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No.

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tisdemann
Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topo Sheet No 2757

LOCALITY:

*Fisherman Island
and the Cape Charles
Quarantine Station*

1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. B. Miller

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THIS
REPORT IS
APPORTIONED IN CHARGE

Department of Commerce and Labor
Coast and Geodetic Survey
O. H. Litzmann, Superintendent

Descriptive Report
Topographic Sheet 2757
Fisherman Island and the Cape Charles Maritime Station
Cape Charles, Va.

1906

J. B. Miller,
Asst., C. & G. S.

Washington, D. C.
Sept. 22, 1906.

To the Superintendent,
Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Sir: I have the honor to report as follows on topographic sheet No. 2757, Fisherman Island and the Cape Charles Quarantine Station, Cape Charles, Va.

2. The sheet is on the scale of 1:6000, and includes only the island mentioned, which is a low sandy and marshy area one and one-half miles square, and less than fourteen feet above high water. It is covered with grass and low bushes, with a few small cottonwood trees near the north end. Off the southeast part are the shoals called the "Seagals," which may be traced for a mile offshore, and which appear inshore as the four high-water islands into which the island is divided at high tide.

3. On the northern end are located the buildings of the U.S. Quarantine Station, consisting of barracks, mess hall, hospital, officers quarters, fumigatory, crematory, and keepers house: all of wood. There is a wharf extending to 18 feet, with a fixed red light maintained on it as an aid to navigation. Only the keeper lives continually on the island, and at this date no use has been made of the station for a year.

4. A curved line of nine wooden stakes set by Dr. G. C. Collins on May 13, 1906 marks the supposed southern boundary of the quarantine reservation, running in a south and southwestly direction thro' the southeast part of the island. The fish-net stakes which are on property in dispute between the government

and private parties, are off the southwest shore of the island; between low water line and the channel; and the house-boat belonging to them is beached on the marsh between low and high water, on the southeast part, inside the line. All of these features appear on the sheet.

5. The survey was executed with the plane table, and depends upon stations Vice, Quarantine, and Water Tank, located by triangulation, for the purpose. The newly determined position of the water tank will affect the survey of this locality made in 1905, by 12 meters in latitude, and 4 meters in longitude.

Very respectfully,
Jacob B. Miller,
Asst., C. & G. S.

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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: *Va.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2757H*

LOCALITY:

Fishermans Island

1907

CHIEF OF PARTY:

H. P. Ritter

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND
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2757H

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Department of Commerce and Labor
Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

Resurvey of Fishermans Island, Va.

June 1907

by Homer P. Ritter, Assistant.

Scale $\frac{1}{6000}$.

Correction to amount of 1906 Survey of 1907.

Topography in black from Survey of 1906 (topog. sheet 2757)
" " " Survey of 1907.

The 14 red circles denote location of the
iron pipes set to define the boundary
of the Cape Charles Quarantine
Reservation in June 1907.

Chicagoer & Son
Fisherman Island
Va.

2757a

Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Washington

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
JUL 19 1907

July 16, 1907.

Hon. O. H. Eitzen,

Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Washington, D. C.

ACKNOWLEDGED

JUL 19 1907

Superintendent,

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith a report on the boundaries of Fishermans Island, Virginia.

Pursuant to a request from the Treasury Department, dated May 24, 1907, your instructions of May 31st directed that, after conferring with the proper authorities for the purpose of obtaining the necessary data and information pertinent to the matter, I proceed to Fishermans Island and determine and mark the present boundaries of the Island so as to define clearly the boundaries of the Cape Charles Quarantine reservation.

In accordance with above and after several consultations with the Office of the Acting Surgeon General, Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, I left Washington for Fort Monroe on the evening of June 5th arriving there the following morning. At Fort Monroe I had a further consultation with Surgeon G. L. Collins, the officer in charge of the Quarantine Station.

After purchasing material and making necessary preparations for the work I proceeded by boat to Cape Charles, Va. Here I hired a man to assist me and procured the service of a gasoline fishing sloop to take me and my outfit to Fisherman's Island, arriving there on the 9th. Work was begun at once and completed by the 17th when I left for Washington, D. C., via Cape Charles and Fort Monroe, arriving there on the morning of the 19th. In addition to the man I hired at Cape Charles I was assisted in the survey work by Mr. G. O. Smith, the keeper of the station.

The work of the survey consisted in using a specially prepared photographic copy of the plane-table survey made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1906, and with plane-table and steel-tape measurements delineating thereon a resurvey of the mean low-water line of the Island. This survey with the recently corrected mean low-water line is shown on Sheet 1. This line was marked (and is indicated on the sheet) at 14 salient points by iron pipes 10 feet long, 13 of them $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and one, pipe No. 2, 3 inches in diameter, (inside measurement) sunk into the ground and projecting from 3 to 4 feet above it.

The plane of mean low water used is one determined from 85 low waters observed by the Coast and Geodetic Survey from November 1906 to April 1907. The elevation of this plane is connected with three bench marks on the Island, fully

recorded and described in the records in the archives of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The assumption that the present low-water boundary of Fishermans Island, as shown on Sheet No 1 and marked on the ground at 14 salient points (also shown on the sheets) by iron pipes sunk into the ground, defines the present boundary of the Quarantine Reservation rests on the following:

(1) That the ordinary or mean low water line defines the extent of the riparian rights of lands bordering on the sea.

(2) That this mean low water line is not necessarily a fixed boundary, and that by accretion or decretion this line may be advanced or pushed back, thereby changing the boundary from time to time.

(3) That Fishermans Island was conveyed as an island in its entirety.

(4) That Fishermans Island has been continually extending to the southward and eastward and increasing in size.

(5) That the deep portion of the broad channelway, dividing Fishermans Island from The Isaacs, also known as William Knight's Shoals, has been steadily moving to the southward and filling up until it is now practically closed at its eastern end.

(6) That "The Isaacs", as shown on Sheet No 1, although having been subjected to considerable changes in the last 40 years by accretion, decrement, and shifting, represents the present extent of "The Isaacs" or "William Knight's Shoals" and also now represents what remains of the grant made in conformity with a survey made on the 14th day of February, 1866 by virtue of Land-Office Treasury Warrant No 30158 and by Special Act of Assembly, both recorded in the records of the Land Office at Richmond, Virginia.

That the Island was conveyed in its entirety is shown in the wording of the report of the Appraisers in the condemnation proceedings, and was further emphasized by them in filing as part of their report (Exhibit A) a copy of the Coast Survey Coast Chart No. 31, Chesapeake Bay Sheet No. 71 on which they inclose the whole of Fishermans Island by a dotted line; this line where it passes between Fishermans Island and "The Isaacs" following the middle of the deepest water between the two islands. (An enlarged photographic copy of this portion of Exhibit A is shown on sheet 2). The islands shown on Chart No. 31 are on a small scale and do not represent their exact shapes and extent at the time of the condemnation proceedings. On this chart Fishermans Island was reduced from a survey made in 1852 (Topo. sheet No 509) and that of "The Isaacs" from a survey made in 1869 (Hyd. sheet No 1013).

Sheet No. 3 shows the condition at about the time of the condemnation proceedings. It shows the survey made in 1888 and is an enlarged photographic copy of part of Topographic Sheet No. 1203. On it the heavy black line represents the highwater line; the dotted line the low water line, and the parallel lines, marsh. As stated in the condemnation proceedings the Appraisers met on Fishermans

Island August 28, 1890. The Coast and Geodetic Survey chart on which appears the survey of Fishermans Island made in 1888 was published in August 1890; so that if they had used the latest publication their dotted line would have inclosed the true extent of Fishermans Island as is shown on sheet #3.

Sheet No 4 shows the survey made in 1905, and is an enlarged photographic copy of part of Topographic Sheet No. 2675.

Sheet No.5 shows the survey made in 1852 and is an enlarged photographic copy of part of Topographic Sheet No. 509. It distinctly shows the wide stretch of water existing at that time between the low-water boundaries of the two islands.

All of the surveys shown are on the same scale and this enables one to distinguish easily the various changes that have taken place.

Sheet No.6 (traced from sheets 3-4 and 1) shows the low-water boundaries of the two islands for the year 1888-1905 and 1907 superimposed- and shows how since 1888 the dividing channel between them has steadily moved to the southward.

Sheet No.7 is a plat of the notes and bounds as described in Warrant No.30158 purporting to be a survey made in 1866 of the land granted by virtue of said Warrant. The

plat is drawn to the same scale as the other survey accompanying this report.

By comparing the plat with the survey of "The Isaacs" made by the Coast Survey in 1869 and shown on Sheet No. 2, the identity of the two is shown by the similarity in shape and extent. This hydrographic survey of 1869 (three years after the Warranty Grant survey) further shows that at that time that part of the eastern side of Fishermans Island shown on the 1888 survey was above high water, separated from the western side by a marsh, had not yet formed; which indicates that the survey made by virtue of Warrant No. 30158 does not embrace this part of the land at present part of Fishermans Island.

In addition to the above mentioned seven sheets showing the several surveys, etc., a copy of the land granted by virtue of Land Office Treasury Warrant No. 30158 etc., and an extract from the condemnation proceedings describing the bounds of Fishermans Island conveyance, accompanies this report.

Very respectfully,

Homer P. Ritter

Assistant. *C. G. Survey*

APPENDIX.

Extract from the Condemnation Proceedings,
Fishermans Island.

We, J. Thompson Brown, Richard C. Selden and Harvey Willson appointed by the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Virginia, at Richmond, in said district, by its orders of the 12th day of March 1890, and the 23d day of August, 1890, to ascertain what will be a just compensation for Fishermans Island or "Linen Bar" as it is sometimes called, whereof Mary Lyons Wise and others named in the notice given of these proceedings are tenants of the freehold, which is proposed to be taken by the United States for the purpose of establishing a quarantine station in accordance with an Act of Congress approved August 1, 1888, do certify that on the 28th day of August 1890, the day to which we were regularly adjourned from the day designated in the said first order above mentioned, we met together on the said Island the limits of which were then and there described to us as follows, to wit: All that tract of land or island called "Fishermans Island" or "Linen Bar" situated lying and being in the County of Northampton, off the point of Cape Charles, between the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay in the Eastern District of Virginia, the location and limits of which more fully and definitely appear inclosed by a dotted line upon a copy of Coast Chart No. 31 Chesapeake Bay Sheet No. 1, herewith filed as a part of this report, and marked "Exhibit A". Said land being the same island owned jointly during their lifetime by Henry Wise, William H. Parker and Benjamin F. Thomas as evidenced by deeds of record in the County Court of Northampton County, Virginia.

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From Copy in Office of Surgeon General

Francis H. Pierpont, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME GREETING:

Know ye, That in Conformity with a survey made on the 14th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, by virtue of Land Office Treasury Warrant No. 30158 and by Special Act of Assembly, No. 30155 there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Wm. H. Parker a certain tract or parcel of land, containing two hundred and forty four acres, an island called William Knights Shoal lying

in the County of Northampton & bounded as follows:

Beginning at a post marked on plat A, thence N. 78° W. 188 poles thence N. 71° W. 104 poles 77 links, thence N. 16° W. 48 poles 66 links, thence N. 11° E. 20 poles 65 links, thence S. 45° E. 60 poles 40 links thence S. 72° E. 36 poles 73 links, thence N. 85° E. 48 poles 21 links, thence N. 57° E. 68 poles thence N. 52½° W. 40 poles 67 links, thence N. 35° E. 92 poles 23 links, thence N. 65° E. 72 poles 30 links, thence S. 52° E. 28 poles 59 links thence S. 18° E. 96 poles 80 links, thence S. 1½° W. 92 poles 64 links, thence, S. 27½° W. 32 poles to the beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract or parcel of land, with its appurtenances, to the said William H. Parker and his heirs forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF The said Francis H. Pierpont Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hath hereunto set his hand and caused the Lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond, on the first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and sixty seven, and of the Commonwealth the 90th.

(stamped) Francis H. Pierpont.

Land Office, Richmond, Va.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of this Office.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 8th day of October 1906.

(sgd) Jno. W. Richardes (?)
Register of the Land Office.

(Seal Virginia
Land Office)

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUL 19 1907
No. 10.

July 19, 1907.

Sir:

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of May 24, 1907 The Coast and Geodetic Survey has marked the boundary of the quarantine reservation at Fishermans Island, Virginia. I have the honor to transmit herewith its report, together with relevant maps and other data.

Yours, very respectfully,

Acting Secretary.

Gen. George B. Cortelyou,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Inclosures:

✓ 8 page report.
✓ 7 maps and diagrams.