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1904

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

*O. V. Johnson*  
Superintendent.

State: *Md. & Va.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topic* Sheet No. *2637*

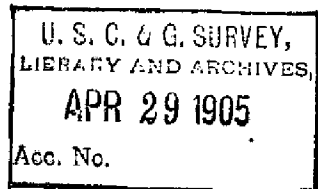
LOCALITY:  
*Potomac River*

*1904*

CHIEF OF PARTY:  
*STEHMAN FORNEY, ASST.*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES,  
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Acc. No.

2637



Descriptive Report,

Original Topographic Sheet No 2637,

Resurvey of the Potomac River,

Maryland and Virginia

from

Aquia Creek to Neapico Creek T<sup>4</sup>,

and

Smith's Point to Mattanomonian Creek T<sup>4</sup>,

Scale 1/20,000

1904

This sheet represents the resurvey of the Potomac River shore line and the original survey of interior contouring - rail tracks and other roads and the general topographical details, on the Maryland and Virginia sides of the River.

The shore line of the river has not changed materially since the original survey, except at the prominent points and in the creeks tributary to the river. The bluff line on the Virginia side from the mouth of Choptank Creek along

the river to Inautica Wharf and  
 mouth of Inautica Creek, to Cook  
 Pit point and at the mouth of  
 Powell's Creek, and on Choptawanna  
 Island, has eroded and could in  
 at places from fifteen to twenty feet  
 since the last survey was made,

From the rail road bridge at the  
 mouth of Inautica Creek, to Sum-  
 mers the head of former naviga-  
 tion, Inautica Creek is almost en-  
 tirely filled in, destroying naviga-  
 tion to Summers, when it is im-  
 practicable to go in an ordinary  
 ship at any stage of the tide. From  
 the rail road bridge, up about one  
 and a half miles, boats drawing four  
 feet can navigate at high water,  
 Eel grass obstructs the navigation in  
 Inautica and Powell's Creeks from  
 their mouths some distance up  
 for power boats using propellers, and  
 makes it difficult for sailing boats  
 during the summer months,  
 The rail road engineers found

The mud on the bottom of Incenti-  
Co Creek at its mouth (where they  
are making a fill for the new  
track) to be fifty and seventy feet  
deep, Car loads of earth dumped  
in to the Creek at that point, during  
the day time being <sup>up</sup> the earth even with  
the surface of the water at the end  
of the days work, during the night  
would settle and spread in the mud  
at the bottom to such an extent, that  
in the morning there would be five  
and six feet of water on top of the  
earth dumped in the day before.

The bluff line on the Maryland  
side from Smiths Point to Sier-  
pool Point and Swamp Neck  
has eroded and caved in fifteen  
and twenty feet at places, since  
the last survey. The Country  
on both sides of the river is cover-  
ed with a dense growth of Pine  
oak - Chestnut - and some Walnut  
timber, in many places impracti-  
cable to get through with a Plane

Table without cutting across line  
through timber and brush, Here  
and there on both sides of the  
river are small farms under  
cultivation

At "Possum Point", Mineral Wharf, there  
is a narrow gauge rail road running  
out to the Pyrites Mines four miles from  
the wharf. There is an extensive deposit  
of this mineral at that point, and  
it is shipped in large quantities from  
the wharf and by rail over the N. H.  
and R. rail road. The country on  
the Virginia side immediately  
back of the river shore, from  
Nickleswater to Powell's Creek  
is high rough and steep. Range  
in from 160-180 + 200 feet in  
elevation above mean high water.  
The contour was intricate and  
difficult to execute. The interior  
topography was carried back from  
the shore line on both sides of the  
river to the high land overlooking  
it. Rail roads and other roads here

Surveyed by Plane table traverse lines  
from triangulation points and  
well determined plane table stations  
on the shore. The heights were carried  
along these roads by vertical angles -  
heights and traverse lines were checked  
at every opportunity on triangulation  
and topographical signals, well deter-  
mined chimneys - gables of houses - towers  
cupolas and church steeples, In the  
dense timber where it was impractic-  
able to run traverse lines from points  
on the road, flags in trees on the  
summits of the timbered hills were  
determined from stations along  
the shore. Their heights above mean  
high water were also determined. When  
the flags were put up in these trees, the  
distances in feet from the top of flag pole  
to the ground was measured with a  
steel tape, and a second made, in  
the field book of heights, The bases  
of these hills were determined in  
position and elevation, and the  
Contours sketched through the dense

Timber between Stations on roads, flaps  
in trees, and the base of the hills on  
which these flayed trees stand,

The Contours are shown for every  
20 feet-difference of level above mean  
high water (the plane of reference) The  
Canyons are indicated by  
broken red lines and represent 10 feet  
difference in height, The heights are  
given in feet and show the eleva-  
tions above the Plane of reference,

The Washington Fredericksburg &  
Richmond Rail Road Company are  
double tracking their road and straight-  
ening the curves, and in places  
changing the location of the road bed,  
between Alexandria and Richmond,  
Wherever the grading was completed  
at the time of my survey the new  
and the old roads are shown on  
the sheet,

The wagon roads on the Virginia  
side of the river, County and private  
are all probably the best of any in  
the United States. They are dangerous

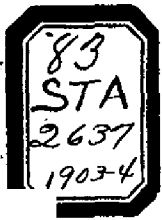
to life and limb of both man & beast, during the Autumn - Winter and Spring months, and very little improved during the Summer months,

On the Maryland side they are fair during the Summer months, and bad during the remainder of the year.

The only topographical signals on this Strait are located in Agassiz and Quantico Creeks, their approximate geographical positions were located from the shut-led-sound and sent to the office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Stephen J. Jerney  
 Asst. C. S. Jerney  
 Chief of Party





Department of Commerce and Labor

Coast and Geodetic Survey

C. H. Littmann Superintendent

Resurvey of the Potomac River  
Maryland and Virginia

Subject

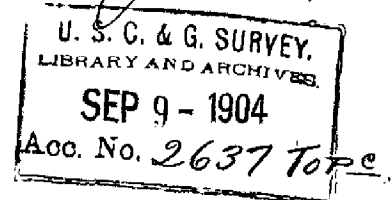
Description of Topographic Stations  
Determined by Plane Table Triangulation

Agassiz and Quantico Creeks,  
and

Occoquan Bay

Virginia

1903-1904.



Stetson J. J. J.

Asst. C. & G. Survey

Chief of Party

Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Sweeney,

Steamboat Landing,

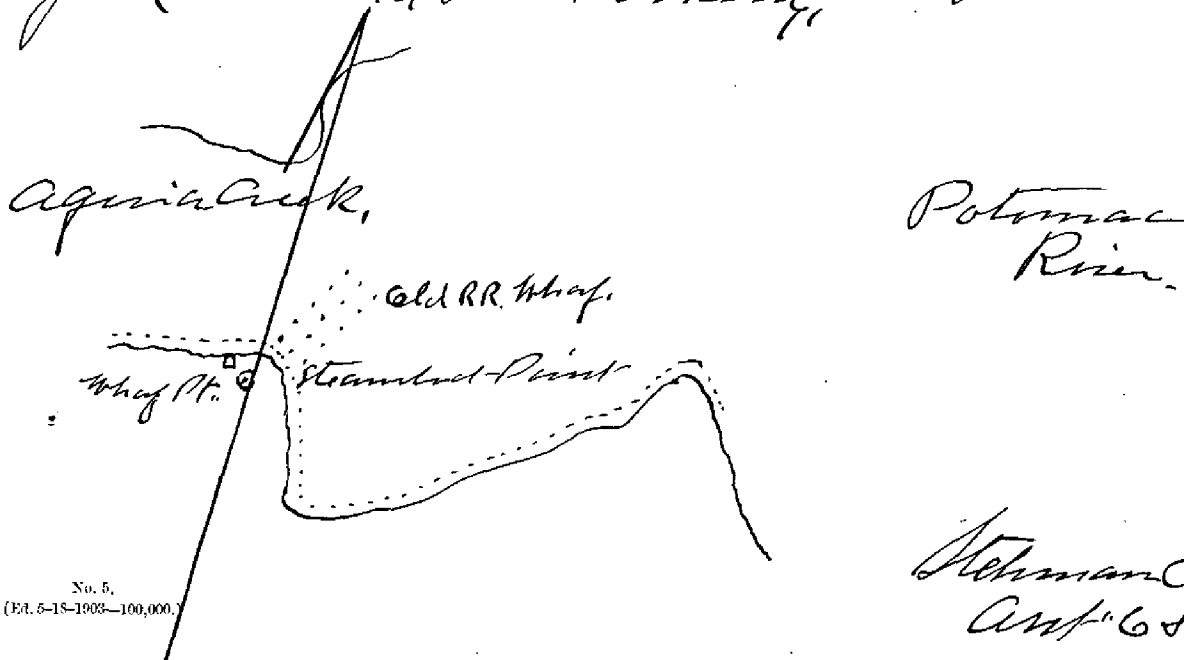
Aquia Creek Sta.

Wharf Point Topographical Signal.

September 14<sup>th</sup> 1903.

This signal is located on the South Shore of Aquia Creek Creek Stafford County Va.

The ruins of an old rail road wharf make out from this point. The station is marked by a Cherry tree 6" in diameter by 18" long set in to the ground with its top even with the surface of the ground, on this rests a pine pole 2" x 3" x 16" long supported by three braces and cross ties. The pole has two ladders on its top. Center of top surface is 14 feet from the ground, on the shore at the landing near the signal is an old Fish Shanty.



Sweeney  
Capt. C. H. S.

Duplicate.

2

Department of Commerce and Labor

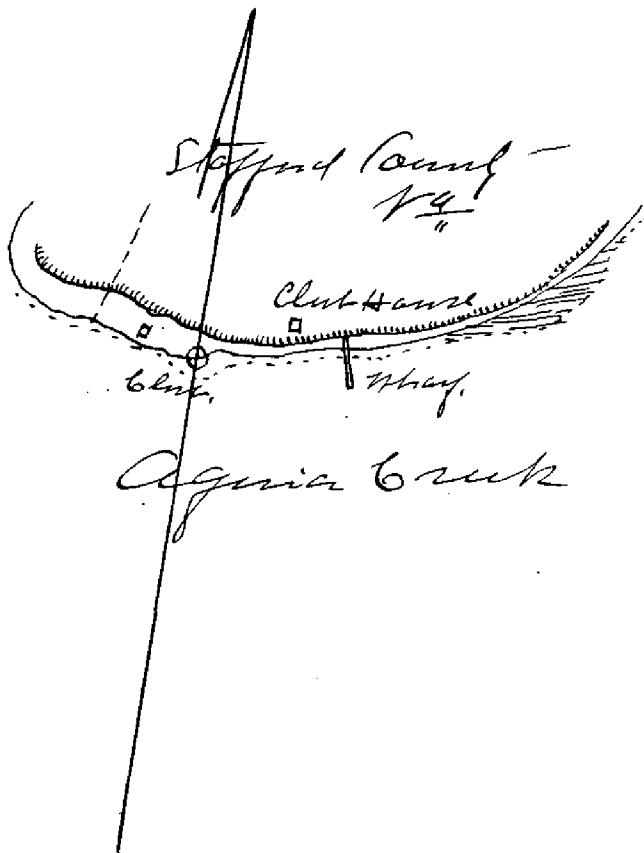
C. H. Sweeney,

New York Club House,

Club Topy Signal, September 14, 1903.

This signal is located on the south shore of Aquia Creek just inside of its mouth on the shore at high water mark, west of the New York Club House which stands on the bluff.

The station is marked by a Cherry Stake 6 in diameter & 18 in long set in to the ground with its top even with the surface of the ground. A twenty penny nail is driven in to the top of this ~~ground~~ stake on to which the signal pole was stepped. Signal is comprised of a pine pole 2" x 3" x 16" long supported by three braces. Top orange color H. 12 = 14' 11".



Potomac River

Aquia Creek

William Sweeney  
Capt. C. H. S.

Duplicate

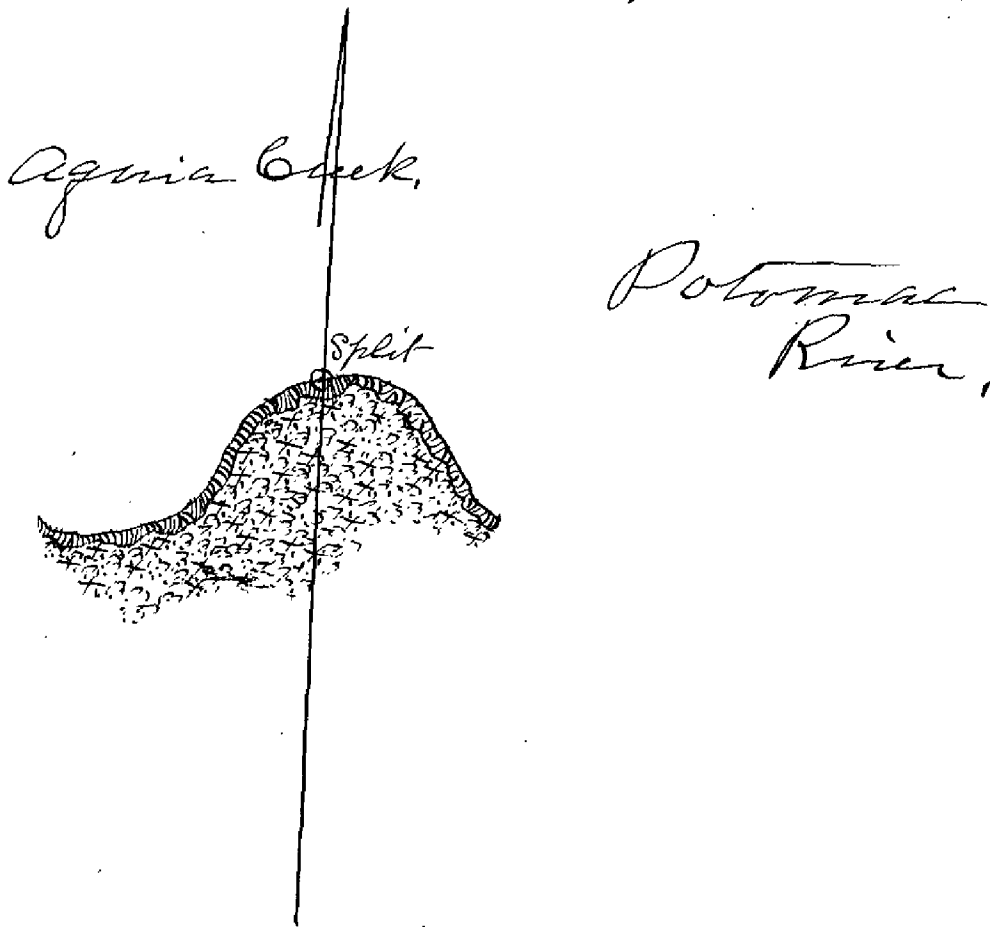
3

Department of Commerce and Labor

Coast and Geodetic Survey,

"Split-Top" Signal, Stafford County, Va., Sept. 14, 1903

This station is located on the South Shore of Aquia Creek just at its mouth. The center pole is wedged down between two large rocks on the shore. Pole is 2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by three braces, and has two lenses on its top.

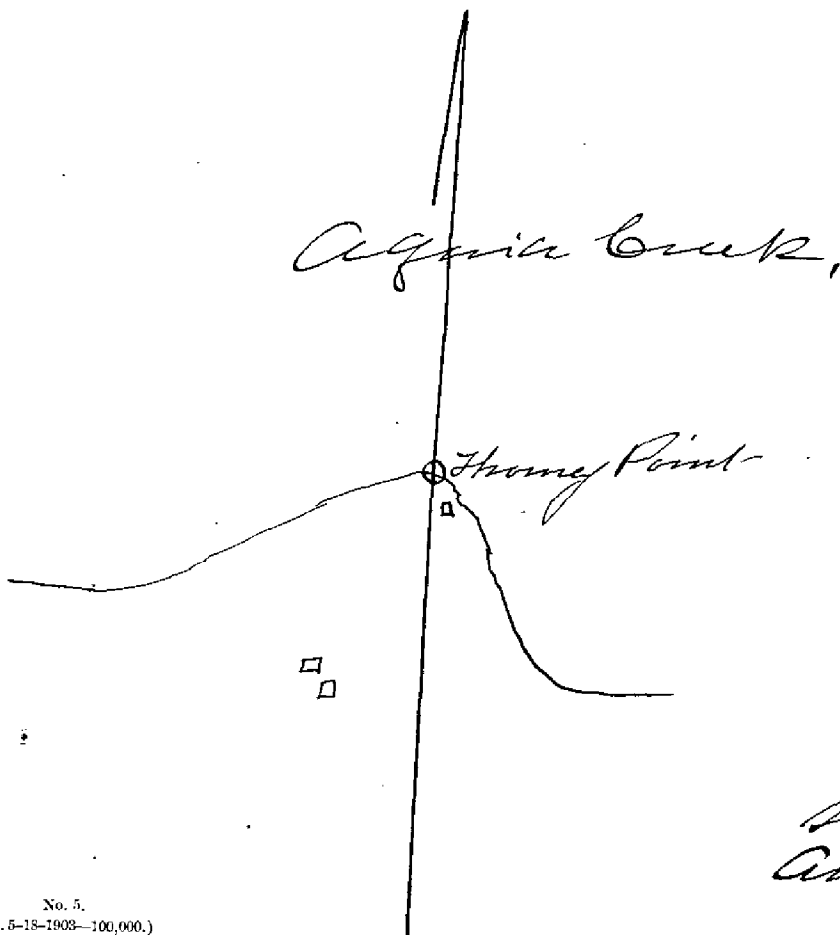


Department of Commerce and Labor

C and G. Survey.

Horney Point; Topog. Signal. Station land to, Sept 14/03

This station is located on the South shore of Agnia Creek, on a fishing beach about 1/4 mile above Whay Point - just inside of high water mark. Station is marked by a Cherry Stub 6" in diameter 18" long let into the ground with its top even with the surface of the ground. A large nail is driven into this stub on to which the foot of the signal pole was stepped. Signal is comprised of a pine pole 2x3x16 feet long, supported by three braces and cross ties.



William Horney  
 Comd'g C. & G. Survey

Duplicate.

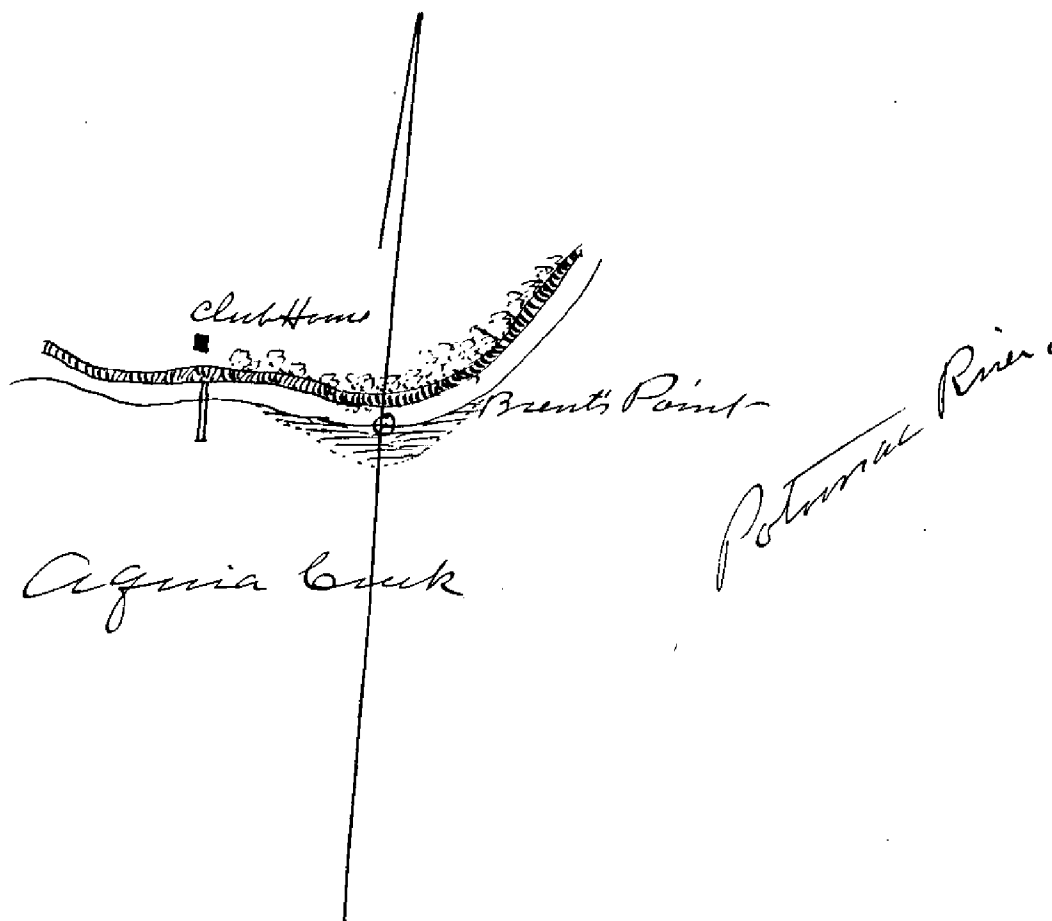
5

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. & G. Survey.

Brent's Point: Topog. "Lig" Stefford Land, Va. Sept. 14, 1903

This station is located at high water mark on the North Shore of Aquia Creek, at its entrance, it is marked by an oak stub set in to the ground with its top even with the surface of the ground, a large nail was driven in to the stub, in to which the signal pole fits, signal is supported by three braces and cross ties



Stetson J. J. Survey  
Asst. C. & G. Survey

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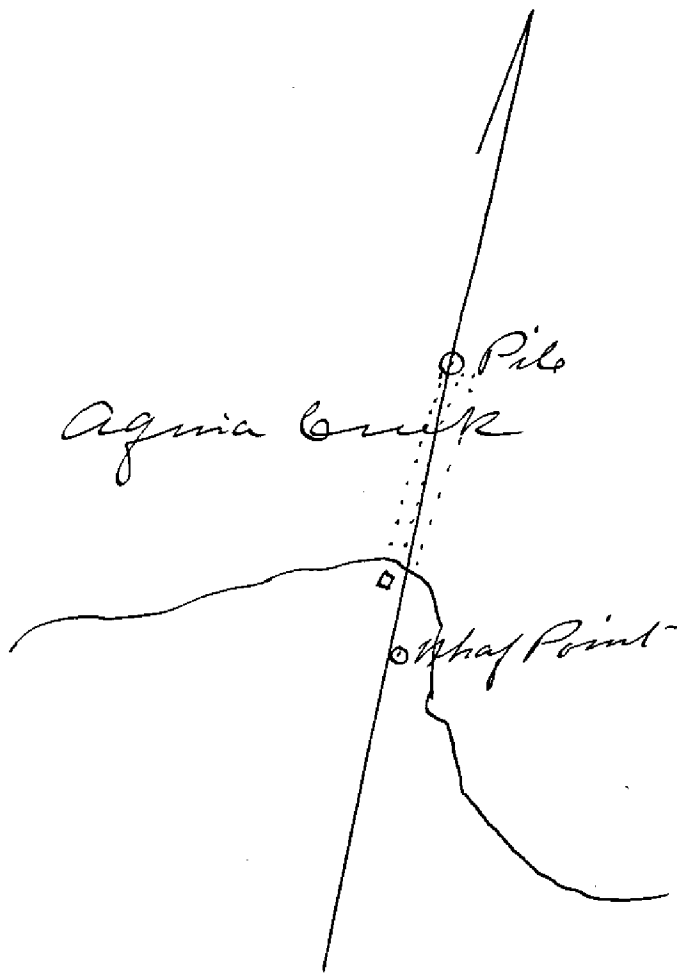
6

Department of Commerce and Labor

C & G Survey.

Pile. 20 pny" signal. Agnia Creek 1/4" Septem 14. 1904

This signal is located at the outer end of the old rail road Wharf on the South Side of Agnia Creek, and is comprised of a 2" x 3" x 16' long pole with one bruce nailed to the outer side.



Metman Horsey  
Asst. C & G Survey

Duplicate

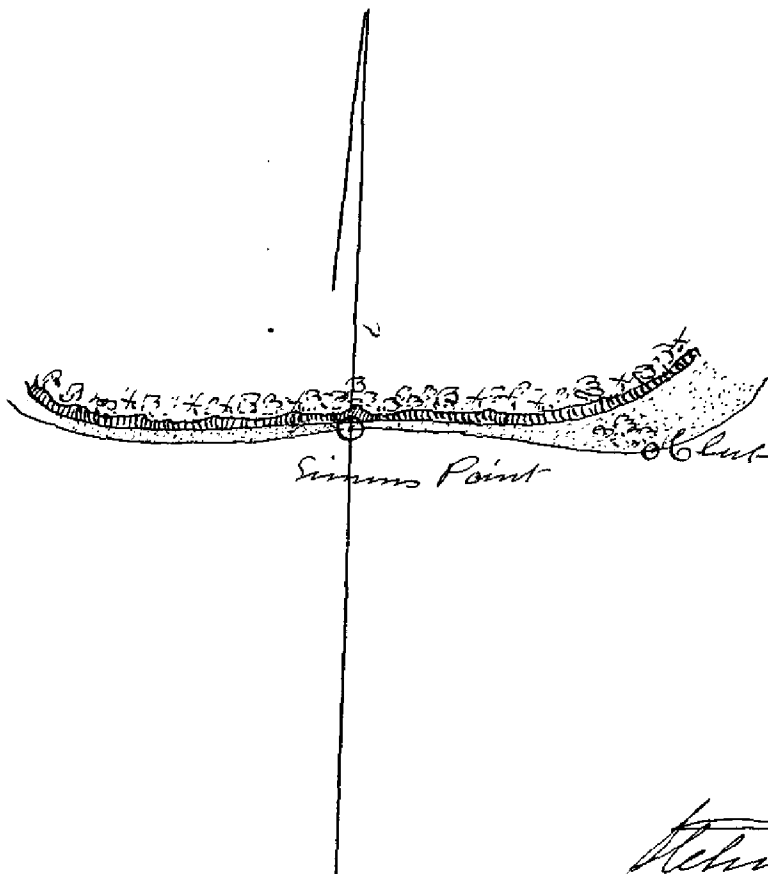
7

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. S. Sweeney

Simms Point Topog. Signal. Stepped (and) Light 1919

This station is located on the North Shore of  
 Aquia Creek and in the first signal class  
 signal, it is at high water mark on the Sandy  
 shore at the foot of a bluff 30 feet high. Station  
 is marked by a stake let in to the ground with its  
 top even with the surface of the ground. A  
 large nail is driven in to this stake in to  
 which the signal pole is stepped. Signal is  
 comprised by a pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long sup-  
 ported by 3 braces. Center of top bearing is 12 feet  
 10" above high water mark.



W. H. Sweeney  
 Capt. C. S. Sweeney



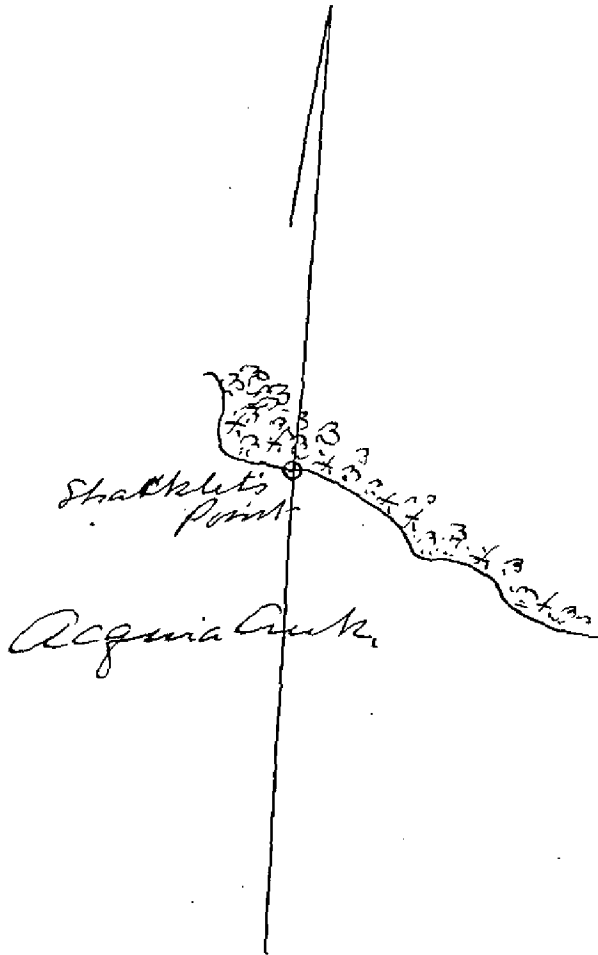
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8

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Jolley

Shacklets Point, Foggy Signal, Station No. 19, Sept 19, 1903  
This station is located on the South shore of Algeria  
Creek, it is the first signal above Simmons Point  
on the same side of the Creek. Station is marked  
by a stub driven to the ground with a large nail  
in its top into which the signal pole is stepped.  
Signal is comprised of a pine pole 2 x 3 + 16 feet  
long supported by 3 braces and has two lances  
on its top. Center of top lance is 14 feet 5 in above  
High Water Mark



Stephen Jolley  
Asst. C. H. Jolley

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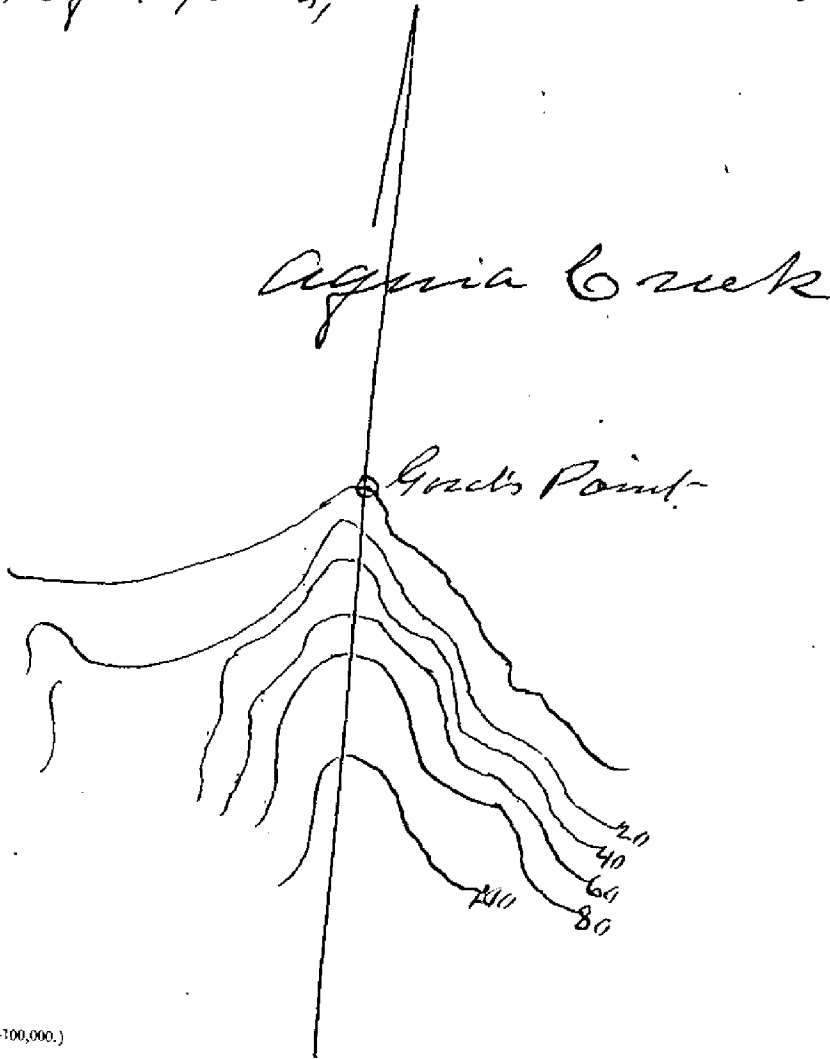
Department of Commerce and Labor

Good's Point - Staffed Camp Va. September 19, 1903

This station is located on a marshy point on the south shore of Aquia Creek it is the first signal up creek from Honey Point.

Station is marked by a stake driven in to the ground with a large nail in its top in to which the signal pole is stepped signal is composed of a 2x3 + 16 feet long with two rungs on its top. Supported by three braces.

Center of Top Runge above High Water Mark = 15 feet / tenths,



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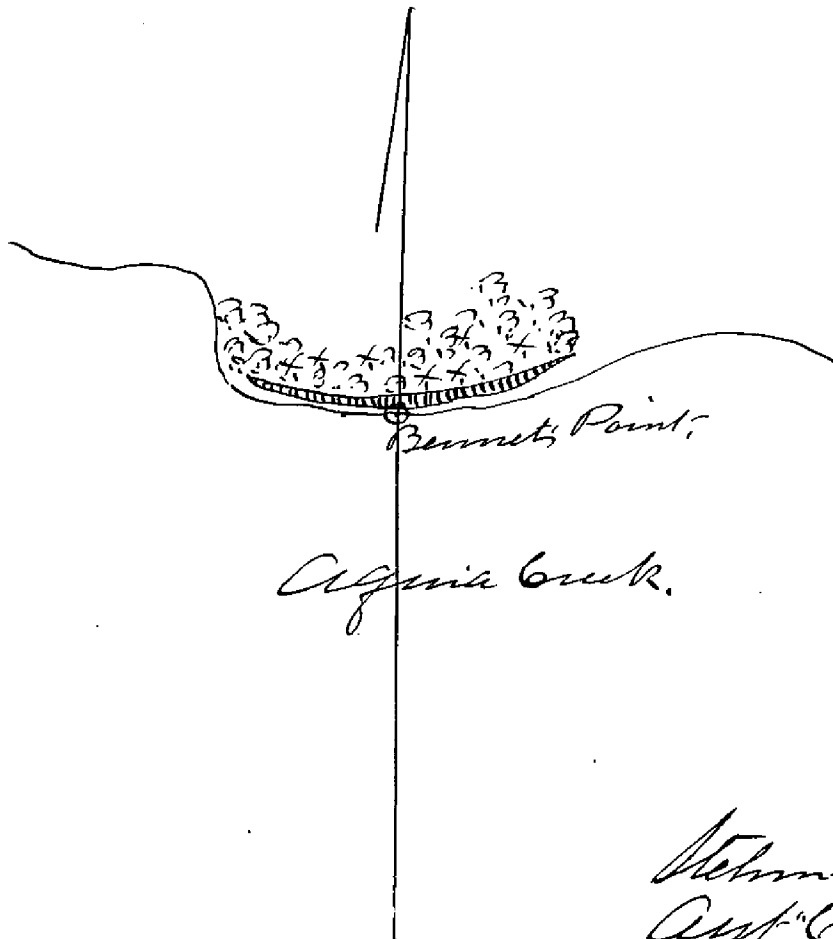
10

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Journey,

Bennets Point-Topping Sta. "Steppey" County Va. Sept. 19, 1903

This station is on the North Shore of Algeria Creek and is the second signal above Dennis's Point and on the same side of the creek under a bluff about 20 feet high. Station is marked by a post driven in to the ground and has a nail in its top in to which the signal is stepped. Signal is comprised of a Pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by three braces, and has two braces on its top. Center of top brace above H.M. mark = 14 feet - 3 in.



William Journey  
Asst. C. H. Journey

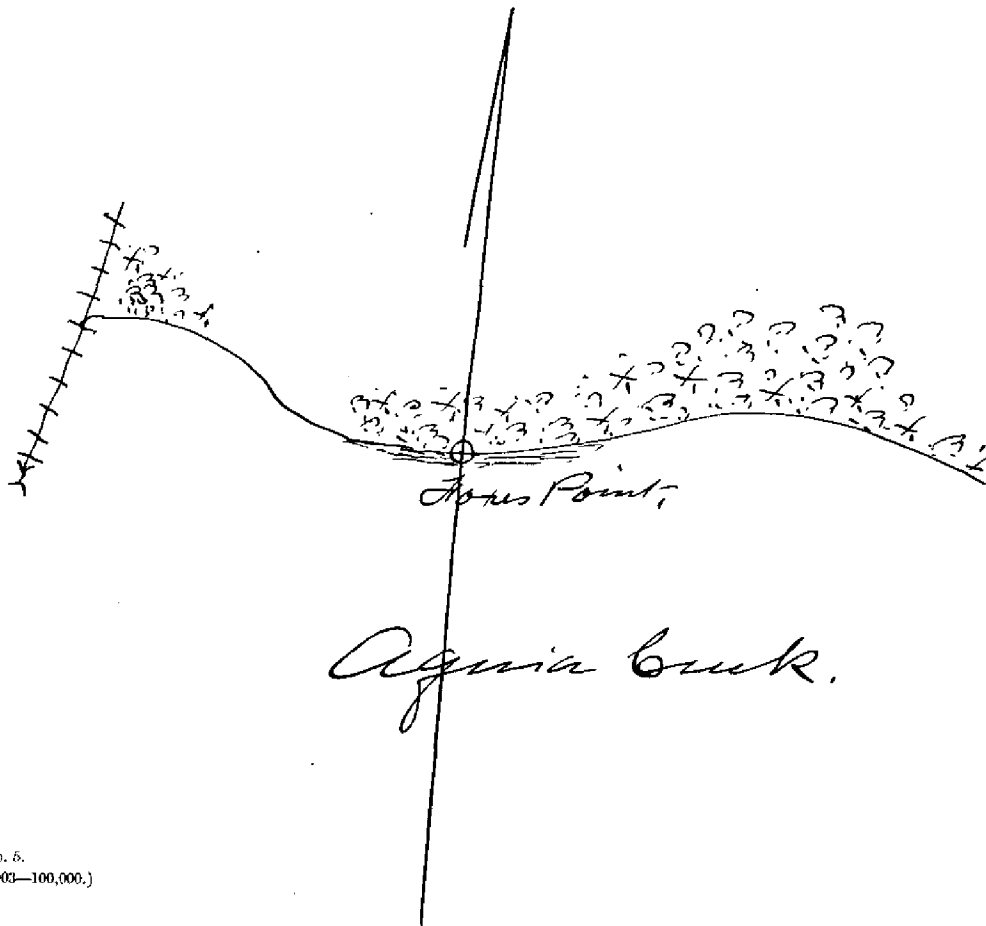
Duplicate,

11

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Jerney

Jones Point Fog Signal, Steppit Canal, Sept. 19, 1903  
This station is situated on the North Shore of Agnia  
Creek and is the third signal up creek from  
Simmons Point, and on the same side, it is  
located at high water mark on a strip of marsh  
along the edge of thick timber. The station is marked  
by a stake driven in to the ground with a large  
nail in its top in to which the foot of the signal  
is stepped. Signal is comprised of a pine pole  
2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by three braces, and  
has two lances on it. Center of top lance is  
14 feet 11" in above High Water Mark.



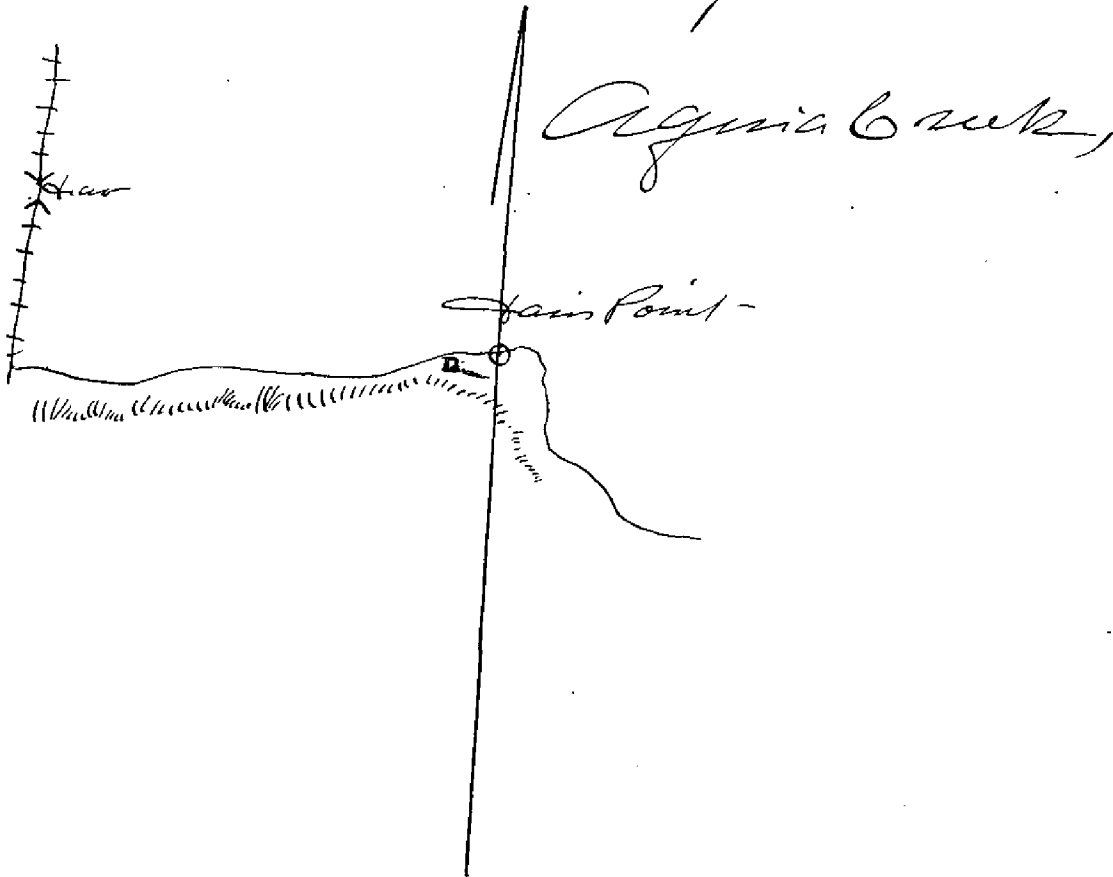
Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Murray.

Sain Point. Topy signal, Stafford County Va., Sept. 19, 1903  
 This station is situated on the South shore of Aquia  
 Creek about 400 meters below the rail road bridge  
 and close to a boat house. The signal is comprised  
 of a pine pole 2 x 3 x 16 feet long and is sup-  
 ported by three braces. The pole has two lances  
 on it. Station is marked by a stake with a  
 nail in its top in to which the foot of signal  
 is stepped.

Center of top lance above High Water 14 feet 3 in.

The signal pole is tacked to a Locust Post 3" diameter  
 18 in out of the ground with tacks on its side. U S Engi-  
 neers mark. Hands near the signal.

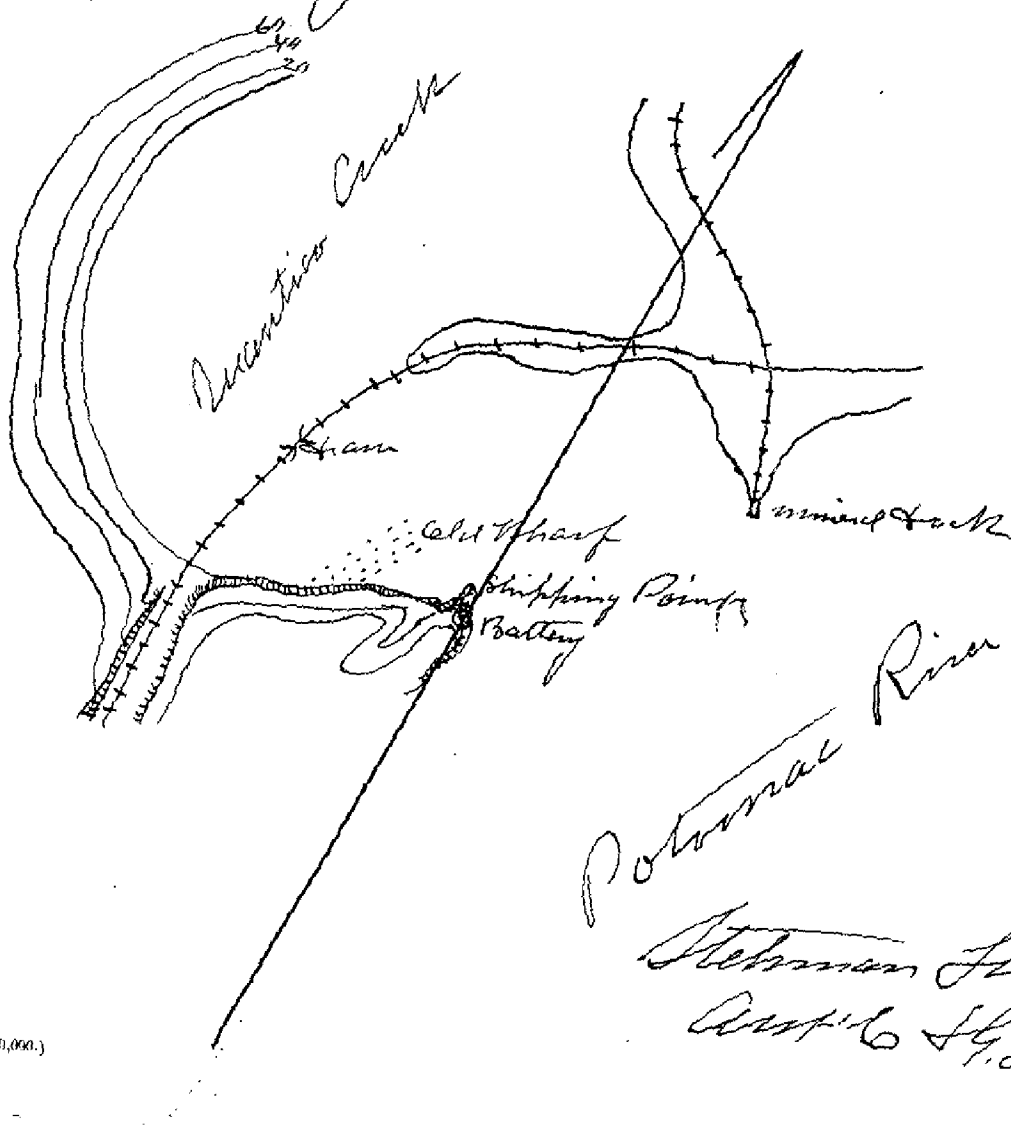


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Department of Commerce and Labor

C. G. Sweeney,  
Quantico Creek,

Battery Topography Signal Prince William County, Va. June 8, 1904  
This signal is located on the right of an old Confederate  
Battery on the South West point of the Entrance to  
to Quantico Creek, on the top of a bluff about 40 feet  
above H.W. mark. The station is marked by a white  
Pine Stake 2" x 3" x 16 feet long set into the ground and  
supported by 4 braces with cross ties and stakes.  
The pole has two lances on it, and the usual  
notice of warning

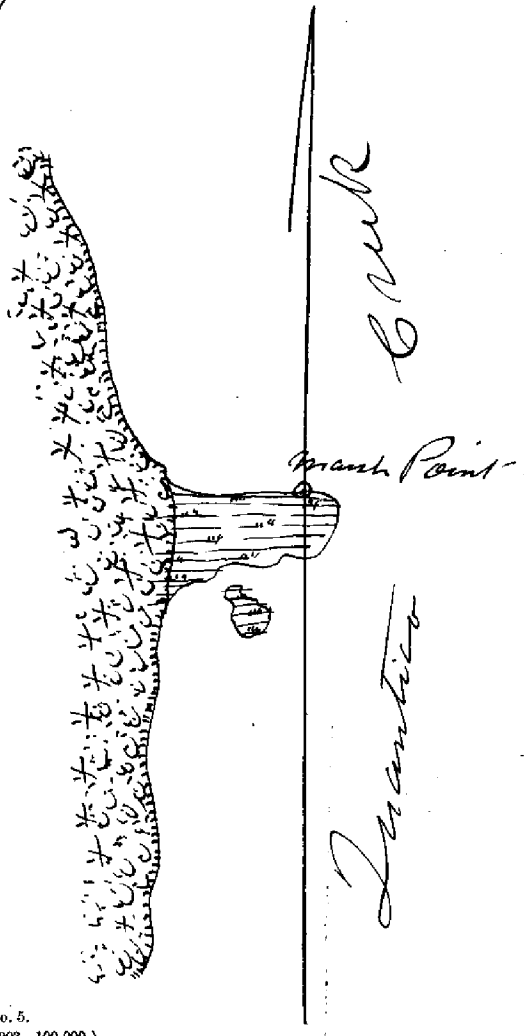


Duplicate

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Surrency

Marsh Point-Topy Signal. Prince William County, Va. June 11, 1902  
 This signal is located on the north side of a Point  
 of Marsh that makes out from the West Shore  
 of Quantico Creek about 1/2 mile up creek from  
 the rail road bridge. The signal is comprised of a  
 White Pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by 3 cross  
 braces and struts. The signal has 2 white bannings  
 on its top and the usual signal notice tacked to  
 the pole.



William Surrency  
 Asst. C. H. Surrency

Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Murray.

"Case, Topy" signal, Prince William Canal, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1904

This station is located on the West-Shore of Incentico  
Creek, at Horse Pen Point, near High Water Mark  
both of the boat-landing on the property owned by  
Mr. John J. West; where tower is about 50 yards  
from the landing on a hill about 15 feet above  
High Water mark. The station is marked by a  
White Pine Stake 2" x 3" x 18" long set in to the ground  
even with the surface of the ground. Signal is  
comprised of a white Pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet  
long supported by 3 braces with cross ties and  
plates, the usual notice of warning is tacked  
to the signal pole.



C. H. Murray  
and C. H. Murray

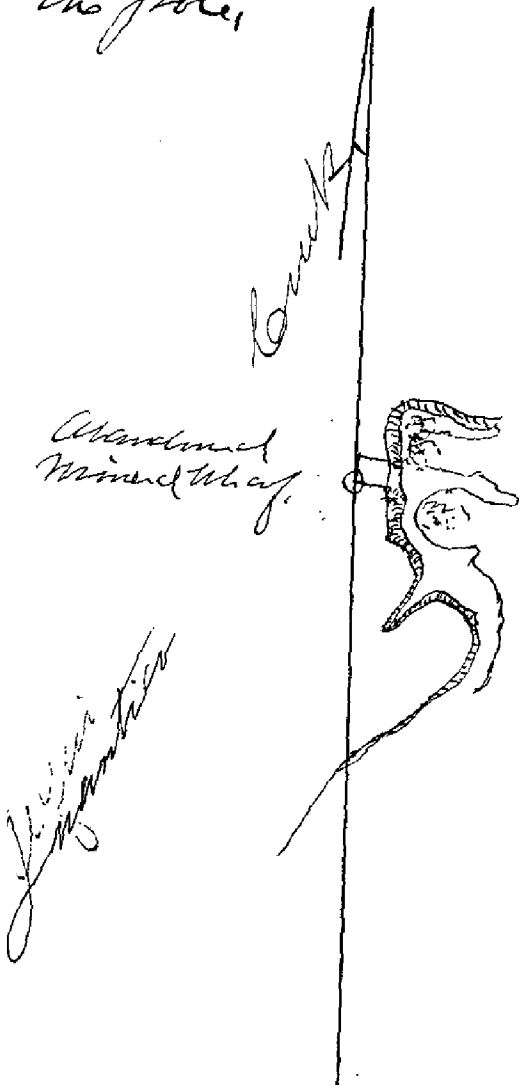


Duplicate,

Department of Commerce and Labor

C and G. Jersey

Mineral, Foppy signal. Prince William Sound, Alaska, June 11 1904  
 This signal is located on the South Corner of the  
 Mineral Wharf on the East Side of Frontiers-  
 Creek, and is comprised of a pole 2" x 3"  
 x 16 feet long nailed to a scrubbing pile inside  
 the corner of the wharf and to the top of the two  
 outside corner piles, it has a white lozenge  
 on the top and the usual notice of warning  
 tacked to the pole.

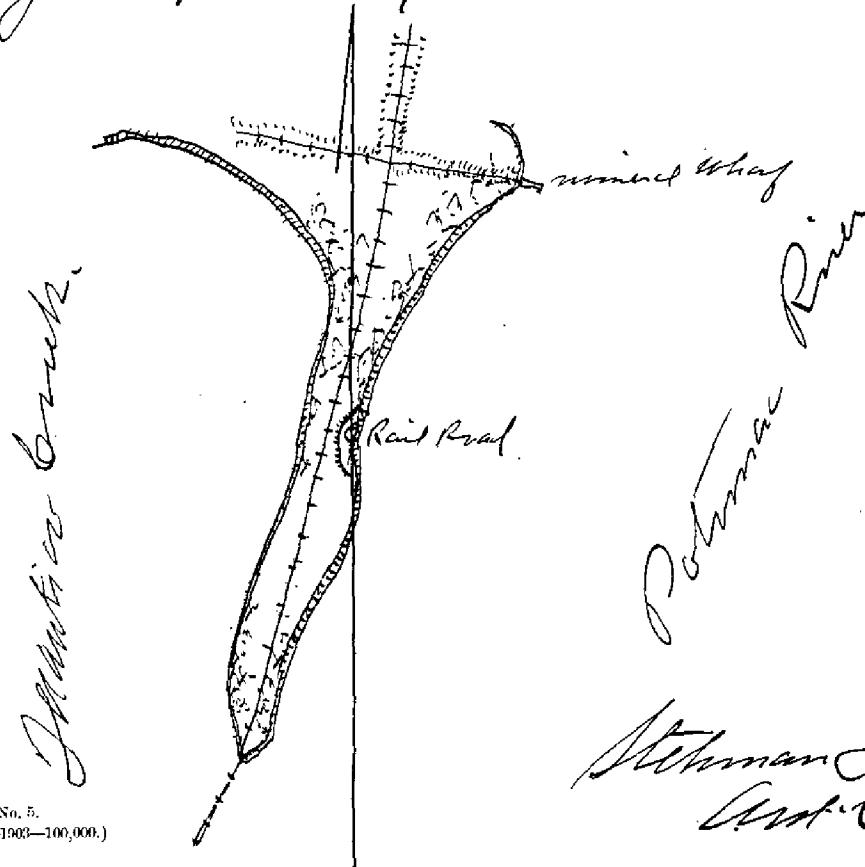


Stetman Jersey  
 Comd' C. G. Jersey

*Duplicate,*

Department of Commerce and Labor  
C. H. Jolley.

Rail Road. Topog<sup>ical</sup> Signal, Prince William County Va. June 11, 1904  
This signal is located on a bluff on the West shore of the Potomac River on the Peninsular running out - in to the mouth of Quantico Creek, and about half way between the mineral wharf and the North end of the R.R. bridge across Quantico Creek, and on the eastern edge of the W. S. R.R. track. The signal is comprised of a white pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by 3 trans cross ties and stakes. The pole has two lugs on it, and the usual notice of warning. Station is marked by a white pine stake 2" x 3" x 18" long on which the signal pole rests.



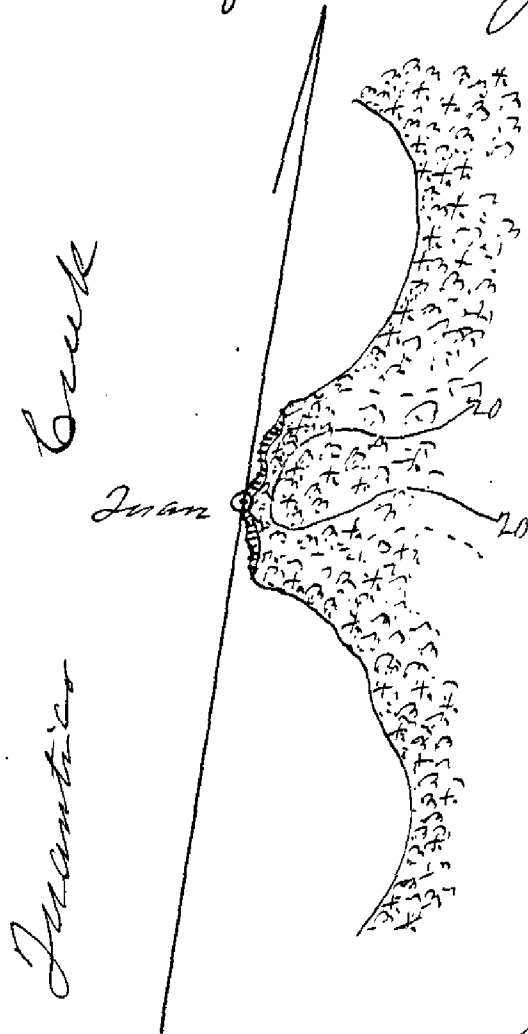
Stehman Jolley  
Asst. C. H. Jolley,

Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Torrey

Juan Topog signal. Prince William Sound, Va. June 11<sup>th</sup> 1904  
 This signal is located on the East Shore of Juanita  
 Creek at the foot of a bluff 3 metres from High  
 water mark opposite Home Pen Point. The signal  
 is comprised of a white Pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet  
 long nailed to a stake driven into the ground 2 feet,  
 and supported by 3 brass cross ties and stakes.  
 The pole has a white flag and white binnacle with  
 the usual notice of warning.



William Torrey  
 Asst. C. H. Torrey

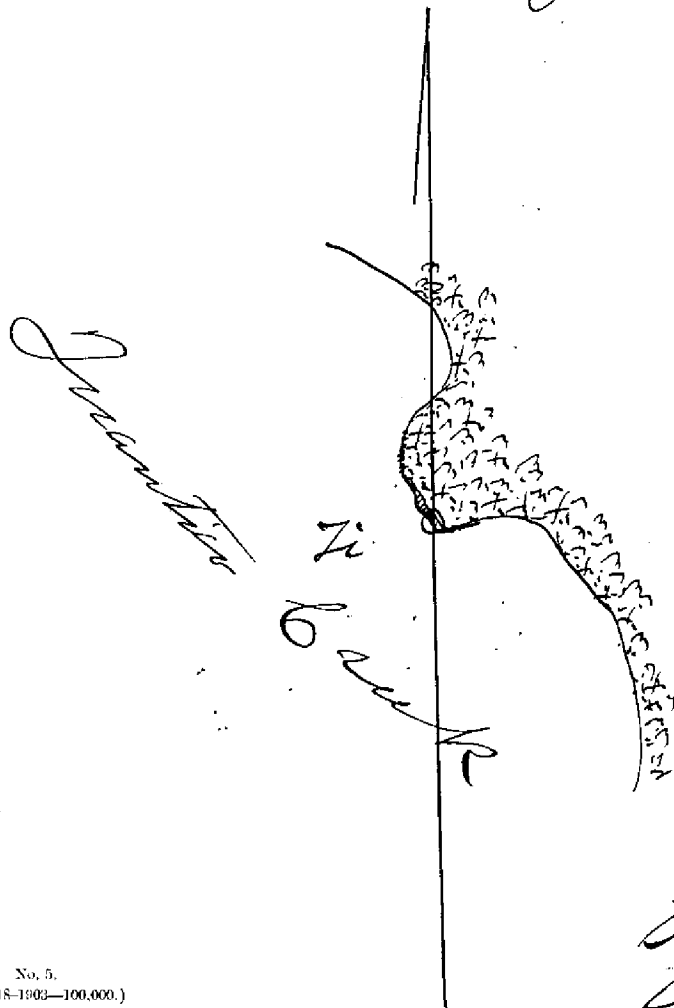
Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Torrey.

"Ti Toopy" Signal, Prince William Count, Va., June 11, 1904

This station is located on the east side of Quantico Creek at the foot of a bluff about 4 metres from High water mark about 3/4 of a mile up creek from Swan on a prominent rounded point. Signal pole is nailed to a stake driven in to the ground 2 feet; supported by 3 braces - with cross ties and stakes, signal pole is 2 x 3 x 16 feet long and has a white binnacle on the top and the usual notice of warning



Stephen Torrey  
and C. H. Torrey

Duplicate.

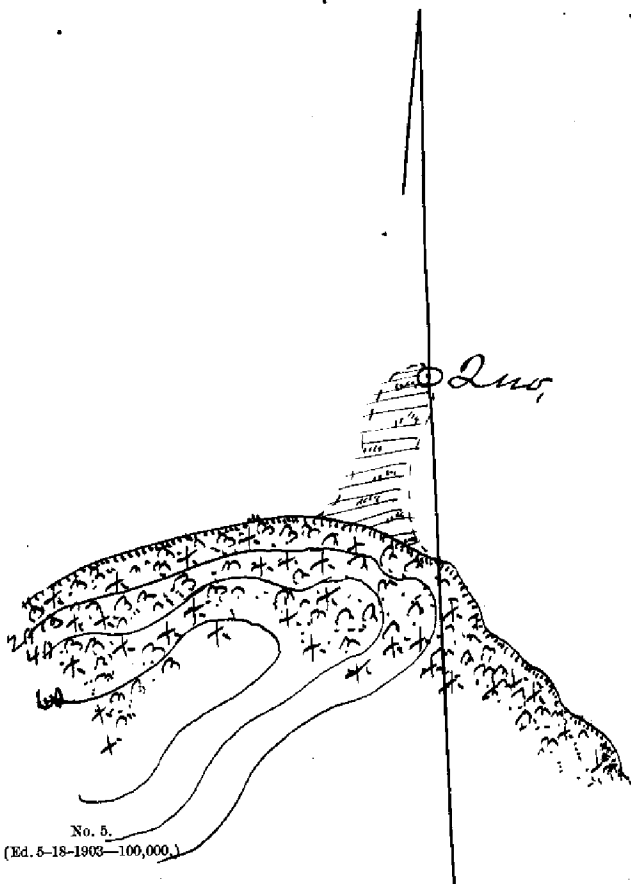
20

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. S. Jolley,

No. 2007 Signal, Prince William County, Va., June 11, 1904

This signal is located on a point of marsh on the West-Shore of Quantico Creek about 1/2 mile up creek from Horns Point. The signal is comprised of a white pine pole 2' x 3' x 16 feet long nailed to a stake driven 3 feet in to the ground supported by 3 brass nuts, cross-ties and stakes. The pole has a white cross and white flags.



Arthur Jolley  
Asst. C. S. Jolley

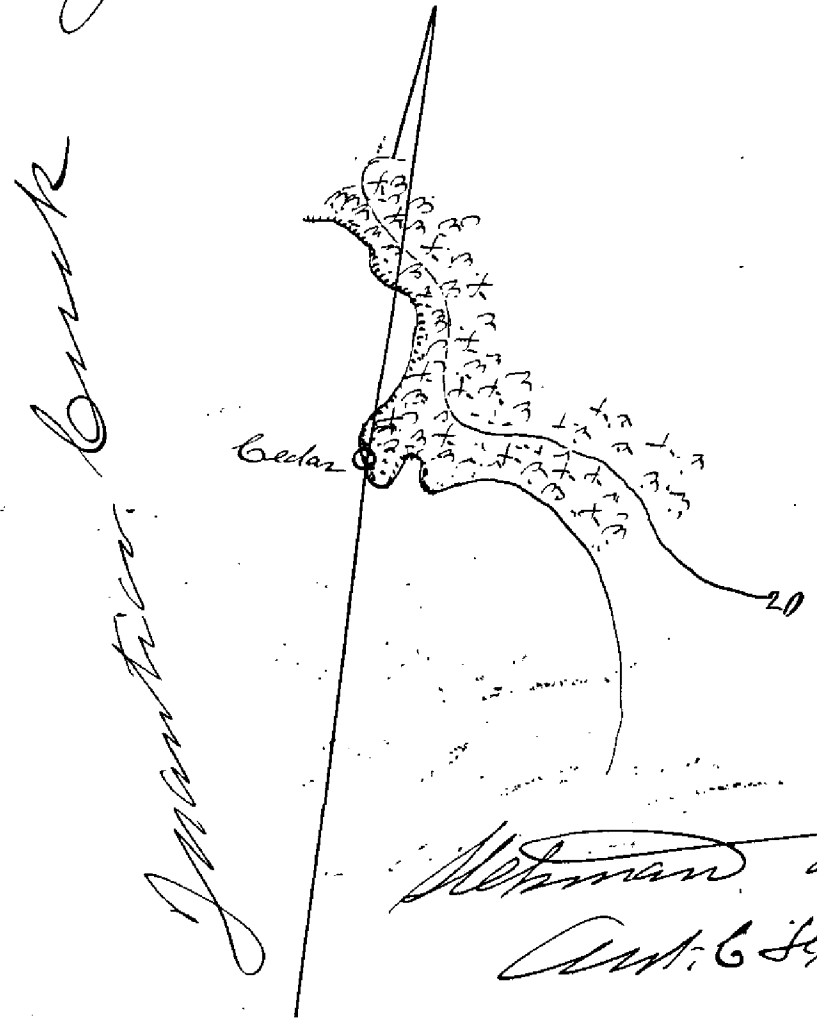
Duplicate,

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Jenney,

Cedar. Topog. Station, Prince William Camp, Va. June 13, 1904

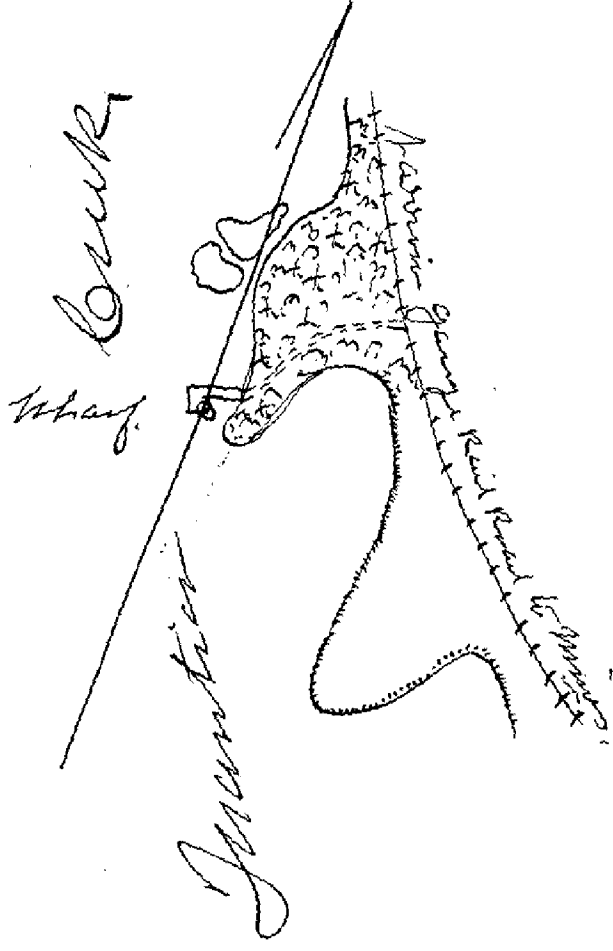
This signal is located on the first Point up creek from Li signal near high water mark on a green point. About 10 metres south of two small cedars. The signal is comprised of a white pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long supported by 3 transverse cross ties and stakes. The pole has a white flag above a white lozenge. The usual notice of morning was tacked to the pole.



William Jenney  
Capt. C. H. Jenney

Inspects,  
Department of Commerce and Labor  
C. G. Jolley,

Wharf "Jug" signal Prince William County, June 13, 1904,  
This signal is located on an old <sup>wood</sup> wharf east shore  
of Invention Creek on the first front-up bank  
from Cedar signal. The signal is comprised  
of a white Pine pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long nailed  
to one of the wharf sills. The pole has a white  
orange above a white flag, and the usual  
notice of warning was tacked to the pole.



Attest  
C. G. Jolley

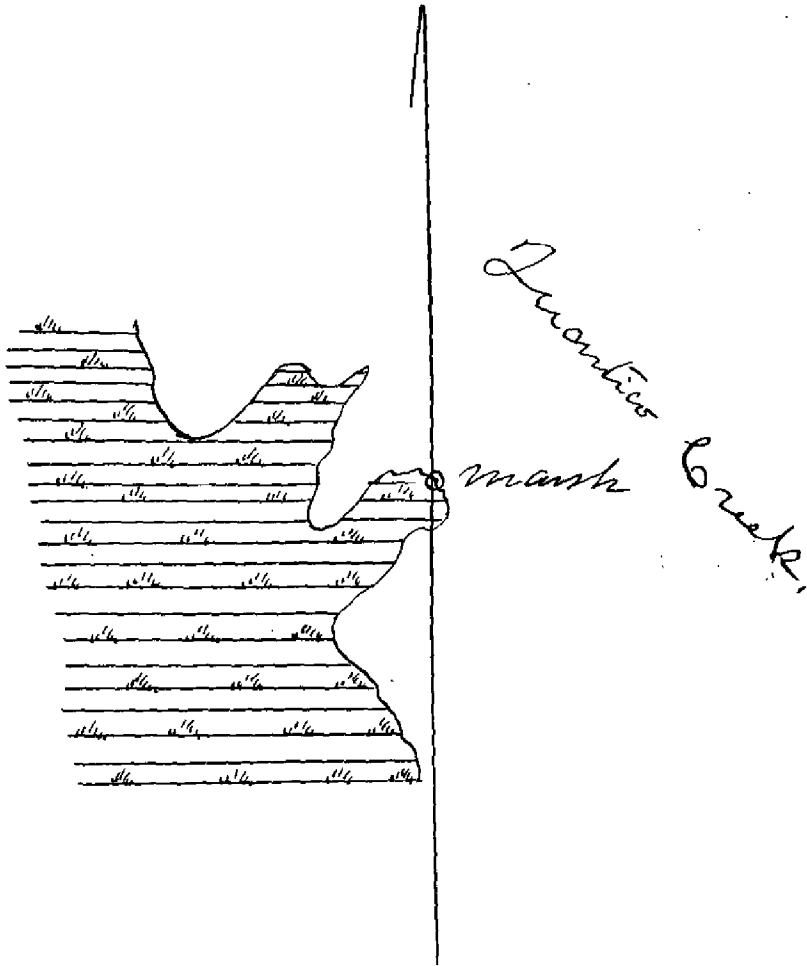
Duplicate,

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. S. Jolley,

Marsh, Topog. Signal, Paine William County Ga. June 13, 1904

This signal is located on the edge of a large marsh on the West shore of Quantico Creek, opposite Wharf signal. Signal is comprised of a pole, 2x3x16 feet long supported by 3 brass cross ties and stakes. Signal has two lances and the usual notice of warning tacked to the pole.



Stephen Jolley  
Asst. C. S. Jolley

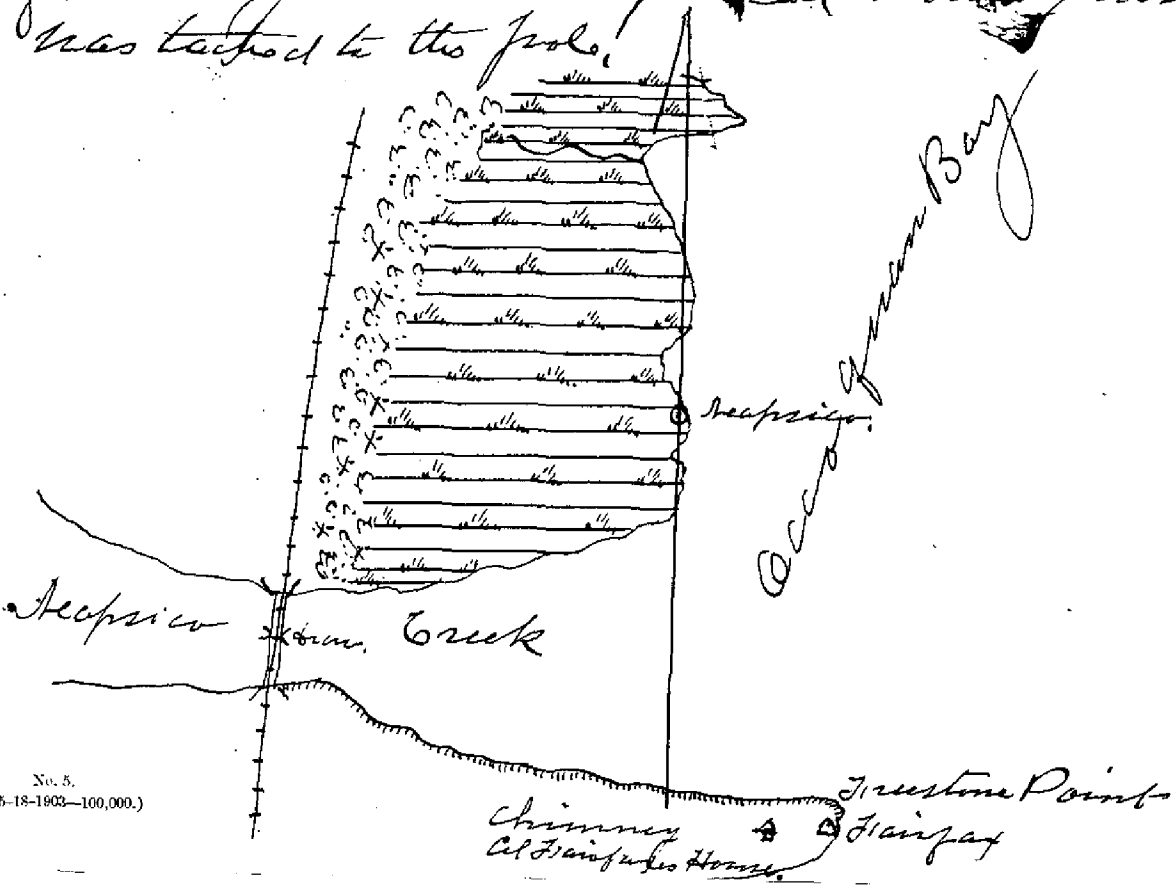


Duplicato  
Occoquan Bay, Va.  
Department of Commerce and Labor  
C. H. Sweeney

Neapsico Topog. Prince William County, Va. Sept. 2, 1904

This station is located at the edge of the marsh on the South shore of Occoquan Bay about 200 yards North of the entrance to Neapsico Creek.

Signal is comprised of a Pine pole 16 feet long 2" x 3". Spiked to a Cedar post driven in to the ground four feet on the edge of an old fish net-Captain's platform which is covered with loose brick bats. The post has an eight-penny wire nail driven in to the top which marks center of station. Signal pole is supported by three braces and stakes. The signal pole has 3 white lenses, two showing across the Potomac and one showing up and down Occoquan Bay. The usual painted notice of hoisting was tacked to the pole.



Duplicate,

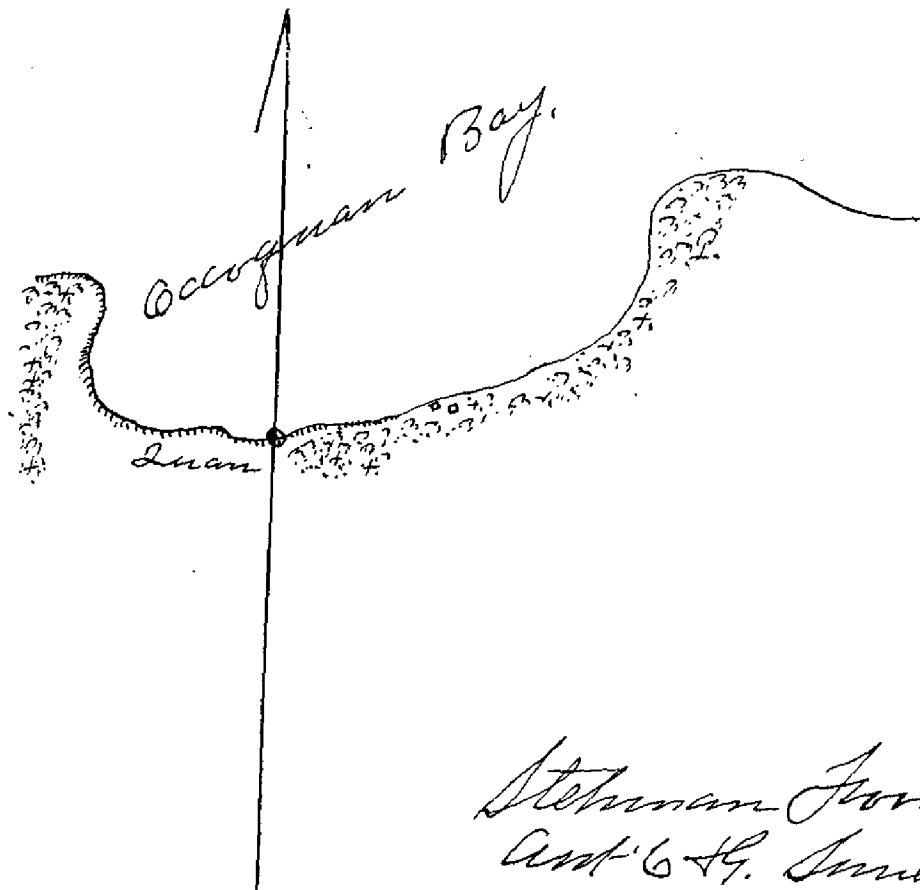
25

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. G. Survey,

Luan, Topog. Signal, Prince William County Va. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 1904

This signal is located on the West Shore of Occoquan Bay on a small bluff about 3 feet above H. W. Mark and 3 metres from the edge of the bluff. Station is marked by a Cypress Stake 3 feet long 2" diameter driven in to the ground 18" to which the signal pole is nailed. This pole has an eight penny nail driven in to the top. Signal pole has two white crosses on top at right angles. Pole is supported by three braces and stakes. Pole has the usual printed notices of warning tacked to it.



Stationary Survey  
Capt. C. G. Survey,

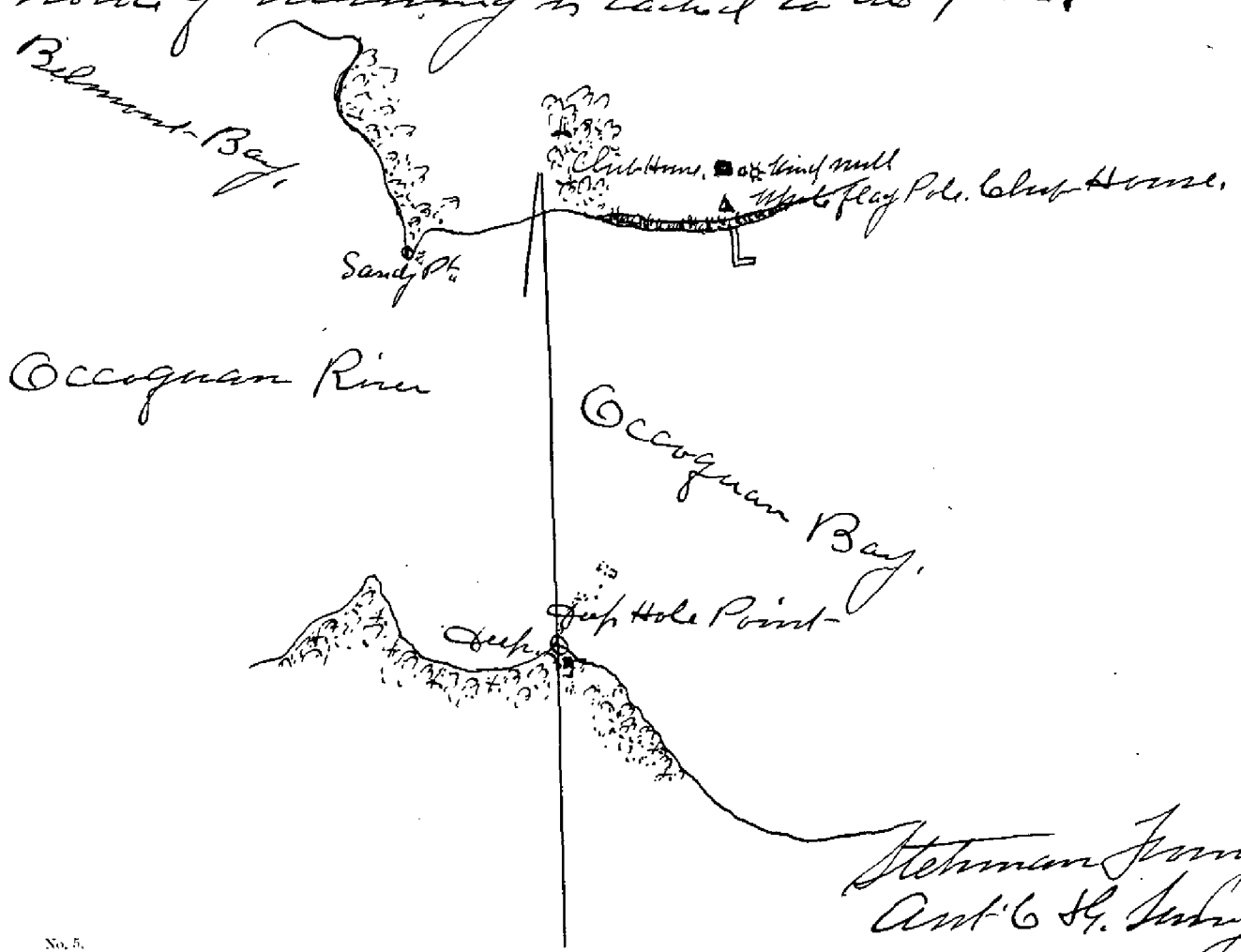
Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Joney.

Deep Topping Signal, Prince William Sound, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1904

This signal is located near High Water Mark on Deep Hole Point, on the south <sup>west</sup> shore of Occoquan Bay at the entrance to Occoquan River. The station is marked by a pine stake 4 feet long x 2" diameter driven in to the ground two feet. The stake has an eight penny nail driven in to its top. Signal is comprised of a pole 2" x 3" x 16 feet long nailed to the stake and supported by three braces and stays. The pole has three white bannages, and the usual notice of warning is tacked to the pole.



Stephen Joney  
 Ant. C. H. Joney

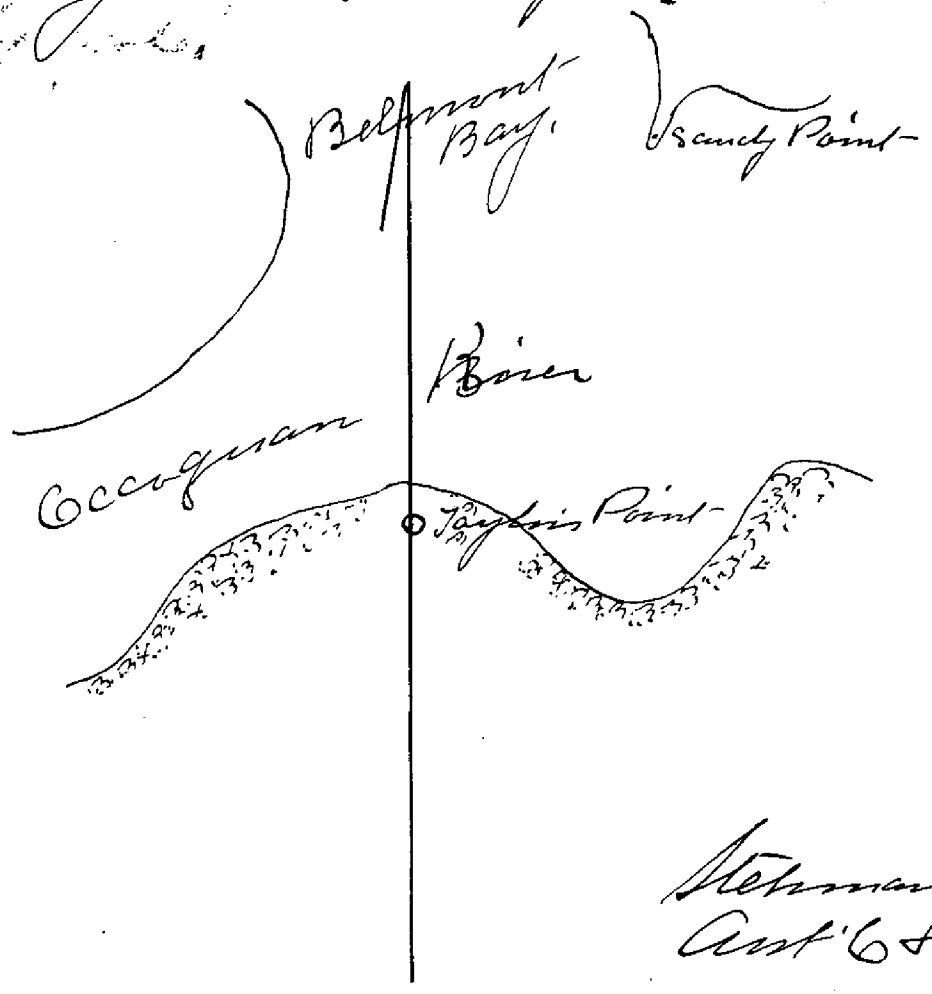
Duplicate.

Department of Commerce and Labor

C. G. Simey,

Taylor's Point, Prince William County Va., Sept. 3<sup>d</sup>, 1904.

This signal is located on the South Shore of Occoquan River, inside of the entrance, on what is known as Taylor's Point, about 20 metres inside of high water mark, in an open field. Station is marked with a sycamore stub 4 feet long 2" diameter driven three feet into the ground. The stub has an eight penny nail driven in to its top. Signal pole is 16 feet long 2" x 3" with two white bearings, supported by three trans & stakes. pole is nailed to the sycamore stub, the usual printed notice of warning is tacked to the pole.



Stevenson Simey  
 Asst. C. G. Simey

Duplicate  
Department of Commerce and Labor

C. H. Survey,

"Sandy Point-Topy" signal, Fairfax County Va Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1904

This signal is located on the extreme end of Sandy Point North Shore of Occoquan River at the entrance to Belmont Bay, and about 250 metres west of the Club House flag staff point. The Point is called "Sandy Point." Station is marked with an ash stub 4 feet long 3 inches diameter driven in to the ground 3 feet. Stub has a nail driven in to its top. Signal is comprised of a pine pole 2x3x16 feet long nailed to the stub and supported by 3 braces and struts. Signal has three white bunting. The usual notice of morning was hoisted to the pole. Station is between two piles of stumps, one on the extreme end of the point, and one inland and near the Station.

