1756

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPITIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: Office No.: 1756

LOCALITY
State: North Carolina
General locality: New Inlet
Locality: Cape Fear River

CHIEF OF PARTY
W.B. Mainwaring

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U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorne, Superintendent.

State: N.C.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Locality: New Inlet to Cape Fear Rear

1888

Chief of Party: J. M. Murnow
August 29th, 1898.

Special Report

Coast of North Carolina from Cape Hatteras to Carolina Beach

The principal feature of this section of the coast consists in its being the northern terminus of the long chain of bars which stretch from Cape Henry to Cape Hatteras. Although in common with all the bars facing Outer Bays, they are insignificant in dimensions compared with those on the southern side of Cape Lookout, yet they are of interest in connection with the oft quoted project of a coast line canal.

The main shore is low and sandy, and when not cleared for cultivation, covered with a growth mostly of pine. The majority of these latter, before the war, were of the
valuable long leaf species from which tar, turpentine, and resin are produced. But during the war vast numbers were filled for fuel for the salt works which occupied every available site along shore; this, together with another looting, and annual forest fires, has reduced their number to a small figure around the coast. Kept in importance is the Cypress, which borders every pond and is abundant in every swamp. The staple products of the farm are cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. Fruit growing is market gardening for the Southern markets, is occupying a good deal of attention and the most successful results so far have been rhubarb and asparagus. Airing to the sandy nature of the soil, the eagles, cranes, and other small fowl answer for quick or light transportation. Directly fronting the ocean is a narrow strip of beach, connect with the naval ports, sand dunes, and its length borrows him from...
by the small inlet. In a few places it is
accrued with a granite of blue, red, and
cedar, or quartz. Back of the beach, on the
shores, there are smooth currents with salt
water, through which flow in all directions
innumerable shallow channels, forming an
intricate network.

As the creeks draining the mainland are
small though many, they have slight influence
on the position of the inlet, and consequently
that latter does not change much from place
to place, as they are subjected to the tide,
tide, and currents. The movement is always
to the landward, owing to the fact that
the landward current, produced by the
landward winds, is stronger and more
persistent than that produced by the
landward winds during summer. This
current running to the landward leads
the ebb tide from the inlet in the same
direction and the detritus carried in
suspension is deposited in the form
of a sand bar, which starts or hangs on
The tidal part of the inlet, and extends across its mouth to some distance below. This causes the salt floor to make a sharp turn around the south point, gradually wearing it away, and the south point to increase in proportion.

The following changes have occurred since the last survey:

**Narrow Inlet—closed**

**New Inlet—moved its own mouth up a mile, to the southwest**

**Old Inlet—moved a mile and a half, to the southwest**

**Newly Inlet—true inlet joins not to the southwest of Rich**

**Rich Inlet—remains in the same location, but is much narrower**

**Queen Inlet—true inlet joins not**

**Barrow Inlet—moved a mile to the southwest**

The Inside Passages from New River to Sharp Pt are extremely and short. At times it is difficult to go through.
will at once draw my vessel in, and at no place did the depth of water remain to exceed 20 or 4 feet. From New Ipswich to Cape 14, there is quite a good 5 foot channel at low water, the shoals first being on either side of the small islands, where the stream leaves the beach, and turns abruptly for the main land.

From New Ipswich to Barrow Inlet, the channels along the "Banks" and through them are a succession of streams of very great width and depth, and the shoals so much in their way as to make it only a foot can be carried through at low water.

The Bar of New Ipswich and Barrow Inlets are the two best between New Ipswich and Cape 14, and both have the same depth. The bar of each inlet for the greater part of the year is in the southwest, of its inlet. Post in during the summer, during the winter leni-


of the landward sands, they arc very faintly
up the shore & opposite the mouth of
the inlet.

At bulkhead, only three feet of water
on it. Silted the way from Beaver
Inlet to Wrightsville Channel.

Come here to Maccabeo Inlet there is
a good channel with 6 ft. of water until
the latter inlet is reached, when it is
again clogged with shoals.

On the Southern side of Maccabeo Inlet,
there is deep water, which shoals gradually
through light to land, until its head
at Cantonia Beach, is reached, when there
is only 2 ft. water.

At summer events have come into
prominence in this section in the
past few years. Wrightsville and
Cantonia Beach. The former is reached
by steam rail road, and the road
from Wilmington. The rail road which
was finished last June, after reaching
the main shore, continues on beach.
work about a mile over the salt marshes to a small wooded island, called the "Hummocks" at a large hotel. Families were in the course of construction when I left, and also a bridge across from the island to the beach. The railroad is 5 miles in length, has little grade, and is kept in excellent condition by the company which owns the franchise.

Carolina Beach is situated at the head of Wright's Inlet, and is reached from the city by steamer on the Cape Fear River to a point 1 mile below, and then across to the beach by two miles of rail road. It has a roughly constructed hotel, families, restaurant and other smallbuildings.

D.B. Wainwright
Arch. C.P. Jersey