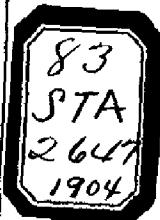


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Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tammann

Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
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JUL 13 1904

Acc. No. 2647

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2647.

LOCALITY:

*Chesapeake Bay-Eastern
Shore. Chesapeake
Creek to Pocomoke
River.*

1904

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. C. Latham, Asst.

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY.
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Descriptive Report.

Topographic Sheet of the Survey of Chesapeake Bay. Eastern Shore, from Pocomoke
River to Chincoteague Creek.

Spelling?

The survey shown on this sheet was executed by the instruction of the Superintendent dated October 16th 1903. The area surveyed is low flat and well wooded. The surface is largely of a sandy loam with an under strata of clay.

Clay underlies that portion of the area south of Guilford Creek. North of this creek there is a large portion of the area underlaid by a coarse gravel, with an admixture of clay. There are evidences of an extensive glacial moraine near the outlet of Guilford Creek. Extensive marshes extend, from the tillable lands, from one to four miles. These marshes are generally fringed by a narrow strip of sandy beach, they are generally bare and well covered with grasses, making an excellent pasturage for cattle. At extreme spring tides they are covered to a depth of four to six inches. The higher lands are about equally divided between cultivated lands and woods. From the style of

farming in vague, and equal amount of pine woods and cleared land is necessary for the purpose of agriculture. The straw from the pines are carried to the fields for the fertilizing and loosening the soil for potato cultivation. Second growth pine predominates in the wooded areas, there are some oak, gum, chestnut and hickory in the swampy woods. Trees average from 40 to 80 feet in height. Most of the original growth of timber has been cut. The sawmills cut them to as small as six inches in diameter to obtain lumber to manufacture barrels. Sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes and turnips are the main crops. Not enough corn is produced for home consumption.

This area and County is one of the most prosperous communities in Country. The produce is largely sold through a produce exchange, organised and managed by the farmers, of Accomac and the adjoining County of Northhampton. Poultry, cattle, hog and horses are extensively raised. Many standard bred trotting horses being produced. All the area not natural oyster rock is under cultivation to oysters, this industry clamming, fishing and crabbing are extensive. Provision is made for keeping crabs until they shed and become soft when they are shipped. Good shelter and holding ground can be had in

all the creeks. There are connections through the marshes at high water between Maurice and Chесconnex Creek, Chесconnex Creek and Deep Creek and Deep Creek and Hunting Creek, they are extremely difficult to follow as even at high water there is not more than four feet and this only in the channels.

The shore line, only at exposed places, recedes but slow, about a meter in five years. Little change was observed except at exposed places. No marine conveniences or supplies can be procured. Many small boats are built but the material and workman ship is poor.

There are no summer or winter resorts within the limits of the sheet. Insects make the living or being on the shores very unpleasant, during the summer months.

Two steamers are operated by the B. C. & R. Ry biweekly to and from Baltimore touching at Oaxi pier. Sailing during the winter are irregular.

The time between Oaxi and Baltimore is approximately eighteen hours. Landings, now abandoned, were formerly made on Messing Hunting and Chесconnex Creek. Railroad service to the region is excellent. The New York Philadelphia and Norfolk railway operates a triple daily passenger service and numerous freight-trains daily.

While this is one of the most prosperous agricultural communities in the United States, there seems to be but little improvement in roads bridges or houses.

Farms are valued at from fifty to one hundred dollars per acre. The roads are exceeding bad, during the winter season but fairly good during the summer.

The school system is extensive and good. no institution of higher grade than high schools.

E. B. Graham

Hallwood Va June 18th 190x

Asst. City Surveyor, Chief of Party