



2499

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Alaska

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
NOV 27 1900
52375

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2499

LOCALITY:

Norton Sound - Ikikiktoik
Bay to Cascade Creek

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert

2499

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topography of Norton Sound,

Sheet Number 1,

Scale = 1/40,000.

52375

This Sheet begins at IkikikToik Bay, (Δ Toik) and extends thirty miles to N.W. to Station Waterfall.

The shore-line is, for the most part, composed of rocky bluffs, ranging, in height, from ten to fifty feet; -North of Flat Point they are higher still.

The beach (used to designate the space between the high and the low water marks) is usually, narrow, and rocky.

The tundra begins at the top of the bluff and covers the whole country, it is most fatiguing to walk over, -it is a spongy material, mostly moss, and usually saturated with water.

There are no trees south of Flat Point, but North of that point the ravines are more or less filled with scrubby trees, both of pine and of deciduous varieties.

South of Flat Point the land rises gradually to a ridge, along the crest and sides of which are isolated hills, while North of that point the hills are massed together, forming a mountainous region.

From Flat Point to some little distance South of Black Pt. the land is low for a considerable distance back from the beach.

North of Flat Pt. the hills rise abruptly to a very considerable height. While the slopes generally are smooth, the summits usually show outcroppings of rock. It was a matter of some interest to me to notice that throughout all this region, and I noticed it more par-

ticularly around Norton Bay, a little pile of stones crowns nearly every separate hill, - these little cairns are too old to be the work of white people, - but by whomsoever cast up they were useful to us, furnishing something definite to point upon.

This shore-line, as was all of this seasons work, was run with the Plane-table and telemeter rods; - part of this sheet was run along the beach, but most of it was run along the top of the bluff.

The rocks, common to the whole Sound, are of volcanic origin and Basaltic in character.

There are no villages along the shores represented on this sheet, but there are a large number of graves, which at first we mistook for villages. These graves are made by piling driftwood on end in the form of a cone, inside which the body is left to decay, surrounded by many, or all the personal property he might need in the Spirit land.

These belongings of the dead are sacred from sacrilege at the hands of the natives, but the prowling white man will rob even the graves to secure a souvenir.

The long stretch of shore-line to be surveyed, and the limited season precluded any attempt at more than the merest suggestion of contouring, yet a number of peaks and prominent knobs were located and heights determined, to be used by the hydrographic party.

Along these shores there is a large amount of driftwood, none of it shows tool marks, and all must come from uninhabited regions.

J. J. Gilbert

Assist: C. & G. Survey, Chief of Party.