Form 501
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: Office No.: 2174

LOCALITY
State: Alaska
General locality: Vicinity of
Locality: Situya Bay
1894
194

CHIEF OF PARTY
John E. M. Grant

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DATE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Alaska.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2174.

LOCALITY:

Vicinity of Situya Bay.

1894.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

John E. McGrath.
Descriptive account of sheet showing results of work of
Boundary Survey Party employed in vicinity of Lituya Bay in
August, 1874.

The base line represented on this sheet was measured with a
steel tape and the topographical features were put in from skits
and into deemed from the triangulation points shown in the map.

Between the base of the mountains (shown by the curve of hecarbon)
and the high water mark along the beach is a low flat, heavily wooded
and thickly strewed with boulders and snags. Species furnish favorite
feeding places to vast numbers of ducks, geese, swans and other game
birds. From the harbored line the mountains rise steeply until
they attain the height of Fairweather, Lituya, etc.

Lituya River is really a long shallow, pretty creek which
furnishes a very irregular navigation for small canoes for a couple
of miles from its mouth. It is well stocked with fish. In the Spring a
large break makes the beach between the bluff line to the
Oand Ridge on which we now reside was situated but this
opening does not remain very long. A similar stream, I am told,
comes pretty close to the beach a couple of miles above Rivers
Point and then turns towards Leakey Fairweather.

For about a mile (north) beyond Laumea the beach is steadily
covered with boulders of various sizes that make walking extremely
unpleasant, but they give not near the upper end of the island.
split which forms the left bank of the Kusagin River near its mouth is thence a good sand beach along the coast up to Cape Fairweather.

Miner 9 is a sand bluff about 25 feet high, which is heavily wooded and makes quite a suitable appearance along the shore. Here is a log cabin inside the tall trees that line the front of the bank. The miner who makes this contiguous land claim has started a garden. The sand of the beach between Cape Fairweather and Lituya Bay contains patches of a very variety which is at times very rich in gold.

One of the largest unlocated claims begins at Minus Point and extends to the Kusagin River. Cape Fairweather a number of men are working on the same variety. I found at times after the weather has been good for a few days and a light S.W. wind is blowing boats can land in front of Minus Point. The men who should there usually get his lumber provisions from the little stream which comes up from Lituya, through the reef rather saves the labor of packing from Lituya Bay.

On the beach a small cabin is indicated. One of the buildings is old and in poor condition and belonging to Indians who live here for a few months in summer time and has no permanent occupants. The main
summer camp is on the opposite side of the bay -

The station on this sheet called "M.S." plots
in almost a straight line between La Perouse A. and where "M.S." value would place Mt. Brillon. Mt. G being about three miles nearer the beach, so "M.S." is several thousand feet lower than Mt. S's value. If Mt. Brillon it does not seem justifiable that Brillon was observed this time and if that is so Brillon cannot be seen from the beach, because on the days we got the vertical angles every mountain was visible from the beach was in sight.

John E. McBratney
Assistant, U.S.N.R.A.