

2307

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Topographic*
Field No. _____ Office No. *2307*

LOCALITY

State *Louisiana*
General locality *North Shore*
Locality *Lake Pontchartrain*

1898

194

CHIEF OF PARTY

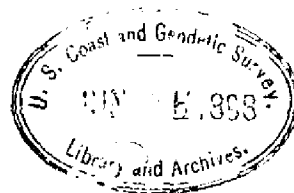
P. A. Welker

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE _____

2307

JUN 10 1897
2307



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *LOUISIANA*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2307*

LOCALITY:

North Shore

Lake Pontchartrain

between

Cheluncite River & Pass Manchac

1898.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Assistant P. A. Welker.

2307

Write me at: _____

Telegraph me at: _____

My Express Office is: _____

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Washington, DC

_____, 1898.

2-5437

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett
Sup't W.S. C. & G. Survey
Washington, DC.

Sir:

I have the honor to present you this Description Report of original topographical sheet no. 2307. This sheet embraces the shore line and adjacent inland topography, on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana; between the Chefumcte River and Pass Manchac; and was surveyed by me in March 1898.

The general character of the country is low and usually covered by cypress interspersed with scrub and deciduous trees, with occasional open marshes of considerable extent.

The only towns or settlements of any size are Madisonville and Jay's Mill, both on the Chefumcte River, about three miles from its

Mouth. These are built on ridges of high land lying between the River, and the cypress swamp in their rear. The highest point in Madisonville is about nine and one half feet above the mean high water of the Chufuncte. To the North of Madisonville the land becomes firmer and higher.

The only firm land on the sheet near the Lake is the so-called "Middleton Island," which is a very narrow strip of firm ground about two miles long. Its center is approximately one mile from the Lake shore, and is about half-way between the Chufuncte and Tangipahoa Rivers. Cypress swamp and the open marsh surround it. This land is now well timbered, but in past years it was a plantation. Its highest point is about four feet above the surrounding low land. A very poor wood road running the whole length of the Island and then a "corduroy" road through the swamp, furnish an outlet to the "Pouchatula Road."

Along the Lake shore there is usually a strip of firm ground composed of either silt or shells, and has an elevation of

from one to four feet. Many of these skulls are loaded on scows and taken to New Orleans for various purposes.

Owing to the low shore, the water-line is very irregular, although its general directions are either straight or long regular curves.

The shore gives evidences of erosion, the principal one being, that along the whole Lake Shore trees and stumps are seen standing out in the water, often as much as two hundred meters. Several fishermen made the statement that they remember when the shore in some places, was several hundred feet beyond where it is at present. However this rapid encroachment of the water is greatly retarded by the trees which grow close to the water's edge.

There are three navigable water-courses shown on this topographical sheet; the Chufumate, and Tangipahoa Rivers and Pass Manalae. The last named is the outlet from Lake Maurepas to Lake Pontchartrain. The two Rivers flow through a lumber region of pine and cypress. The lumber is shipped after having been sawed by the numerous

Mills along the River. The largest mills
bring on the Clufuncte at Madisonville, and
Covington.

Numerous small Bayous, branching from
the river, drain the marshes and swamps.
They are not navigable except by row-boats,
and then for only several hundred meters.
The marshes and swamps are about
one foot above average high water, and
are flooded during extreme high tides.
They are dry in summer except after
heavy rains, and are very boggy in winter.

Madisonville is a village of about
one thousand inhabitants. It is a rather
picturesque place with its old style houses
and the numerous large live-oak trees which
stand in its streets. It has none of the
attractions of a summer resort, but some
people from New Orleans and other places,
spend the warm weather in Madisonville,
on account of its being healthy. It has
been very fortunate in escaping the epidemics
which have visited the Gulf States in recent
years.

Madisonville is very isolated, having

no railroad or telegraphic facilities. However these can be obtained at Covington, about seven miles north of the town, into which runs a branch of the New Orleans and North Eastern Rail Road. There is frequent communication between Madisonville and New Orleans by water; but no passenger boat runs between these places except in summer. The Post Office in Madisonville gets mail once each day from Covington.

Three wagon roads run out of the village; one west toward Ponchatula, another north to Covington, and a third east to Lewisburg and Mandeville. The road running east starts at Jay's Mill, a ferry joining this place with Madisonville. The roads are of dirt and are in fair condition. There is very little sandy road within the limits of the sheet, but they are inclined to be heavy after rains. No other roads exist except those shown on the sheet. And there are no bridges across the rivers.

Respectfully submitted

William Bowie, Aid C & G. Survey

Assistant P. A. Walker, Chief of party.