

2556

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey

Topographic

Field No.

Office No.

2556

LOCALITY

State

New York

General locality

Smith's

Locality

Island

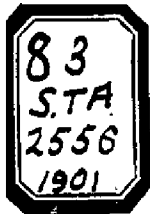
1907

CHIEF OF PARTY

G. S. Flower

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DATE



No. 17. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

D. H. Tittmann , Superintendent.

State: *N. Y.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2556*

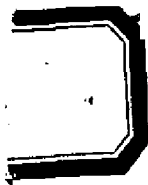
LOCALITY:

Reservoir of Smith
Island

1901.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

G. L. Fowler



DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

To Accompany Topographic Sheet No.

RESURVEY OF SMITH'S ISLAND, MARYLAND & VIRGINIA.

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Class

Smith's Island is a close group of marshy islands lying in Maryland and Virginia, but mostly in Maryland. It is bounded on the West by Chesapeake Bay, on the North by Kedge Strait, on the East by Tangier Sound and on the South by a shoal stretch of water extending to the southward to Tangier Island.

It is almost entirely marsh lands with a few spots of firm ground, on which grow pine trees and underbrush, and a few spots which were years ago diked around some houses in the marsh and filled in. Most of these houses are now gone and the spots on which they stood are overgrown with bushes. There are in places, along the shore line, narrow fringes of bushes where the action of the waves has washed up sand, forming narrow strips of land slightly higher than the marsh. There is also a few patches of cultivated ground, fenced in, in the neighborhood of the three groups of houses on the Island.

The action of the waves is washing away the outer shore lines of the Island, making it smaller and smaller. This is most noticeable on the northern and western shores.

The habitations of the Island, excepting a few scattering huts and dwellings, are grouped into three distinct villages, called collectively, on the mainland, "Smith's Island", and "Ewell" by the Post Office Department. On the Island, to designate the settlements the one from the others, the most northerly, the one on "Levering Creek", is called "North Point"; the most westerly, the one

at the head of "Shanks Creek" is known as "Roads Point"; and the most southerly, the one at the head of "Tylers Creek", is called "Drum Point".

The inland waters and those surrounding the Island are, mostly, shallow with soft muddy bottom, covered in many places with grass. Crabs abound in these waters, the catching of which, in the spring and summer months, together with oyster dredging in Tangier Sound and Chesapeake Bay, in the fall and winter months, forms the principle ^{and} industries of the Island.

A small steamer, carrying the mail, makes daily trips, weather permitting, from Crisfield to the Island.

I call attention to a few changes in names on this Sheet, compared with those on U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart No. 133. The Creek called "Sow Point Creek" on the Chart is not known on the Island by that name, in fact, as far as I could ascertain, there is no Sow Point Creek on the Island. The right hand branch of this Creek is known as "Joe's Ridge Creek" and the left hand branch as "Earnes Landing Creek".

Neither could I ascertain that there is a "Earnes Point" on the Island, but there is a "Earnes Cove", given to that Cove just south of "Terrapin Sand Cove" and north of "Drum Point".

"Twitch Cove", is the name given to that body of water between "Drum Point" and "Big Island", and not to the small Cove so designated on the Chart, which forms only a portion of "Twitch Cove". "Big Thoroughfare" and "Little Thoroughfare", open into "Twitch Cove".

"Big Island" is also known as "Great Island".

"Back Cove" is the body of water formed by "Fishing Point" and the point, South East of Fishing Point, forming the ⁿNorth westerly neck of marsh land which has "Terrapin Sand Point" for its ^sSouth-easterly end. "Back Cove" includes both Coves called, on the Chart, "Back Cove" and "Fishing Crèek"; "Fishing Creek" ^{being} is the small Creek opening into "Back Cove" at its southern extremity.

There is a small Island in the "Thoroughfare" known as "Cap Island". On the Chart it is given as "Cab Island".

Respectfully submitted,

Geo. L. Flower

ASST. U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,

CHIEF OF PARTY.