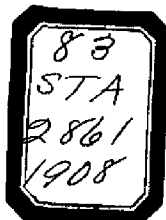


2861



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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

W. H. Tammann
Superintendent.

State: *md*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Type Sheet No. *2861*

LOCALITY:

Potomac River

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. Ferguson

2861

2861

Department of Commerce and Labor

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent

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 Browns IslandExtending in latitude from $38^{\circ} 16' N.$ to $38^{\circ}-30' N.$ and in longitude .. $76^{\circ} 22' W.$.. $76^{\circ} 32' W.$

Scale 1 : 20000.

From Oct. 7th to Jan. 20th 1908, Feb. 17th to April 11th and from July 30th to Aug. 20th 1908.Schooner *Matchless*.Topographers

O. W. Ferguson, A. B. Curtin, H. A. Seran, Jean H. Hewley

Fred B. T. Siems ~~also~~ also C. M. Leade & P. M. Ineborn, Deck Officers & C.

There are three Light-Houses on the limits of this sheet, namely, Cedar Point-Light-House at bay including the mouth of the Patuxent-River
2^d Drum Point-Light-House on point at the north side of the mouth of the Patuxent-River and 3^d Cove Point-Light-House on the northern confiner of this region.

The Patuxent-River is the dividing line between Calvert and St. Marys Counties, Maryland, Calvert lying on the north and St. Marys on the south-west side

The soil is free from stone, is of a silty nature or a mixture of very fine sand and clay. It erodes quite-generally and where light, the sand predominating it - washes badly.

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

The shores of the Patuxent-River are deeply incised 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 ten to 100 feet-high mostly showing abrupt-banks. From Cove 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-all 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 furnish 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 ridges and the dearest being favorite sites on the river.

Agriculture is followed quite generally and the returns are moderate in wheat, corn, poultry and fruit. ^{and but in tobacco, tomatoes also grow well} There are many people who reside near the river, or on its creeks, engaged in oystering, also many engaged in fishing. They say that more money is made at oystering and fishing than by farming but the appearance, I think, shows 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 Johnstown and Clinton, containing a population of about 600. The town contains a Bank, an express office via ^{M. D. & V. Ry Co's} Steamers; a Methodist, an Episcopalian and a Catholic Church; Supply Stores; 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 barreling fish both of which make fertilizer out of the remains and of the fish that can not be barreled. One fisherman, and the largest operator in town, Mr. Vale, last spring, caught in his fish ponds 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-office places quite conveniently for all sections.

I should mention that every year a good deal of lumber is shipped out of this region, to Baltimore and cities farther north; consisting of Oak Chestnut, pine and spruce and poplar. The chestnut is largely made into ties; the spruce furnish poles and piles and the poplar is for the paper mills. O. W. Ferguson.

ASST. Q. and G. S.

Com'd'g O. S. Schr. Matchless
Assistant:

NAUTICAL CHARTS BRANCH

SURVEY NO. T-2861

Record of Application to Charts

[illegible]

M-2168-1

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.

Applied to Cht. Comp. 553 9-2-42 K.R.