto are also found. The soil is generally sandy, mixed with clay.

During an ordinary season in this locality the climate is delightful. But without doubt much malaria exists at times. While engaged in the work during the months of April and May, 1894, there was much sickness among the different members of the party. This was probably due to the unusual dry season, which caused the decomposition of the vegetable matter in the swamps.

Fish are plentiful in the bay such as trout, sea-bass, mullet and Spanish mackerel. Oysters are also found. In the woods are some quail and wild turkeys.

The Topography represented on sheet No. 2159 adjoins that on sheet No. 2157. The general character of the country is similar to that already described for the latter sheet.

A narrow strip of sand beach follows

around the whole length of the large grass swamp represented and there is no difficulty in walking around it except in crossing the bays. The swamp is boggy in many places, but it can be crossed. The road shown at the northern part of the sheet leads to Milton.

At the south end of the sheet is a resurvey of a portion of the shore line of East Bay.

Sheet No. 2158 is a resurvey of a portion of Blackwater and East Bays, Florida. It joins sheet No 2159, and the general character of the country is similar to that described for sheet No 2157.

On the west shore of Blackwater Bay and East Bay the land is low with patches of swamps bordering all of the streams entering the bays. 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.

The roads to the south and east lead to

Escambia Bay, and the road to the north leads to Milton.

Only a small portion of this Territory is more than 20 feet above the ordinary level of the bay, this is the space within the curve represented.

On the west shore of Blackwater Bay and the north shore of East Bay, the character of the beach is the same, but the land interior is somewhat higher. There is a very gentle rise until the 20 foot curve is reached about one mile interior and then it rises very rapidly until the crest of the ridge is reached at an altitude of 55 feet.

Beginning at the station "Grassy" and extending north and east is one vast swamp cut up by numerous small bayous and four large branches of the Yellow River. The swamp bordering Catfish Lagoon to an extent of two to six hundred meters from the shore line is covered with a tall grass; back of the grass is dense and heavy timber. This swamp is entirely under water during the ordinary flood or high tide.

The fresh-water swamp which is shown a short distance inland and from which Bayou Fundy and numerous other bayous have their source is also very extensive. It continues very nearly parallel to the shore for some distance beyond the entrance to East River. This swamp is densely covered with pine, cypress, oak, cedar, red and white bay and a mass of briars and brush that is often so thick as to be almost impenetrable.

The roads represented lead into the interior, but they are not often traveled and are not of much importance. Little of the land in this locality is of much value.

Sheet No. 2161 is a survey of portions of East Bay and East River, Florida. This sheet adjoins sheet No. 2158. The country is similar in character and little in addition can be said. East River is a beautiful sheet of water and is navigable for some distance beyond the portion surveyed for boats of light

draught. The country is of little value except as a place for obtaining fire wood and fishing. In the locality near the entrance to East River redfish are plentiful. Oysters are also found here.

Sheet No. 2160 is a resurvey of a portion of the south shore line of East Bay. It adjoins sheet No. 2061.

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