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<td>Localities</td>
<td>Louisiana, Lake Pontchartrain</td>
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<td>CHIEF OF PARTY</td>
<td>P.A. Kellogg</td>
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

W. W. Duffield, Superintend. 

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2254.

Locality:
Lake Pontchartrain
From West End to Bayou Tanner

1897.

Chief of Party:
A. A. Welker, Ass't.
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Washington D. C.

Nov. 12th, 1897

Gen. W. W. Duffield
Superintendent, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Washington D. C.

Sir:

In obedience to Instructions and memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheet No. 2254, Scale 1:1,000. This sheet covers a portion of the shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and extends from Lat. 30° 06' to 30° 02' and from Long. 90° 06' to 90° 13'. This includes the shore line from the town of West End to Bayou Fanier, and also takes in Indian Bayou, Schumpitoulas Bayou, Bayou le Bar and Bayou Fanier, with several other smaller streams. West End is a suburb of New-Orleans, about six miles from the city Post Office, and is within the city limits. It is connected with New Orleans by the N. O. & T. R. R. In winter trains run over this road every two and a half hours, while in the spring and summer they are much more frequent. West End is used as a summer resort.
and a large part of it is owned by the rail-road
company. There are about 100 houses in the place
altogether, and most of them are either hotels or
saloons. Most of the navigation of the lake
reaches New-Orleans by the New-Canal which runs
from west end to the heart of the city, though some
of the vessels still use the old Bayou St. John route.
The upper drainage canal is about ½ mile west of the
new canal and runs into the city parallel with and
near 17th Street extended. A break-water extends
between the two canals, and back of this is a shallow
basin about 200 meters wide, which is nearly dry at
extreme low-water. The 'Orleans' drainage canal
empties into the New-Canal at a point about
1½ mile from its mouth. On the east bank of the
New-Canal, at its mouth is the 'New-Canal'
Fighting House, which was established in 1888 and rebuilt
in 1890. This is a fifth order, fixed white light, 47½
feet above high-water, and is built on the levee
between the lake and the canal. The Southern
Yacht Club House is about 100 meters north of
the Fighting House on the west side of the canal.
This is built on piles out in the lake, and is
the most prominent object in the vicinity, being
visible for a distance of from twelve to fifteen miles.
There are several Wharves between the new and upper drainage canals, but they are mostly in poor repair and little used. Indian Bayan is 1 1/4 miles west of West End, and is about 1/2 mile in length, branching out into two separate streams 1/4 mile from the shore of the lake. There are two small streams between this bayon and West End. The entire shore of the lake shown on this sheet is covered with wild cane, which extends inland a distance of from 1/4 mile to two miles where it joins a dense swamp which is full of willow and other trees. Schumpitoukas Bayon is about 1/4 mile west of Indian Bayan, and 1 1/4 mile long with five tributaries. At this point the tules extend back from the shore to a distance of 1/2 mile, though there are many trees growing on the banks of this bayon within 200 meters of the lake shore. Bayon le Bar is 3/4 of a mile west of this point and is 2 1/2 miles long with over twenty tributaries. It runs through the tules to within about 300 meters of its end, and is connected with Schumpitoukas Bayon by one small stream. Bayon Tamer is two miles west of Bayon le Bar, and runs for two miles inland, striking the timber line 1/2 miles from its mouth. It has a branch however that runs in a
westerly direction for two miles, and cover more ground with its tributaries than the main bayou. In most respects these bayous are much alike in character, being sluggish streams, and favorable haunts for snakes and alligators. Most of them are full of Water Hyacinths, which was introduced about five years ago and spread to such an extent that it is now a nuisance. It is a hardy tough vine that blooms in the latter part of April or first of May. Some of the streams are so choked up by this plant that it is almost impossible to force one's way through them. The shore of that portion of the lake shown on this sheet is very soft and muddy, and there are quite a number of snags and stumps of trees scattered through the water; though it is not as bad in this respect as on the north shore. This shore line is evidently receding, as triangulation signals that were erected the year before nearly 100 meters inside, were found to be inwash; and in one or two instances had been either disturbed or knocked down by floating logs.

Outside of West End the territory covered by this sheet is practically uninhabited; as with the exception of small negro huts at the mouth of
the bayous, there are no dwelling houses.
The banks of the bayous are for the most part solid ground, and are covered with vegetation and trees. These banks only extend for a few meters from the bayous, while they join the swamp which is completely covered with water at high tide. The trees on this solid ground are mostly water and cedar-oak, while in the swamp willows predominate with hickory and thine a cypress. These trees are for the most part too small to be of much value as timber, though some of them have been cut, and a ditch known as "Barette Canal," runs into Bayou LeBœuf from the south. This was evidently used at one time to float logs to the lake, though it seems to have been neglected in late years.

Very Respectfully yours,

Fred. J. Young
Assistant Corps.