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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann

Superintendent.

State: Louisiana

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos.

A 2751
B 2752
C 2752

LOCALITY:

Terrebonne Bay

Lake Pelto

1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. B. Miller

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JUL 12 1906

Acc. No.

Washington, D.C. July 12, 1906

To the Superintendent,

Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Sir:

I have the honor to report as follows upon topographic sheets A and B, Lake Pelto and Terrebonne Bay, Terrebonne Co., Louisiana.

2. Both sheets are upon the scale of 1-20000, and depend upon triangulation executed for this purpose, beginning and ending in the secondary coast triangulation. The shore line was surveyed with plane table, and sextant with stadia rod; the areas being nearly equal on each sheet for each instrument. Since there are no permanent objects whatever in this territory, no list of plane table positions is furnished; the few into which were used as signals being determined by the theodolite.

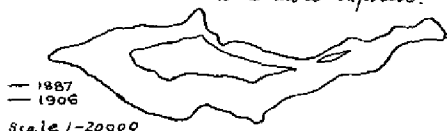
3. For a large part of the area this is the first survey of any sort to be made, and marked changes from existing maps and charts are found. For instance, no feature corresponding to what had been shown as Wine Lake, two miles west of Ecabreeze, is found; instead, this spot is marsh and small ponds, with a thicket of trees. Indeed, Wine Lake among the natives is another name for Terrebonne Bay. Also, the appearance of the south shore of Lake Barre is changed, and the north shore of Lake Pelto is found one mile north of the position formerly shown.

4. There are other smaller changes caused by the continual wearing away of the shoreline: reported to have begun only since the completion of the Mississippi River levees; for this has shut out the muddy water and ended the formation of new marsh. Since this country lies between Bayous Grand Caillon and La Fourche, it was originally overflowed only by water from Bayou La Fourche. But now this bayou is securely dammed at the north end, and it and the bayous leading from it, - Terrebonne, Little Caillon, Salte and Grand Caillon, are salt for many miles inland. Thus

(4.) continued.

the marsh is left only a skeleton; former small branching bayous are almost dry, and with their natural levees form the southerly projecting points, when the softer ooze between them wears away. At present the marsh is receding from ten to fifty meters a year, depending on the exposure and the tidal currents; and no line can be set, at which it should stop, for a long distance inland.

Raccoon Island showing effect of 19 years:
Soft marsh: south side more exposed.



5. The narrow sand beach along the Gulf is reported to be moving west, as well as north. Comparison of surveys shows that it has moved north four hundred meters since 1887; and the recurvey of Wine Island Pass shows that while the pass is in the same position, the false pass, or bar, is on the west, instead of the east side of it.

6. All names shown on the two sheets are in common use in the vicinity, no new ones having been assigned: in some cases the French form has been used; in others, the English; as seemed suitable. Generally the native, or inverted form, as "Bay Wilson", "Pass Barre", has been used; instead of "Wilson Bay", "Barre Pass". A list of all names is given below, with parallel forms where known. In the case of Ferrelbonne Bay, this name is unknown in the vicinity, the name Cat Island Bay, or Cat Island Lake being used instead: it is used also by the Oyster Commission. Some duplicated names have been omitted on the sheets, viz. Pass Lagrassie, leading south; Pass Sainte Elaine, leading south; Pass Coon Road, leading east; Bodwin's Bayou, leading north; Pass Bodwin, east and west in the center of Lake Pelto; Trinity Bayou, leading west; Whiskey Bayou, leading west. All these are connected with larger features of the same name, and may be identified at a glance.

7. Almost all the area under water is oyster bedding ground; but the natural reefs are all found in small

(7) continued

bayous and ponds. The oysters must be transplanted from there to open water for cultivation. In many places detached portions for planting have been surveyed and staked in a more or less permanent manner by the Oyster Commission of Louisiana; but no attempt has been made to connect the various sketches, or refer them to any datum. The Commission expects to use the triangulation just completed, for this purpose.

8. The marsh land is of no known value: at high tide it is all under water, often one and one-half feet deep. Rice is the only possible crop, and it had not yet been attempted so near the Gulf. No attempt is made to cultivate anything, within six miles north of Seabreeze. There are practically no inhabitants. At Pass Cocodrie, on Little Caillon, where there are a few trees, are two families. One family lives at Seabreeze Oyster Factory as helper, for the factory is closed for lack of workmen, or shuckers. The factory is owned by the People's Fish and Oyster Co., of Houma, La., and is in good repair: with iron cisterns, holding about 2500 barrels of fresh water.

9. The two main routes inland in this locality, both leading to Houma, are thro Pass Racquette or Pass Barre into Lake Barre, then into Bayou Terrebonne at Seabreeze; and thro Welch Pass, East Bayou, and Pass Cocodrie, into Bayou Little Caillon.

Very respectfully,
Geo. B. Miller,
Aid, C. & G. Survey.

Department of Commerce and Labor

Gazetteer for Sheet A

Creole or "Cajan" Dialect	* Denotes form used English
	Bay California
	Bay Coon Road
	Bay Mangle
Bay Rond	* Bay Round
Bay Sainte Elaine	Bay Wilson
Bayou Little Caillon	
Bayou Grand Salle' (also spelled Seize Seie')	
Bayou Petit Salle'	
	Bodwin Cutoff
	Bodwin Point
Caillon Bay	
Caillon Boca (often pronounced Caillam Boc')	
	Flat Bayou
	Hog Bayou
* Isle Dernière	Last Island
Grand Pelto	Lake Pelto
	Lake Little Pelto
	Old Camp Pass
	Oyster Bayou
	Pass Alex
	Pass Wilson
	Pelican Lake
	Point Mast
* Bayou La Poule	Pullet Bayou
Bay Trinité	Redfish Cut
* Troicent Picquette Bay (Called Bay Premier by La. Oyster Com.)	Tribute Bay
	Three-hundred-picket Bay
	Whiskey Bay
	Wine Island
	Wine Island Pass (Called also "Vine": "Wine" is
	(probably correct: as both this, and Whiskey Bay were
	(named from the fact of a cargo of liquor having
	(come ashore here.)

Department of Commerce and Labor

Gazetteer for Sheet B

Creole or "Cajan" Dialect	* Denotes form used.	English.
* Bay Chaland		Flatboat Bay
* Bay Cocodrie		Alligator Bay
Bay Negraisce		Bay Long
Bay Tambour		* Negress Bay
* Bayou Cocodrie		Alligator Bayou
* Bayou La Fleur		Flower Bayou
Bayou Terrebonne		Cooke Point
Lake Barre		Daspet Canal
Lake Lagraisce		East Bayou
* Lake Saint Jean Baptiste		Lake St. John Baptist
Pass Barre		Nellie Cutoff
* Pass Cocodrie		Alligator Pass
Pass Labat		
Pass Mayo		
Pass Racquette		
* Pass Saint Jean		St. John Pass
* Point Meche		Seine Point
Tambour Cutoff		Raccoon Island
* Terrebonne Bay (called also		Wine Island Lake, Wine Lake, and
{ more common than "Terrebonne Bay"		Raccoon Island Lake.
(is		Cat Island Lake (this is the most
Lac l'Isle de Chat		common name for this bay.)
		Welch Pass
		West Bayou