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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent

State: Maryland

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2394

LOCALITY:

Tolly Point to Curtis Point,
West Side of Chesapeake Bay
including South River and
Rhode River

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. A. Fleming, Asst

2394⁷

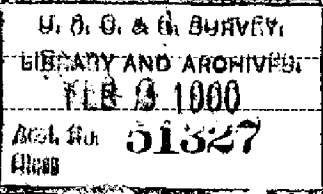
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FORM 65.—Field Letter.

Write me at:

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Descriptive Report

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Washington, D. C.January 30th, 1900

2-547

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett,
 Superintendent U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
 Washington, D. C.

Sir: - With reference to "Sheet No. 1, topographic
 survey of West Shore of Chesapeake Bay from Tully
 Point to Curtis Point, including South, Rhode
 and West Rivers," the following changes in the names
 of localities are to be noted:

OLD NAME :

PRESENT NAME :

Burley's creek	Cherrytree creek
Switzer's Point	Persimmon Point
Crass's creek	Crab creek
Guignville Point	Poplar Point
Brewer's Point	Cedar Point
Limehouse creek	Brewer creek
Lee's creek	Warehouse creek

Brewer's creek and Limehouse creek appear to have
 been misplaced on the old chart as they now refer to

different creeks than those so named on the old chart.

The area covered by Sheet No. 1 is of mixed drift, it has a rolling character and is fairly well wooded. The rivers have numerous creeks and coves which are fringed with trees and generally form the outlets of valleys with marshy bottoms.

The Bay shoreline is generally bold with a clay subsoil, which, however, does not prevent the tides and waves from making inroads upon the land. The recession of these bluffs, in the past year amounted to about 16 feet as is clearly shown by the disappearance of the triangulation points.

Tully 2 - Thomas 2 - Goswami 2 and Butts 2, which were established in 1898 by Assist. J. W. Perkins.

The trees skirting the shorelines of rivers and creeks are oaks, cedars, chestnut trees, poplars, gums, persimmons, etc. The woods are generally dense and of a mixed character. There are some peach orchards but few apple and pear trees in this locality. The open land is nearly all under cultivation, the principal crops being corn, tobacco, watermelons and tomatoes.

Natural oyster beds extend up Saint River to Ferry Point. These, together with bars in the Bay proper, notably Thomas Point Shoal bar, give the means

for a livelihood of nearly all the small land owners of this section.

A large number of these "oyster tonguers" have formed settlements. The one on Caddle Creek, formerly known as "Scrappletown", has been named Jamestown although the post office at this place is named Mayo.

A smaller settlement, located near the southern part of Selby Bay, about "Memorial Church", is known as "Memorial".

Some of the inhabitants of Taylorsville ("River view" P.O.) also tongue for oysters in the Bay while others make their living with fishing and crabbing.

The largest settlement of oystermen in this region is known as "The Swamp". It is located on the South shore of West River, near its mouth. The post office for this section is at the head of Parish Creek and is named Shady side.

The oystermen living at Jamestown, The Swamp and at Galesville (on the West River, shown on sheet No. 2) ply their trade on the natural oyster beds of Chesapeake Bay between the Horse shoe and Thomas Point Shoal.

The old bridge shown on sheet No. 135 near Taylorsville has been removed and a new bridge was built (about forty years ago) across South River at Edgewater (store and postoffice). This is the only

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bridge across South River and it forms the only means of communication, ^{overland} between the lower part of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis.

The roads in this section of the country are generally sandy and have steep grades where they cross valleys. The shipping of crops and general freight is done by steamers and schooners. The steamer Emma Giles, with home port in Baltimore, runs up the Severn to Annapolis, thence up South River as far as Taylorsville, up Rhode River to Cordee's Wharf and up West River to Galesville ("Galloway" P. O.), a settlement of optimum and a summer resort. This steamer also stops three times per week at Rowel's Wharf in the mouth of Parish Creek.

"Arundel on the Bay" is a favorite summering place, it lies directly on the Chesapeake Bay about 2 miles from Bay Ridge and seven miles from Annapolis. A tramroad formerly connected it with Bay Ridge but as it did not pay it has fallen into disuse and the rails have all been removed. There are about 30 cottages, one hotel ("The Arundel") a pavilion and several camping grounds (for "tenters") in "Arundel on the Bay".

The former mouth of Fishing Creek into South River has been filled in and it is entirely closed, still;

the tongue of land from Marshy Point to Thomas Point continues to be locally known as "The Island". The marshy neck which, fifty years ago, connected Thomas Point with the land on which "Armadillo on the Bay" is located has been broken through by the waves and this opening now forms the only outlet for Fishing Creek. The indications are that another break will soon be made through the low narrow neck just S. W. from Thomas Point, where the Point proper will again be ^{come} an Island.

The outlets of Big Pond, Little Pond, Deep Creek, Bear Creek and Quaker Pond were also found closed by sand bars.

Notable discrepancies between the old and new shore lines, which cannot be ascribed to natural changes, are to be found at Black Walnut Creek, Head of Small Creek, Head of Church Creek, Ginger ville Creek, Head of Broad Creek, Head of Lee's Creek (now called "Warehouse" Creek), E. Fork of Brewer Creek, South Shoreline of Ramsay's Gut and at Big Pond.

Very respectfully
J. A. Flemer,
Assist. Geol. Survey