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**Type of Survey**: Topographic

**Field No.**

**Office No.**: 1858

**LOCALITY**

**State**: Massachusetts

**General locality**: Good's Hole

**Locality & Vicinity**: 1888

**CHIEF OF PARTY**: O. D. Vanal

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**DATE**
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

H. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Mass.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 1858.

LOCALITY:

Woods Hole

and

Vicinity

1858.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. Irving Vinal
Mr. F.H. Thorn,
Superintendent U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith a descriptive report of the survey in the vicinity of Wood's Hill, Massachusetts, made by myself from September to November 1888, to accompany the original plan-table sheet, scale 1:5000. Reg. No. 1535.

The action of glacial drift is quite apparent in this locality; the soil is light, of inconsiderable depth and very generally strewn with boulders. There are no masses of exposed rock in situ. The beaches are ordinarily made up of very coarse drift with occasional short strips of sand and are usually backed by steep bluffs except in the smaller bays and near Falmouth village on Vineyard Sound. The faces of these bluffs are in many instances protected from rapid erosion by a growth of grass or small bushes.
The very swift current of the strait, locally called "The Hole", between Nauset and the mainland, has slurred the north side of Nauset, and the foot of Long Neck and Will's Foot Island to a marked extent.

The marshes shown on the map are small; most of them have been drained and some are cultivated formerly there was but little forest of full growth within the limits covered by this survey, the woods both on the mainland and the islands being mostly oak. Mr. J. S. Fay, Jr., a summer resident of Wood's Hole, has in recent years planted extensive groves of pine trees which include many varieties.

Long Neck, Nauset, and most of Nauset Island are destitute of trees, but the other islands however are thickly wooded.

On the mainland the roads are wide, have gentle grade and are kept in excellent order.

Bridges wherever they occur, are short and built of wood, except the one of stone spanning the entrance to Ed. Pond Harbor; all of them are substantial and in good repair. Several bridges cross the railroad track along grade; there is only one important grade crossing shown on the map.
Fences, bounding roads and fields are, owing to abundance of material, usually built of stone.

The islands included in the survey are owned by Mr. John M. Forbes of Boston, Mass. He with his family, his sons, Colonel and Commodore Forbes, and their families reside here during the summer months and communicate with the main land by private steam yacht.

Wood's Hole (Free) is the terminus of one branch of the Old Colony Railroad from Boston and is seventy-two miles from that city. Steamboats belonging to the same Company land here on their trips between New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

The summer head quarters of the U.S. Fish Commission are located here; at the western end of the village are the extension factories and wharves of the Pacific Counties Company; a fishing and supply depot of the U.S. Light House Establishment is situated on Little Harbor. An officer of the U.S. Army is stationed here and has charge of the Weather Signal and Government Telegraph Office in this vicinity.

North of Little Harbor and on Parker's Neck and
on Nobska Point are the elegant summer residences of Messrs. F. S. Fay, Sr., F. S. Fay, Jr., N. H. Fay, Butler, Foster, Jones, and Glidden.

There are twenty-one places of business, one hotel, four churches, one public hall and one public school house in the village of Woods Hole and many improvements are in progress.

Encroachment of the sea and consequent serious changes in the shore line on the Lagoon Bay side of Long Neck and on the main land, particularly between the Bay and Great Harbor, are prevented by three short breakwaters or walls of stone built along the high water line.

The low water line is distinctly defined on the chart, but may be slightly modified in outline when the soundings are plotted.

Yours respectfully,

W. F. wing Vital,
Assistant U. S. Coast Survey.