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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2749</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Virginia</i>
General locality	<i>vicinity</i>
Locality	<i>of Yorktown</i>
<u>1907</u>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>Fred A. Young</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	

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U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
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MAR 26 1907
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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

L. H. Tatham
Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2749*

LOCALITY:

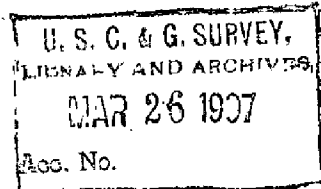
*Section from York Town to
North shore of Back River*

1907

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Frank A. Young

2749



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 not shown on the sheet south of the Half way house was covered by the Geological Survey, and I had orders not to duplicate their work.

The contours on the lower part of the sheet are not shown, as the Geological Survey ran a complete series of levels over the territory in question, and their contours would naturally be of more value than those determined by the plane table. The shore line of this sheet was transferred from sheet B.², as well as all wharves and points near the shore 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 inked in by Mr. L. D. Granger, and is practically completed with the exception of filling in the marsh line. There are no important topographic stations or triangulation points that are not shown on the shore line sheet No. 4.². As the sheet is not completely inked it was impossible to clean it properly.

Respectfully Submitted

Edw. A. Young
Assistant Topog. Engr.

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Acc. No. 1007
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FEB 28 1907

U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.
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FEB 28 1907
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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

C. H. Jittmann
Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *C²*

LOCALITY:

*From South shore of York
River to North shore of
Back River including shore
line of Poyassie River.*

1906

CHIEF OF PARTY:

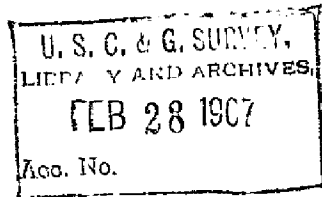
Fred. A. Young

2749X

The limits of this sheet are as follows

{Lat. 37-09} {37-14 3/4}
{Long. 76-33} {76-30}

{Lat. 37-05} {37-12 3/4}
{Long. 76-16} {76-13}



It extends from Yorktown Va. on the south bank of the York River to Missicks Point on the north bank of Back River, including within its limits, Wormly Creek, Pogonson River with all its numerous tributaries, and the shore line on the western coast of Chesapeake Bay from the south shore of the Pogonson River to the north shore of Back River. The work on this sheet shows simply the shore line and detail 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 Goodwins Island, and the small islands east of it to Ines Δ, was done by Assistant Wm. Bowie, my work beginning at a point about 1/4 mile south of Sandbox Δ on the west side of the Thoroughfare.

Before the plane table work was begun it was necessary to determine several triangulation ^{points} for the control of the topography in the vicinity of the Pogonson River. Using the line from

True Point Lt. Hr. to York Spit Lt. Hr. as a base.

The position of the following points were determined.

Poke Is, Drum Is. York Pt. Is, Hunt Is and Ben Is.

From these several other points were determined with the plane table, the most important of these being "Hawk" near York Point, which is a hawk's 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

"Lion" a hydrographic signal on the outer coast between the Pogonias River and Back River, which was erected by Assistant W. I. Vinal Comdg. G. B. S. Sch. Matehles.

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

All triangulation 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 south end of the sheet were furnished from the office.

The first work was done on Back Creek, the shores of which are quite thickly settled, the inhabitants being engaged in agriculture, oystering and fishing. There is a good deal of navigation on the creek by small boats, and Slate Wharf

is quite a shipping point, being used by sail and gasoline vessels that ply between that point and Old Point Comfort. From the mouth of Back Creek to York Point on the west shore of the Potomac, the shore is flat and marshy, with numerous pine 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. Smiths 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 shoal, and is nearly dry at extreme low water.

Wainwrights Wharf on the west side of the Potomac is now abandoned, and is in a bad state of decay.

The line of steamers that formerly ran up the Potomac from Norfolk was discontinued about six years ago, and the wharf has not been used since. Heron or Wormons Wharf on the opposite side of the river is still used by a Gasoline boat that makes triweekly trips to Old Point.

The saw mill at the mouth of Partridge Creek is also abandoned. The Poyrasin River terminates in a deep narrow slough, ^{with} marsh on both sides.

The character of the topography on all the creeks on the south west portion of the sheets are about the same as on Back Creek and Chusmans Creek.

The shore line for the most part has changed greatly since the last survey, especially in the vicinity of Hunts Wharf. I was informed by several different people that the former sites of orchards and fields are now well beyond the low water mark, and a comparison with the old sheet bears out this statement. Bennetts Creek consists of several different branches, and these have no distinctive names as far as I was able to find out.

"Lloyds Bay" or Pond east of the mouth of Bennetts Creek is well known as an oyster planting ground. On the Bay shore from the mouth of the Poyrasin 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. Poyrasin Flats as shown on the chart are known as Egg Island Flats, and the former name is not used at all, as far as I can find out. The same is true in regards to

Drum Island Flats which is known as Rat Island Flats. Plum Tree Island is much less in extent than it was formerly, and there is a shoal 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 shore line on this sheet is original work, though a portion of the marsh line that extends from the mouth of the Popovsain to Back River, was transferred from the old sheet.

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 Popovsain was controlled by triangulation points, while the different creeks were controlled by a plane table triangulation.

Respectfully Submitted.
 Fred. A. Young
 Assistant C. & G. Survey.