U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Henry S. Pitceht, Superintendent

State: Maryland

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2394

LOCALITY:

Jolly Point to Curtis Point
West Side of Chesapeake Bay
including South River and Rhode River

1899

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. A. Fleming, Asst
Dr. Henry J. Mitchell,

Superintendent U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

Washington, D.C.

January 30th, 1900

Sir: With reference to Sheet No. 1, topographic survey of West Shore of Chesapeake Bay from Turkey Point to Curtis Point, including Smith, Rhode and West Rivers, the following changes in the names of localities are to be noted:

OLD NAME:  
Burley's Creek  
Miltch's Point  
Grass's Creek  
Guyerville Point  
Bowers's Point  
Limehouse Creek  
Lee's Creek  

PRESENT NAME:  
Cherrytree Creek  
Perrysmore Point  
Grub Creek  
Paplar Point  
Bower Point  
Bower Creek  
Warehouse Creek  

Bowers Creek and Limehouse Creek appear to have been misplaced on the old chart as they now refer to
different creeks than those preserved on the old chart.

The area covered by chart No. 1 is of much different kind; it has a rolling character and is fairly well wooded. The rivers have numerous creeks and bays which are fringed with trees and generally form the outlets of valleys withoscatory bottoms.

The Bay shore line is generally bold with a claysubstrate which, however, does not prevent the tides and waves from making roads upon the land. The recession of these bluffs, in the past year amounted to about 10 feet as is clearly shown by the disappearance of the triangulation points:

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which were established in 1898 by Assay J. J. Perkins.

The trees forming the shorelines of rivers and creeks are oaks, cedars, chestnut trees, pines, gums, paper, and rosin trees etc. The woods are generally dense and of a mixed character. There are some peach orchards but few apple and pear trees in this locality. The open land is nearly all under cultivation, the principal crops being corn, tobacco, watermelons and cucumbers.

Natural oyster beds extend up from River to Perry Point. Here, together with bars in the Bay proper, notably Thomas Point there bar, give the means
for a livelihood of nearly all the small landowners of this section.

A large number of these "oyster tongsers" have formed settlements. The one on Castle Great, formerly known as "Scrappleton," has been named Jamestown, although the post office at this place is named Mayo.

Another settlement, located near the southern part of Sykes Bay, about "Memorial Church," is known as "Memorial."

Some of the inhabitants of Taylorsville ("Rain view" R.D.) also tongs for oysters in the Bay while others make their living with fishing and crabbing.

The largest settlement of oystermen in this region is known as "The Swamp." It is located on the South shore of West River, near its mouth. The post office for this section is at the head of Parish Creek and is named Shady Side.

The oystermen living at Jamestown, The Swamp and at Gatesville (on the West River, shown on sheet No.2) fly their trade on the natural oyster beds of Chesapeake Bay between the Horn Point and Thomas Point Shores.

The old bridge shown on sheet No.135 near Taylorsville has been removed and a new bridge was built (about forty years ago) across Sykes River at Edgewater (store and post office). This is the only.
bridge across South River and it forms the only means of communication between the lower part of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis.

The roads in this portion of the country are generally sandy and have steep grades where they cross valleys. The shipping of crops and general freight is done by steamer and schooners. The steamer Emma Giles, with home port in Baltimore, runs up the Severn to Annapolis, thence up South River as far as Paysonsville, up Rhode River to Dorsey's Wharf and up West River to Gallowsville (Galloway, P. O.), a settlement of opticians and a summer resort. This steamer also stops three times per week at Howell's Wharf in the mouth of Parish Creek.

"Arundel on the Bay" is a favorite summering place, it lies directly on the Chesapeake Bay about 2 miles from Bay Ridge and seven miles from Annapolis. A tramroad formerly connected it with Bay Ridge but as it did not pay it has fallen into disuse and the rails have all been removed. There are about 30 cottages, one hotel ("The Arundel") a pavilion and several camping grounds (for "tents") in Arundel on the Bay.

The former mouth of Fishing Creek into South River has been filled in and it is entirely closed, still,
The tongue of land from Marshy Point to Thomas Point continues to be locally known as "The Island." The marshy neck which, fifty years ago, connected Thomas Point with the land on which "Green Island," or "The Bay," is located, has been broken through by the waves, and this opening now forms the only outlet for Fishing Creek. The indications are that another break will soon be made through the low narrow neck just S. W. from Thomas Point, where the Point proper will again lie, as Island.

The outlet of Big Pond, Little Pond, Deep Creek, Brewer Creek and Greater Pond were also found closed by sand bars.

Notable discrepancies between the old and new plans, which cannot be ascribed to natural changes, are to be found at Black walnut Beck, head of Squirrel Beck, head of Church Beck, Ginger mill Beck, head of Broad Beck, head of Lee's Beck (now called "Warehouse" Beck), S. fork of Brewer Beck, S. branch of Rannay's Gut and at Big Pond.

Very respectfully,

J. A. Heiney
Agency, 17th Army Corps,