U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Dr. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

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

Locality:
Coast of Louisiana
Atchafalaya River.

1888.

Chief of Party:
E. L. Stanev.
Descriptive Report

A companion to topographical sheets of the survey of the Chenie, between Calcasieu River and Vermillion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Patagami Lake to Morgan City, No. 165-4 - 165-5 - 1689 and 2 Sheds on Atchafalaya.

No. 1628, and 1624.

The "Chenie" is a narrow strip of land bearing 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 separated from it by a very soft sand in most places impenetrable marsh.

The eastern 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 absent
growth of bays and bights. Further eastward the ridge as it recedes from the coast, becomes higher and is more densely wooded. After crossing the Vermilion River, the native growth of trees is inordinately rare. The foot 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, 1886, many thousands of oranges were shipped from Grand Chenier to Galveston and New Orleans for New York market, but most there are more to speak of. However, the young mulberry trees are booming and with favorable weather they will soon produce a fine crop.

The people are very hospitable. From Sulphur to Vermilion River they are generally Americans, also across the Vermilion River at Grand Chenier, and perhaps up or seven miles further to the Eastward. But from there the population is almost entirely Creole French.

The peculiar formation of the eastern end of the ridge, and that of Black Island, affords an interesting field for study to the geologist.

On the Atchafalaya River, the survey consists wholly of their line of river, and from Atchafalaya Lake to Morgan City was based upon plane-table triangulation.
Borduring the river the ground was generally thick, but the shores 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.


James W. Sumner

C. L. Sumner

Sub-Asst. U. S. P. S.