

241.



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

A. M. Sherrill, Superintendent.

State: *Wash. Terr.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *1799.*

LOCALITY:

Rosario Strait:

Nooksachk River.

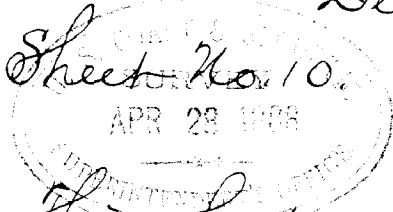
1887.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert.

Descriptive Report

Sheet No. 10. Nooksaeltk River, W. T.



This sheet extends the survey of the Nooksaeltk River nine miles above sheet No. 9.

The banks, of sand and mud, as far up as the Lemmi Slough are low, and overflow during high stages of the river.

Above Lemmi Slough the land is higher; the banks are clay, and there are numerous bars of sand and gravel.

One the bend $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Lemmi Slough is a riffle, which stops navigation when the river is low, known as "Fawes Riffle".

Ferndale, the only village on the sheet, is built on both banks of the river, 6 miles above its mouth. It is on the road leading from Whateem to Semialmoo, (which is known as the "N.W. Diagonal Road"); it is about nine miles, by road, from Whateem. It is a central trading point for farmers, being pretty regularly in communication with Whateem by steamer, and having tri-weekly communication by mail stage.

The population of Fındale I would estimate at about 30. Settled about 1860.

Twelve miles above Fındale is a larger and more thrifty village named Reyden. It has a Post Office, and is the head of navigation of the Nooksack. Settled in 1862 by Col James Patterson, (brother in-law of President Andrew Johnson)

This village is growing rapidly - & has a vote of 60. - It is near the Guide Meridian.

Six miles above Reyden is "Nooksack Crossing" another small village.

On the published chart, Sheet No. 684, there is a Post Office named "Cedar Grove". I have never heard of it, but am certain it is ~~not~~ on the Nooksack, at the point indicated, or elsewhere.

The lands along the Nooksack are of the best quality, and while covered with heavy forest trees of fir, Cedar, Maple and Cottonwood, they are now easily cleared than elsewhere on these Sound, waters.

The soil, a rich loam, produces all the crops & fruits of temperate latitudes.

The country is settling up rapidly, and this entire region, from Whateena to the Boundary will be the largest and richest body of agricultural lands, west of the Cascade Mountains; within the Territory.

Nooksack River formerly emptied through Lemmi Slough, into Lemmi Bay, North of Indian Island.

One of the Oldest Indians is authority for the statement, that within his memory, the River had but the one outlet, and that there was a much used Indian trail along the course of the present outlet, from Lemmi Slough to Lemmi Village:— That a great fresh caused the river to overflow its banks, and to cut a new channel across the marshes, following the course marked out by the trail.

Gradually the New channel grew until it became the larger of the two.

When the U.S. Snag boat operated on this River in 1886, it filled the outlet of Lemmi Slough with snags, and now, at low stages of the river no water enters the Slough.

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The above history accounts for a peculiar
feature of this river. - that the banks below
the outlet of the slough are much more
contracted than above.

J. J. Gilbert
Assist. A. G. Survey.