U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. E. Hilgard, Superintendent.

State: Florida.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Topographic Sheet No. 1652

LOCALITY:
South End of Indian River.

1883.

CHIEF OF PARTY:
B. H. Colomna.

SHA for 1652 at 64.
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICE,
Washington, Feb. 7, 1883

Plane Table Sheet No. 1652. Scale 20,000
East Coast, Tampa Bay, Indian River,
from Eden Point Office or Richards &
Southward to Pecks Lake, and including
St. Lucie River.
Surveyed By E. L. Tarney, A.C.S.,
in 1882-3, C. A. Colonno, A.C.S.,
Chief of Party.

On the west shore the ground rises from five
to eight feet above the level of ordinary
height of the water in Indian River, the
higher ridges give quite a pretty land-
face when seen four or five miles off
shore quite overpowering the land and forest
between Indian River and the ocean.
On the east shore of Indian River and
between it and the Ocean the mangrove
swamp is about on a level with the water
in the River at ordinary stage and next
the beach it is from 3 to 15 feet above
Ocean high tides, I had a signal
scaffold 45 feet high on top of a fire
82 feet high on the West Side of In-
dian River (Blue Hill?) from this
scaffold I had a fine view of the
Country to the Westward which con-
xisted of numerous parallel ridges I
and with intervening cow-props
pends the major Axes of all of which
extended in a Northly & Southerly
Direction, Cattle-men that I met
at St. Lucie P. O. informed me that
it was a succession of these ridges
back to Okechobee and that the
old Government wagon road which
ran North and South and was back
about 4 to 12 miles from the river was
still passable and ran for the most
of the distance along each ridge. Very
All of this back country rests on
a foundation of Marine conglomerate
Called Ochlockne which is at various
depths but Occasionally crops out rising
from 3 to 5 feet above Mean Ocean tide
this Couchina differs very much in structure from that of Beaufort H. l., and other places north of her, large shells are seldom found in it and some of it presents the appearance of a coarse white or yellow sand stone. When burned it makes a fairly good shell lime and when wet can be readily cut into building blocks with an axe. The sand of which the coil is almost exclusively formed is white or yellowish, it underlies all of the streams, low-grass ponds, Mauyron swamps & two or three feet generally brings up the white sand soon in the Mauyron and other swamps. It is impracticable to dive any of the low ponds because the water on a rise would come in from the bottom, and wherever pine is indicated then will be found a patch of underbrush of various kinds and ranging in height from 1 to 10 feet. The pine timber itself is of little or no value being of stunted growth and the underbrush
generally Sound Oak, Wiregrass, etc. etc. Where hard wood is deficient, except the mangrove swamps, the land is almost best for cultivation, each hard
work land is called hammock land by the natives and seems to owe its
fertility to the fact that Conchina lies near the surface and like an im-
permeable clay holds these chemicals that are gathered from the decaying veg-
etation by the trees growing in these hammocks that are locally known as Palmottos, Mastics, Rubber
trees, Live Oaks, Ironwood trees, Mangrove
And a great variety of Others. There are
various Cause forests growing Along the
Ocean Shore, And several varieties of
Pumkin Cactus, pretty bear to be an
Mixed in every Where, A decided feature
in the level land waters and elsewhere
Along the Ocean side and occasionilly
cost of the Indian River is the Coast
Palmottos a species of Palm that although
it has a trunk from 4 to 8 inches in
diameter and from 3 to 20 feet in length,
runs along the ground like a brush
And among these progresses is very difficult for their trunks cross each other in frequent confusion and their leaves are just about 5 feet high and have sharp edges. On the west side of the river among the pines and on the level along the edges of the saw-fores finds them an nice tender grasses in which the deer feed. And I never ate more delicious venison than here. The Indians of whom there are 3 or 400 back in the (Remnants of the Seminoles) Glades always turn off the underbrush as much as they can about January or February. The saw-fores points to which one alludes an fresh water generally very shallow and little cut up by narrow sloughs or streams. These streams are seldom over 4 feet deep and have hard sandy bottoms in which various grasses grow. The saw-fores itself has generally in the dry season only 3 or 4 inches of water about it and but in the wet season the water rises 2 or 3 feet the blades of this grass
are from 3 to 10 feet long, about an inch wide, tough, and their edges are serrated, and very sharp. They rapidly cut out the clothing. If there is any hotter place than one of their Cow Grass beds when the sun shines down and the myriads of Mosquitoes swarm in ones, twos, by tens and twenties, I hope it is not on top of the earth. Wherever their Cow Grass beds run parallel with the River and within a mile or so of it, excellent water can be had by cutting a flour barrel as the river side along the foot of the bluff. On the east side of Indian River and between it and the Ocean fresh water is unknown for when fresh it is so strongly impregnated with lime that it is fit for none else. Some in the mangroves grow to a great height, but they elsewhere within my experience, the natives divide it into two varieties: the Black and the red. I had the Black Mangrove eat down from the
line of sight, that measure 85 feet from
root to top. When seen the marpoon
wood looks much like mahogany and
is very hard, it takes a high polish.
When burned the ashes are very strong,
in fact ask a very small quantity of
ashes a fact that may prove of value
some of these days because the trees an
so accessible. The old Gilberts Bar
Entrance, now closed, is shown on this
sheet. Wherever the salt and fresh
waters meet the Marpoon flourishes
and such has been the case at
Gilberts Bar. Once fine oysters grew
there and all kinds of fish belonging
in their waters were abundant but
since the inlet closed the oysters
have died and the fish an few
except a few oysters and catfish,
just outside however and along the
old Gilberts (Coastline Reef) there are
lots of them. Baracuta, Pompins, Bluefisk,
Cavallis, Green Tetts, Muller, Sea Bass
and a beautiful fish much resembling
Our Spanish Masthere but loving new beautiful Colors and very tame. Floating then I have seen them take the hook and from 5 to 10 feet clear of the water I have thought the blue fish game and the testing of it fine sport but one of these beautiful far exceeds any thing I ever saw for pluck, rapidity of motion and beauty of form and color, From October to April the Climate is delightful and the Indian River is the boomed paradise. From May to Sept. the heat although seldom above 85° is seldom below 60° and the mosquitoes and other insects are very troublesome. In all of the water represented in this short the seagrass grows luxuriantly and it is the favorite food of principal feeding ground of the Manatee, I have seen a herd of ten feeding in the St. Lucien off us one time, they go to bottom, eat, rise, blow the water in a spray from their nostrils and in a few seconds
they rank again, like other grazing animals, they feed in the morning and late afternoon principally. They are very (care) of their young and I never saw one of them to flee until the calf was well started. There are a great number of doves and doves in the woods
And a few other ducks, in the woods there are quail, or partridges, and wild turkeys. Very many small birds of various colors migrate from them. Some to the Bal-loon Hills, every winter returning about the first of May. The county in 1860 had but one settler, it now has come and the tide of immigration seems to be setting this way towards it. Settlers have located up the St. Lucie here the first and they are prospecting in every direction. The influence of ocean tides are not felt within the limits of this sheet of the Indian River. During the rainy season the water rises one or two feet, higher than in the dry season. And at all times the
prevailing with exercise great influence. A North or NEER by which is as great a force and the prevailing current along the coast in to the Southward. The edge of the Gulf Stream is only 2 or 3 miles off shore and an easterly wind throws it much nearer in shore the previously southerly current is supposed to be an eddy from the Gulf Stream. The limit of this which moves which is probably the Northern limit of the Successful growth of the Cooco Nut Palm, Oranges, Pineapples, Bananas and Sugar Cane. Flourish the tomato and other vegetables ripen in April, Sweet Potatoes from the year round and I have eaten from one which I was informed was of two years growth. Then was not a horse an ox or a mule within the limits of this sheet broken to harness in 1882-3.
House of Refuge No. 2 was the best dwelling within the limits of the Sea.

And Doctor Baker's was the only place that look like a home. The River

Banks on the Harpers I born ever seen

big from 6 to 7 feet long but they are

not very numerous. Alligators are no

longer numerous and they has learned
to be very shy. Raccoons and Opossums
are so thick that it is difficult to

raise domestic fowls. The Wild

Cats from about 4 ft 6 in from tips to
tips when extended. Black Bears

come to the beach every year about

the 1st of June and come in for
turtle eggs. When they arrive they are

nice and fat and are very fond

eating but after many up and down
the beach so much they get very

thin. We even told that a bear could

be seen almost any night and once we

went over and got one but the

Mosquitoes were so bad that we did

not try it again.
The finest land on this sheet is the peninsula lying between the St. Lucie R. and Indian R. and from Mt. Pleasant South to the point. It is high land, with Conchines, sandstone and covered by a heavy growth of pine wood and underbrush with now and then a pine. This country had quite a population in it once, just before the Seminole outbreak, and for a time after it, the cattle had ranges, lemon and lime, some of the old trees can still be found in the vicinity of Eden P. O. and the lime are very fine but the ranges an litter and the lemons not bearing.

B. A. Colonna
Act. 1855, 594, 51,
Chief of Party.