Treasury Department,
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

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State: Md.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Type: Sheet No. 2717

LOCALITY:


1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

William Bowie
Descriptive Report

Original Topographic Sheet
No. 2717

Interior Topography
between

Elk and Bohemia Rivers

Upper Chesapeake Bay
Md.

November, 1905
Scale 1-20,000

By
Assistants
F. D. Granger & William Bowie
William Bowie
Asst., Chief of Party
Original topographic sheet no. 2717 included all the interior topography between Back Creek and Elk River, besides that part of the area between Bohemia River and Back Creek, not shown on topographic sheet no. 2685 surveyed by D. W. Dorn in 1904. The shore line of the above mentioned streams was transferred from the original topographic sheets surveyed by Assistant W. D. Vindl and J. B. Boutelle between the years 1898 and 1902.

The larger portion of the area shown is cleared and under cultivation. The principal crops grown are corn, wheat, and hay. There is a limited amount of dairy farming and stock raising. The wooded sections are mostly along
The streams and marshes. Oak, gum, and chestnut predominate, with very little pine. Good timber trees are scarce.

The dwellings and outbuildings on the farms are substantial structures and are well kept up.

Nearly all the land is fenced by wire, wood, or hedge; and, owing to the large fields, they form conspicuous landmarks. The oldfence is a permanent character. Temporary fences and those around houses and barns are not shown, though usually a conventional fence was placed around a large farm house and its outbuildings near it. All dwelling houses are on the flat and also the large barns. Small outbuildings are not given.

The land is rolling, with the ridges rather flat and broad, sloping quickly towards the streams and rivers. The contouring shows this feature.
The roads are of dirt or clay. They are good in dry weather, but a little heavy after rains. This is especially the case during the heavy spring rains. The bridges are in good condition and are well cared for.

There are two towns within the area. Elkton, at the northern limit and at the head of tide water of the Elk River, is a thriving village of about 1,600 inhabitants. It is the county seat of Cecil County. The Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad passes through it.

A small shipyard is located at Elk Landing just below the town, where canal barges are built. Its yearly output is from thirty to thirty-five craft.

A fertilizer factory and a pulp mill are near the Elk River bridge just off the street to the eastward of the town. There is a grist mill,

Chesterfield City, the other town, is
situated at the junction of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and Back Creek. It has no industries, but is the commercial center of the surrounding country, and the home of many employees of the canal.

The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal starts from Chesapeake City and runs a distance of nearly forty-five miles to Delaware City—at the head of Delaware Bay. It has three locks. A minimum depth of nine feet is maintained. The head of the canal is about thirteen feet above the mean high water of Chesapeake Bay. Nearly all the water for the canal is supplied by a large water wheel, run by steam, which lifts the water from Back Creek to the canal. This pumping station is at Chesapeake City.

The Ehoisson S.S. Line runs a passenger and freight boat each way daily between Baltimore and
Philadelphia. These boats are
paid to have accommodations
for 800 passengers. Many small
pleasure craft pass through
the canal. But its chief business
is carried on by a large fleet of
barges and tugs which fly between
Baltimore and Philadelphia, carry-
ing miscellaneous cargo. Some lumber
is rafted through in the log.

The character of the country was
such that it was impracticable
to cut in objects well back from
the shore; consequently, the topography
was controlled by plane table surveys
starting from triangulation stations
along the shore. These stations had
been established by Assistant Vidal
and Boutette. Figure checks were
made on these triangles, and the whole
work is as accurate as the scale
of 1 to 20,000 will allow.

The contour interval is 20 feet, with
mean high water as the datum. There
There are any discrepancies in the contours in the area between the Bohemia River and Back Creek, as shown on Sheets 2685 and 2717, the latter should be used as the authority.

The instrument work on Sheet No. 2717 was done by Assistants J. D. Grange, and William Bowie.

William Bowie
Asst., Chief of Party.