Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O.H. Tutte, Superintendant.

State: MD

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Type Sheet No. 2861

LOCALITY: Patuxent River

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY: O. H. Ferguson
Resurvey of Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, and Virginia
Descriptive Report of Topographic Sheet 2861
which covers the shores of the Bay near the mouth
of the Patuxent River and on up to near Great Egg Island
Extending in latitude from 38° 16' N. to 38° 30' N.
and in longitude 76° 22' W. to 76° 32' W.
Scale 1: 20,000.
From Oct. 7th to Jan. 20, 1905, July 12th to Aug. 11th, and from July 20th to Aug. 20th, 1905.
A. W. Leetman, Superintendent.

Photographmen
A. W. Ferguson, A. B. Burton, H. A. Seaman, John H. Hewney
Fred B. V. Sessions, also C. H. Ladd and C. M. Snell, Park Office, B.C.
There are three Light-Houses on the
limits of this sheet, namely,
1st. Reed Point Light-House at the Mouth of the Patuxent River.
2nd. Dennis Point Light-House on point at the North-
3rd. Cove Point Light-House on the northern confines
side of the Mouth of the Patuxent River and
of this region.

The Patuxent River is the dividing line between
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland, Calvert
lying on the North and St. Mary on the Southwest Side.
The soil is free from stone, is of a silty nature
or a mixture of very fine sand and clay. It exists
quite generally and where light-clay sand predomi-
nating is washed back.

The whole surface is variegated, changing quickly
and often from swamp to bluff bank to hilly or
more level ground with many creeks and small ponds.

The shores of the Patuxent River are deeply scoured
with numerous deep and wide creeks, from five
to eighteen feet deep. The nature of these creeks like
the Patuxent is to be wide in proportion to their length.

All of the shore line on this sheet,
including creeks and ponds, would measure about
220 miles.

From the Patuxent River up the Bay
shore to Governor Run the shore is generally from
less to 100 feet high, mostly showing abrupt banks. From
Governor Point northward for two miles there is a wide belt
of marsh between the Bay and the bluff. All along
this high shore the land is poor and is covered mostly
with pine, chestnut, oak and dogwood trees or brush.

As we go up the Patuxent, the land becomes more
fertile but again as we go back from the river there
is found a great deal of poor land, most of which
has been cultivated in time past but much of which
is now covered with a growth of pine.

The Patuxent is a beautiful river, the configuration of its shores and wide creeks furnishes many pretty places, the heights along the shores ranging from five to 45 feet. The price of land varies from about two to $200 an acre, the cheapest being back in the sandy ridge, and the dearest being favorite sites on the river.

Agriculture is followed quite generally and the returns are good--wheat, corn, barley and many legumes, tomatoes also grow well. There are many people who reside near the river, or on its creeks, engaged in agriculture, also many engaged in fishing. They say that more money is made at oystering and fishing than by farming, but the appearance I think show the contrary.

Solomons is the largest village and the only one of any size on this sheet. It covers Solomons Island and the near vicinity, its suburbs being named Jenkins and Clinton, containing a population of about 600. The town contains a bank, an express office, a post office, a Methodist, an Episcopalian and a Catholic Church, three ship yards, where many small boats are built, and each is provided with a railway for docking.
In Solomons there are two establishments for curing and bawling fish, both of which make fertilizer out of the remains and of the fish that can not be bawled. One fisherman, and the long time operator in town, Mr. Vale, last spring, caught in his fish pounds and delivered 1,700,000 herring.

Artesian water is obtained and of good quality, flowing constantly and in sufficient quantity.

This is not a wealthy country; transportation is by steamer and sailing craft only and telephones are few and far apart along the river. The wagon roads are mostly heavy and slow being sandy.

A very efficient mail service is maintained, if we consider the demand, there being a number of little post-officers places quite conveniently for all sections.

I should mention that every year a good deal of lumber is shipped out of this region, Baltimore and cities farther north, consisting of oak, chestnut, pine and spruce and foplar. The chestnut is largely made into ties, the spruce furnish poles, sills and the foplar is for the lath and milk. O. M. Ferguson.

Ass't. G. and U. S.

Assistant.

Com'dg
# Nautical Charts Branch

**Survey No. T. 2661**

Record of Application to Charts

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A basic hydrographic or topographic survey supersedes all information of like nature on the uncorrected chart.

Give reasons for deviations, if any, from recommendations made under “Comparison with Charts” in the Review.