U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1654, 1655, 1659, 1823, 1824.

Locality:
Coast of Louisiana
Atchafalaya River.

1885.

Chief of Party:
E. L. Staney.
Office

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Washington, D.C.

July 24, 1858.

Descriptive Report

To accompany three topographical sheets of the survey of the "Chenie" between Calcasieu River and Vermillion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Patamus Lake to Morgan City, No. 1054—1055—1059 and 2 Sheets on Atchafalaya.

No. 1828, and 1824.

The "Chenie" is a narrow strip of fast land beginning at the mouth of the Calcasieu River and running nearly eastward, a few miles nearly parallel with the beach, continuing its course it becomes gradually more distant from the Gulf Coast until at its end it is about seven miles back from the coast, and separate from it by a very soft and in most places impalatable marsh.

Its western end is not very high, scarcely more than 1 or 3 ft. above the surrounding marsh and not more than 4 or 5 ft. above the high water of the Gulf. On this portion there is a
growth of trees and bushes. Further eastward the ridge as it recedes from the coast, becomes higher and is more densely wooded. After crossing the Mississippi River, the native growth of trees is predominantly oak. The front of the ridge toward the south is pretty well settled. The soil is fine. The principal crop is cotton. Vegetables of all kinds are raised, but only for home consumption. Before the freeze of January 1887, many thousands of oranges were shipped from Grand Chenier to Galveston and New Orleans for New York market, but most of them are more to speak of than to. However, the young trees are booming and with favorable weather they will soon produce a fine crop.

The people are very hospitable. From Caleuass to Mississippi River they are generally Americans, also across the Mississippi River at Grand Chenier, and perhaps up seven miles further to the eastward. Further than that the population is almost entirely Creole French. The peculiar formation of the eastern end of the ridge and that of Ile aux Dunes offers an interesting field for study to the geologist.

On the Atchafalaya River, the survey consists wholly of short line of pier, and from Bateau's Lake to Morgan City was made from plane table triangulation.
Bordering the river the ground was generally level, but the chutes on both sides are more or less thickly covered with a growth of willow, cypress and various small bushes.

Occasionally, along the river bank, is a house or two, but there is no settlement of any account until Morgan City is reached.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Damy
Sub-Asst. Survey
C. & G. Survey