FORM 804
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: Office No.: 2749

LOCALITY
State: Virginia
General locality: Vicinity
Locality: Of Yorktown

1947
CHIEF OF PARTY
Fred A. Young

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DATE

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2749

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

C. H. Tatham
Superintendent.

State: Virginia

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2749

LOCALITY:

Point from Yorktown to Mouth of Rock River

1907

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Fred. A. Young
This sheet covers the territory from Yorktown to the North Shore of Back River, and extends as far back as the main road from Hampton to Yorktown which was run from Yorktown to a point known as the half way house. This ground is shown on the sheet south of the half way house was owned by the Biological Survey, and I had orders not to delineate that work. The contour on the lower part of the sheet are not shown, as the Biological Survey ran a complete series of lines over the territory in question, and their contours would naturally be of more value than those determined by the plow town. The same lines of this sheet were transferred from sheet No. 7, as well as all advance and points near the same line. The principal roads were run by traverse lines, and in some cases by the compass, when there was opportunity for frequent checks. The sheet was made in 1873 by Mr. J.D. Granger, and is practically completed with the exception of filling in the marsh line. There are no important topographical features or triangulation points that are not shown on the above lines on sheet No. 7. As the sheet is most完善ly marked it was impossible to clean it properly.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred. H. Young
Assistant U.S. Survey
Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

G. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: Virginia

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. C

Locality:

From south shore of York River to north shore of Back River including line of Poquosin River.

1896

Chief of Party:

Fred. A. Young
The limits of this sheet are as follows:

Lat. 37° 09' 49"
Long. 76° 33' 30"

Lat. 37° 12' 33"
Long. 76° 13' 05"

It extends from Yorktown Va. on the south bank of the York River to Missickers Point on the north bank of Back River, including within its limits, Wornall Creek, Pococin River with all its numerous tributaries, and the shore line on the western coast of Chesapeake Bay from the south shore of the Pococin River to the north shore of Back River. The work on this sheet shows only the shore line and details near it, as all roads and interior detail were shown on another sheet, to which the shore line was transferred.

The work from Yorktown to the west side of the Thoroughfare, as well as Boushins Island, and the small islands east of it & James was done by Assistant Wm. Brown, my work beginning at a point about 3/4 mile south of Sandlot A on the west side of the Thoroughfare.

Before the plane table work was begun, it was necessary to determine several triangulation for the control of the topography in the vicinity of the Pococin River. Using the line from
The Point 72° 15', York 72° 23', as a base.

The positions of the following points were determined:


From these several other points were determined with the plane table, the most important of these being 'Hank,' near York Point, which is a hawke nest in a high dead tree, and a prominent object; 'Stack,' the iron smoke stack attached to the abandoned saw mill near the mouth of Partridge Creek; and 'Low,' a hydrographic signal on the eastern coast between the Pegoose Run and Back Run, which was erected by Assistant W. T. Vinal Comdy to D. S. Sch. Matchless.

Numerous small signals were also put up, and their positions determined for use on the different creeks.

All triangulations points west of the Thoroughfare, and all Light Houses were on the sheet when turned over to me, while the position of points on the north end of the sheet was furnished from the office.

The pilot work was done on Back Creek, the shores of which are quite thickly settled, the inhabitants being engaged in agriculture, oysterling, and fishing. This is a good deal of navigation on the creek by small boats, and Staten Wharf.
is quite a shipping point, being used by sail and gasoline vessels that fly between that point and Old Point Comfort. From the mouth of Back Creek to York Point on the west shore of the Poyrressin, the shore is flat and marshy, with numerous pea trees nearby. The shore line is receding fast, and at York Point the stumps of trees can be seen for some distance beyond the present low water mark.

Chesapeake Creek is of about the same character as Back Creek, though possibly not quite so thickly settled. Smith's Marine Railway, situated on the south side of the creek about a mile from the mouth, is a small affair operated by horse power, but is used a good deal by the vessels in the vicinity. Goose Creek that runs within a short distance of Back Creek, is very shallow, and is nearly dry at extreme low water. Warren's Wharf on the west side of the Poyrressin is now abandoned, and is in a bad state of decay.

The line of streams that formerly ran into the Poyrressin from Norfolk was discontinued about six years ago, and the wharf has not been used since. Drift on Warren's Wharf on the opposite side of the river is still used by a gasoline launch that makes twice weekly trips to Old Point.
The saw-mill at the mouth of Partridge Creek is also abandoned. The Peyvauin River terminates in deep narrow sloughy marsh on both sides.

The character of the topography in all the creeks on the south west portion of the sheets are about the same as on Back Creek and Chissorsmen Creek. The shore line for the most part has changed greatly since the last survey, especially in the vicinity of Hunter's Wharf. I was informed by several different people that the former site of orchards and fields are now well beyond the low water mark, and in comparison with the old sheet bears out this statement. Bennett's Creek consists of several different branches, and these have no distinctive names as far as I was able to find out.

"Shore's Bay" on Bend east of the mouth of Bennett Creek is well known as an oyster planting ground. On the Bay shore from the mouth of the Peyvauin River to the mouth of Back River, there are shown a great many changes, as the shore line has been washed away to a considerable extent. Peyvauin Hats is shown on the chart and known as Egg Island Hats and the former name is not used at all, so far as I can find out. The same is true in regards to
From Island Flats which is known as Red Island Flats, Plum Tree Island is much like in extent that it was formerly, and there is a Shark channel back of it leading to Back River that is used by light draught boats at high water, and which from all accounts is deepening gradually.

All the shor line on this chart is original work, though a portion of the marsh line that extends from the mouth of the Popoashin to Back River, was transferred from the old chart.

It was found difficult in many cases to define the low water mark with any degree of accuracy, as the country is so flat that a difference of six inches in the level of the water changes the appearance of the flats completely.

As stated before the topography in the main body of the Popoashin was controlled by triangulation points, while the different creeks were controlled by a plane table triangulation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred. A. Young
Assistant 6th Inf.