Treasury Department,
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

J. N. Dithyramb,
Superintendent.

State: Md. Va.

Descriptive Report.

Photographic
Sheets No. 2,598

Locality:
Potomac River.

1802

Chief of Party:
W. I. Vinal.
Mr. C. H. Putnam,
Superintendent U. S. C. & G. S. Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The following descriptive Report relates to Topographical Sheets Nos. 2598, 2599 and 2600, survey of the Potomac River.

The area surveyed in 1902 lies between Lower Cedar Point and St. Clement’s Bay, Maryland, and between Rosier Bay and Nominic Island, Virginia.

The bridge of these three Sheets, all of which are surveyed on a scale of 1:20,000, are as follows:

No. 2598, "Potomac River: Blackistone Island to Nominic River, Md. and Va."
No. 2599, "Potomac River: Nominic River to Colonial Beach, Md. and Va."
No. 2600, "Potomac River: Colonial Beach to
Lower Cedar Point, Md. and Va.

The work on chart No. 2598 extends only to the limits of the hydrographic survey of the present year; that on chart No. 2599 was finished in the field; and the survey on chart No. 2600 is being carried forward by Assistant J. T. Torrey, who has been furnished with a projection covering the same area.

Details topography was surveyed back from the shore line for distances varying from one-quarter of a mile to one-half of a mile, in several cases being limited by the line of heavy woods. All buoys within the limits of the area surveyed, have been located. During the season the new buoys, marking the upper and lower ends of the Kettle Bottom Shoal, were replaced by bell buoys. Some dredging was done on these Shoals, south of Sewan Point, under the direction of the U.S. Engineer Corps.

Geologically, this section is of recent formation, being classified as Middle Tertiary or Miocene. The deposit, generally descending from the alluvial surface of sand and clay, consist of coarse sand and gravel, sand and shell concrete, and finally, a thin band of pebbles and some...
Pennsylvanian strata. These sediments are often clearly stratified, usually in horizontal beds, as shown in the almost perpendicular face of Stratford and Tippecanoe Cliffs, near the Virginia shore. Large quantities of yellow and blue marl have been taken from these cliffs. The characteristic fossils, clams, often called, and the teeth and vertebrae of fishes, distinctly indicate the marine conditions surrounding the origin of these deposits.

In places these cliffs are very much water worn, forming shoulders or terraces resembling the Warren Formation at the head of Warren Haven, Narragansett. From these shoulders the cliffs are vertical.

Back of these cliffs, which are 150 feet or more in height, the land lies in almost level stretches with gradually increasing elevation as it passes inward from the coast, the topography becoming more pronounced when the regions is cut by wooded ravines or tidal estuaries. Under these cliffs, except where they are protected by forest growth or overhanging rocks, the shore line wears considerably, varying from three to ten feet in a year.
The north, or Maryland, shore is low and
considerably elevated, exceeding twelve feet above
the high-water line, and is protected in many
places by a seaward strip of sand. The country on
this side of the river is rolling and generally
naturally drained.

The forests, both in Maryland and Virginia, con-
sist largely of pine, oak and cedars. Locust, buck-
eye, shantung, poplar and several varieties of gum.
Other species found are cypress, ash, holly, elms,
corncob, sycamore, eucalyptus, birch, beech, juniper (some-
times called cedar), dogwood, persimmon, etc.

Clearcut fields, in many places, are covered with
oyster shells, the land being well adapted to
the cultivation of wheat and corn. Tobacco and
fruit are also grown in considerable quantities.

The oyster industry, formerly thriving in this
section, has been seriously injured by injec-
tions dredging and by Perilis. Found and
swamp-boat fishing is carried on extensively.

The settlements along this part of the river, ow-
ing to the large size of the plantations and
farms, are small and widely separated. Colonial
Beach, Va., situated between the river and
Elkhorn Bay, is the only town of importance.
This is a summer resort, and, during the excursion season, steamboats run daily to and from Washington. Other resorts are found at Williamsburg, Va., River Brigs, Colton and Blackstone Island, Va.

Steamboats from Washington land regularly at Lower Cedar Point, Williamsburg, Colonial Beach, West and Harpers Ferry, Hook Point, Rushwood and Col-
town. Boats of the Queen Line, running between Baltimore, Md., and Washington, Md., land at
Rushwood and Rock Point.

The nearest point at which a railroad reaches the river is at Poplar Creek, Md., about fifteen
miles from Colonial Beach.

Near the mouth of Bridge Creek, Va., along
which was constructed by the National govern-
ment for the purpose of landing the materials
used in constructing the monuments which
mark the birthplace of George Washington.
The grounds on which this monument stands,
together with the road leading to it from the
highway, constitute a government reservation
of about twenty acres.

The monument, a handsome marble shaft,
is located on Fox or Burnt House Point,
Wakefield Plantation, on the west side of Pope's Creek. It is 561 feet high and stands on ground elevated 19.6 feet above half tide. It is surrounded by a high iron fence. The only inscription, carved on the monument, is "Washington's Birthplace." The location is shown on Sheet No. 2599.

The birthplace of President James Monroe is also shown approximately, on the same sheet. It is located about one half mile from the landing near the head of Yancey's Bay, and is marked by a large locust tree at the north west end of the home lot. The house in which Monroe was born has long since dis-
appeared, presumably a few years after
his removal to the village of Oak Grove,
four miles south.
The birthplace of General Robert E. Lee
is located on Stratford Plantation, about
one and a half miles back of the cliffs of
the same name. (Chart No. 2578). His an-
cestor formerly owned and occupied a
plantation on Queen Point. (Chart No.
2578).

Respectfully yours,
W. King Morris,
Assistant U.S. Army, Chincoteague.

Horseshoe Cliffs, Potomac River,
eight miles southeast of Colonial Beach, Va.
These cliffs are 155 feet high and show the
peculiar "Kame" (comb) formation described
on page 3 of their report.