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1905

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. A. Grassmann
Superintendent.

State: *N.C.*

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Top C Sheet No *2739*

LOCALITY:

Oracoke Inlet

1905

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. J. Vinal

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Department of Commerce and Labor,
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

O. H. TITTMANN, Superintendent.

Topography:

OCRACOCKE INLET, N. C.

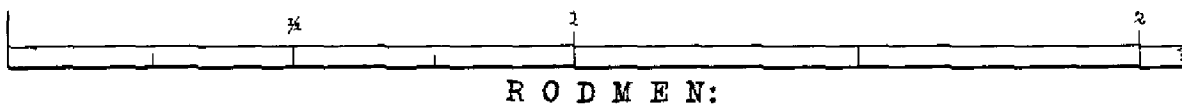
Survey by the party
in Charge of

W. Irving Vinal, Assistant.

1905.

1
Scale-----
20000

Statute Miles:



James E. Marsh, Mate.

John W. Clift, Chief Writer.

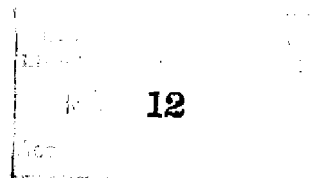
Department Of Commerce and Labor,

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

SCHOONER "MATCHLESS",

MARCH 7, 1906.

Mr. O. H. Tittmann,
Superintendent, C. & G. Survey,
Washington, D. C.



Sir:-

I have the honor to report with reference to the topographic survey made in the vicinity of Ocracoke Inlet, N. C., in the fall of 1905, as follows:

2. The area covered by this survey is approximately 2.5 square miles. It includes the southwest end of Ocracoke Island, ~~East~~ Island and the northeast end of Portsmouth Island, and shows the present condition of the town of Ocracoke and a portion of Portsmouth.

3. The shore line, when compared with that shown in former surveys, is very much changed- The point on the east side of the Inlet has been extended a distance of three fourths of a mile, and that on the west side has been diminished and changed in form to an equal, or greater, extent. The hurricane of 1899 caused great damage in this section, destroying houses, wharves and other property, decreasing the depth of the channels and opening new ones through the shifting sand.

4. The beaches, which are low and flat, are subject to overflow in easterly storms, but are protected to some extent by a narrow ridge along the ocean front- The land on which

2.

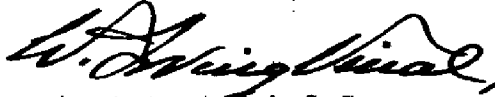
Vinal, Topographic Report, March , 1906.

the towns are built is but slightly elevated above the general level of the ocean beach.

5. Ocracoke has a population of about 750. The town is irregularly laid out, most of the houses being grouped about Cackle Creek, a pond affording harbor to boats drawing two or three feet of water. A short breakwater protects the entrance to this creek. A Light House and Life Saving Station are located in the town. Two or three small schooner s make trips each week to Newberne and Washington, N. C., Mails are received by way of Beaufort. There is no telegraph or telephone station here; messages are brought from the Hatteras and Portsmouth Life Saving Stations. The Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company has a good wharf at this place, and formerly employed a steamboat to run across Pamlico Sound. It is reported that the line will be reestablished next summer.

6. There are no wharves at Portsmouth and vessels cannot land there owing to the shallow water; merchandise and mails are transferred by small boats. The population has been greatly reduced since the storm of 1899 and is now about one-third as large as that of Ocracoke. A Life Saving Station is located here which is connected by telephone with Beaufort, N. C.

Respectfully yours,


Assistant, C. & G. Survey,

Commanding.