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**Locality**

State: Washington  
General locality: Washington  
Locality: Sound

**Chief of Party**

J.J. Gilbert

Library & Archives

Date
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Meridenhall. Superintendent.

State: Washington.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 1952.

LOCALITY: Washington Sound.

1889.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert.
Descriptive Report

Sheet No 1 1572

Washington Sound, Wash

1889.

J. J. Gilbert
Descriptive Report
Sheet No. 1
Washington Sound, Wash
1889

This sheet embraces the shores of Orcas Island from a point almost of N. Peasport Rocks, around through Obstruction Pass, to the entrance to East Sound, near A Range, and also Obstruction Island complete, and the larger portion of Blakeley Island.

By an error of memory, the tracing of the Sheet of 1888, of the N. E. part of Orcas Island, not being at hand, there is a gap of about 100 metres between the two sheets, as indicated by a broken line. This it was intended to fill next season. - The shore omitted is of the same irregular character as that contiguous to it, and is generally straight between the points.

Probably, the hydrography may fit it quite closely. The eastern shore of Orcas is principally rock, with reefs extending a short distance from the shore-line, it is broken frequently by small bays or bights, with gravel beaches. - None of
them of any great extent. On the West side of Owen there is mostly a narrow gravel and boulder beach, often broken by rocky points.

The shores of Abshire Island are rocky except on the inner side, where there is a gravel and boulder beach.

The N.E., East side of Blakely Island are mostly rocky, while on the west shore the beaches are clay and the beach gravel and boulder as far south as a Flat Rock. South of Flat Rock the shores are again rocky, only broken by the small, unnamed bay where there is a small saw mill, driven by water power from the lakes.
above it. The land is generally covered with trees, fir, except where the rock crops out, or comes too near the surface for vegetation to thrive. These rock cropings are everywhere on the back bone of the ridges and hills.

The Sheet embraces Obstruction Pass on the North and Peavine Pass on the South of Obstruction Is. Both Passes are good, and free from dangers. The former is used by steamers coming down the Strait for East Bound, while the latter is used by all others. Peavine Pass is straight while there is a turn to make going through.
Obstruction. There is a large light at each end of Obstruction Island. — That on the North serving to enter both passes. — That on the South serves especially designed to enter Reeve’s Pass.

There is a strong current through these passes running from Boppy Sound into Rosario Strait on a flood, and in the opposite direction on an ebb tide. During the summer season all dangers are marked by reefs which however the strong currents frequently carry under.

There are several reefs, indicated on the sheet in the deep light north of Obstruction Point, they...
only affect vessels seeking an anchorage or landing on the shores for produce.

A large reef just off the entrance to Blaine from the east, is awash at extreme high tides, it has been marked by the K.H. Board. With a barrel beacon, - Buck Bay, on the East Shore of Anacortes is very shallow, and has one or two reefs roll in, - indicated on the sheet.

The contours of Entrance Mountain are entered on this sheet, because it was only accessible from the South. A good photograph of the Mountain accompanies the report upon Sheet No 3.

Black Rock - Near the entrance to Sketchut Pass, in Rosario Strait is only two or three feet above high tides. The tidal currents are very swift. Estimated at about five miles an hour in strong tides. The tides generally through Rosario Strait, between Blakely and Cypress Islands.
are unusually strong, and in a strong wind the sea is very rough.

All the hills are of Rock—sandstone of a dark hue, and sometimes very hard and brittle. The valleys are generally fertile, and settlers have commenced making homes there. The timber is mostly fir, and generally smaller than on the Main Land. There is a lake partly represented on Sheet No. 1 and partly on Sheet No. 3, which furnishes the water power for the Saw Mill in Cascade Bay. There is another and larger lake which I was not able to reach. It lies between Mt. Constitution and Mount Rainier hill, and to the Southward, its natural outlet is to Puget Sound. But a ditch turns some of the overflow into the other lake, in order to increase the water supply for the Saw Mill. These are two lakes on Blakely Island, both
My dear, the upper lake discharges into the lower, and both furnish water for the saw mill.

The contours are largely sketched. Heights were determined by acts, and slopes sketched in by the eye; the appearance changing from every point of view, it is not claimed that these curves are exactly approximately correct, but they give a general idea of the way the land lies. To attempt to trace curves with even approximate accuracy would require one whole season for each sheet. All roads were run out, and contours carried into the hills where a practicable route could be found.

J. J. Gilbert

St. Augustine Barr
May 22, 1890.