

1953

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Topographic*
Field No. _____ Office No. *1953*

LOCALITY

State *Washington*
General locality _____
Locality _____

1889
194

CHIEF OF PARTY

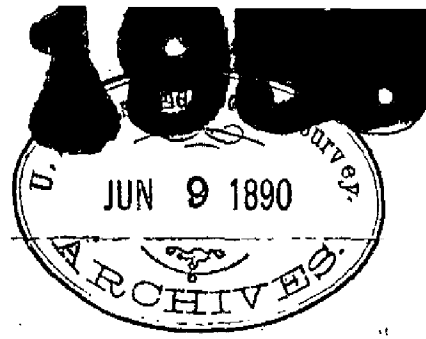
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

S. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: *Washington*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *1953*.

LOCALITY:

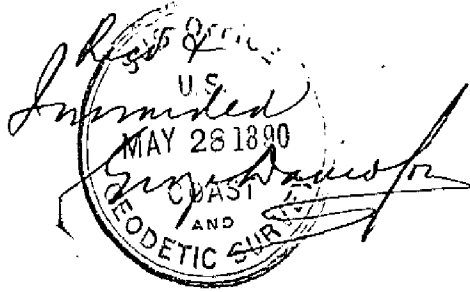
Washington Sound.

1889.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert.

1953



Descriptive Report

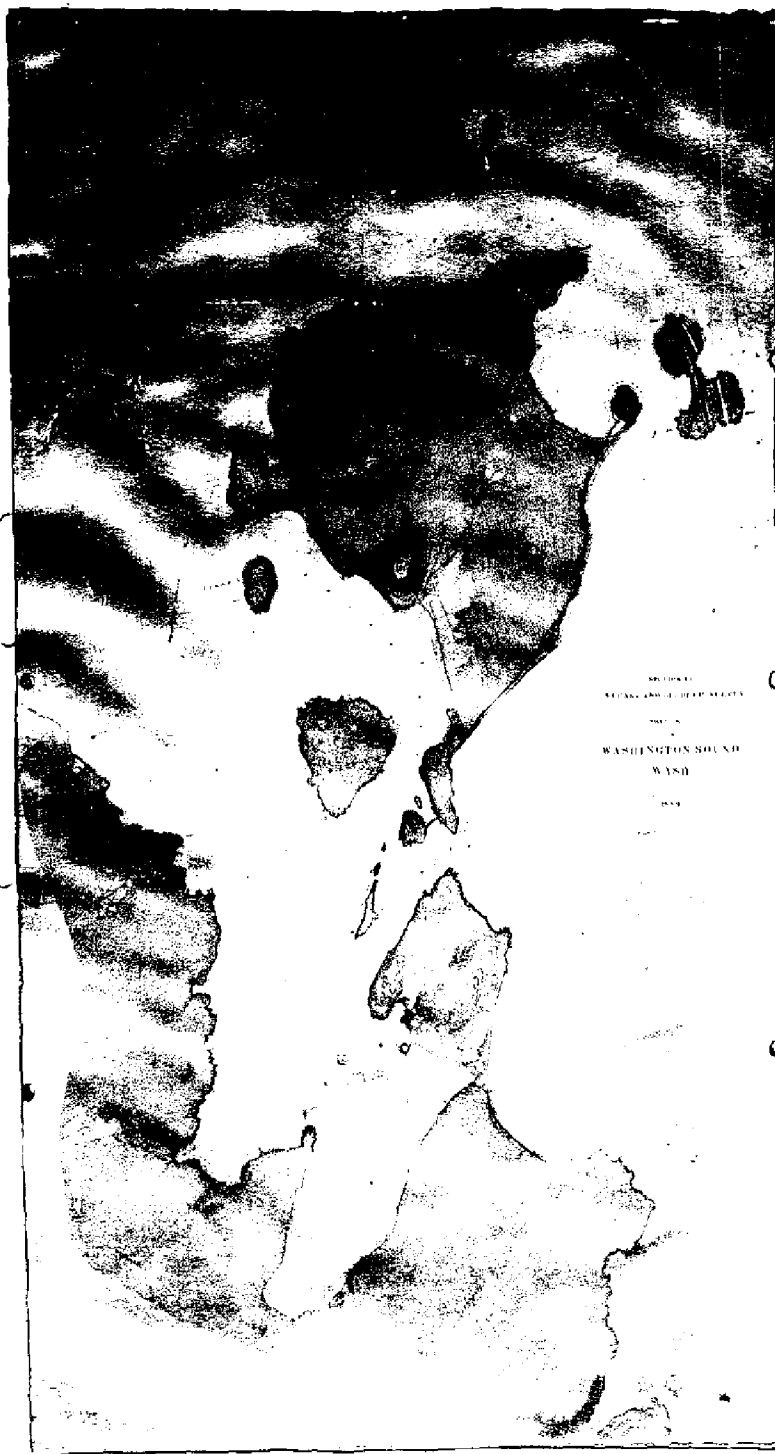
Sheet No. 2

Washington Sound, Wash

1889

J. J. Gilbert

Descriptive Report
Sheet No. 2.
Washington Sound, Wash
1889.



This sheet embraces the South end of Blakely Island, All of Decatur, Janus, Frost, Lower Tomup, Center and Ram Islands, and the shores of Lopez Island from Lopez Pass south to S. E. Angle of the Island on Rosario Strait Side, and from the Pass around the head of Lopez Sound to a point near Station Rock, also Frost & Willow Islands, and a number of

Small rocky islets, in all nearly 50 miles of
shoreline. The general characteristic of the
shoreline is rock, and of the land, timber.
The rock is sandstone, and shows many marks
of the planing process of icebergs or glaciers.



This photograph is of the rocks on the NE part
of Flower Island. But the same markings are
seen every where, from Lopez Pass to Boulder Id.
On all the small islands & rocks, and along the
west shore of Lopez Sound. Probably the most
conspicuous are at Δ Furrow, where the grooves

are cut very deep, as much as 10 feet. Another characteristic of these markings is that they appear most conspicuously on the East and N.E. faces of all the shores.

Another evidence of glacial action is the very frequent occurrence of erratic boulders, of hard light gray or white granite, of all sizes from a house down to a cobble stone. These are not confined to the shore-line, but are found inland, on the lower portions of the islands.

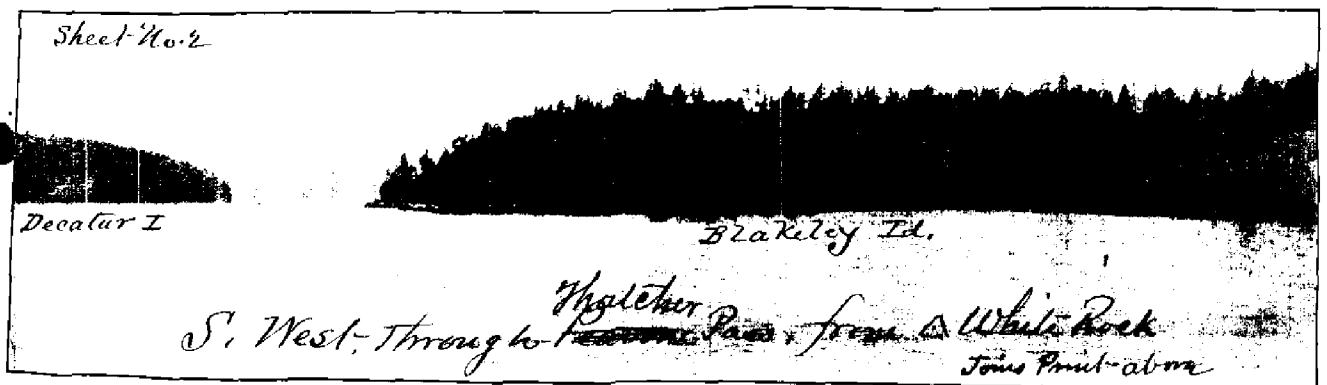


In this view from Decatur N.E. the markings are seen on the rocks in the foreground.

Shoreline. The shoreline of Blakely is rocky generally, but there are several gravel & boulder beaches, as represented. There are no shoals or dangers near the shore so far as discovered.



The S. W. end of the Island as seen from White Rock, in Thatcher Pass is represented in the two prints on this page, - the second taking the N. W. point of Decatur Island.



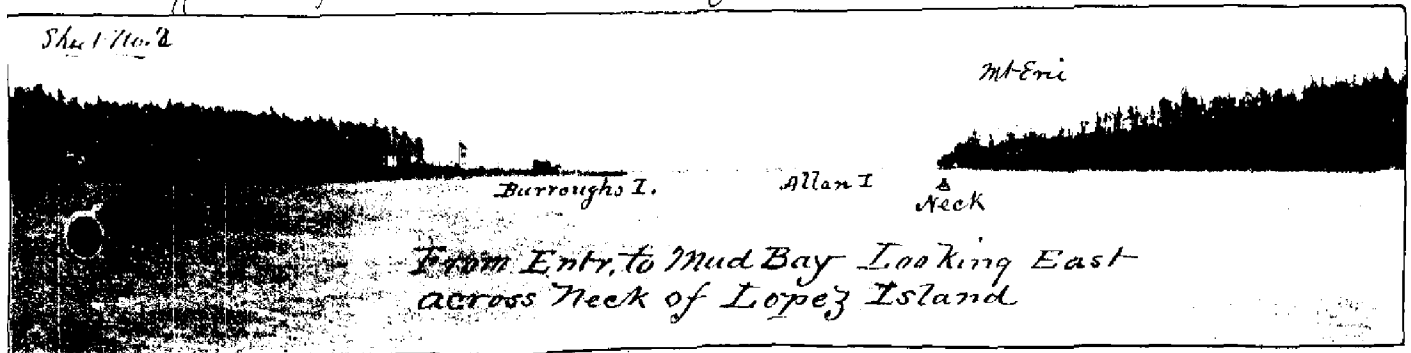
Decatur Island is rocky from the Bay N. of Decatur Head, around through Thatcher Pass to Reeds Bay - Except in the deep bight So. of

to Prof. George Davidson,

Trump Island has bold shores, and is covered, not densely, with timber, it is also of Sandstone formation. Center Island is rocky on west side & has a beach partly gravel & partly mud on the east. - The water is quite shallow between Center Island and Dicator, - About 6ft at low tide, and the bottom covered with grass.

The chain of small Islands at Lopez Pass is all rock - a few trees on the two larger.

The N.E. Point of Lopez is rock - south toward the Neck. The neck is gravel & quite narrow. Evidently a channel formed a separate Island of the portion north of it - at some time.



There is a deep bight or bay in the Rosario Strait-shore at this point, with good anchorage near the shore, and no dangers were discovered. From this Bay south to limit of sheet the shores are rocky. Boulder Island is bare, it was

Dreatic Bay is shallow, and there are several large boulders. Covered at high tide, in the deepest part of the bend, - there may be others submerged at all tides, - There is good anchorage in any part of the bay.

Willow Island is a bold rock, with a few willow trees in one bay, and a few scattering firs. - There is no beach.

Frost Island is rocky, it lies only 60 or 80 metres off the end of Spencers Spit, but the channel through between the spit and island is deep. - Not less than 8 fms. - The shores of the

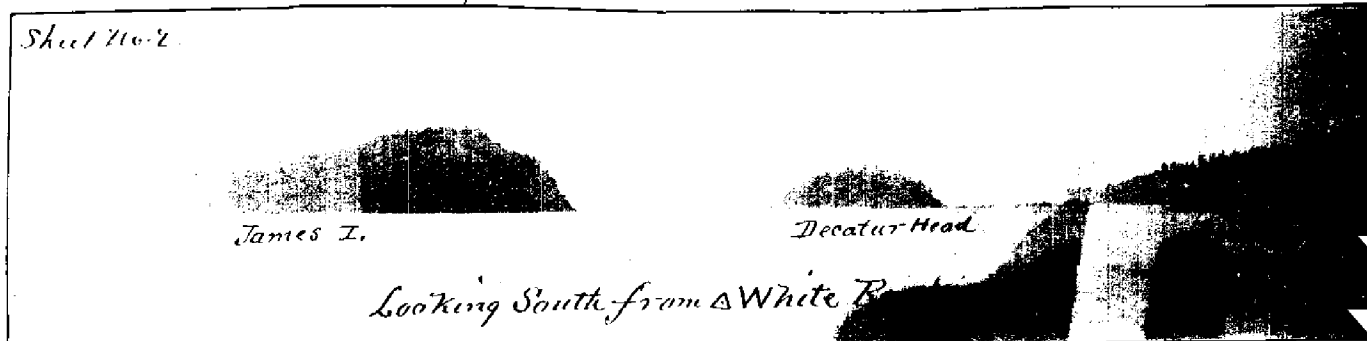
Sketch No. 2



Flower Island, with bold rocky shores, is almost bare rock - a few trees on the low point at NW part. Near the top in a glacial groove filled with soil are some scrub oaks, having a tendency to trail along the ground like Vine Maple. - it appears to be a new variety not hitherto described in any of the books. Specimens were sent

△ Cliff, where there is a beach. In Reeds Bay the water is shallow, and there is a wide gravel beach.

The land between Reeds Bay and the Strait is low, and much of it improved. On the East Side of Decatur, Except Decatur Head, which is rock. The land is clay & loam, from the Bay North of Decatur Head, (which may be named Decatur Bay.) to the Narrow Neck near South end of Island, About half way along is a high broken bluff - from this bluff South the beach is sandy - Northward it is boulder & gravel.

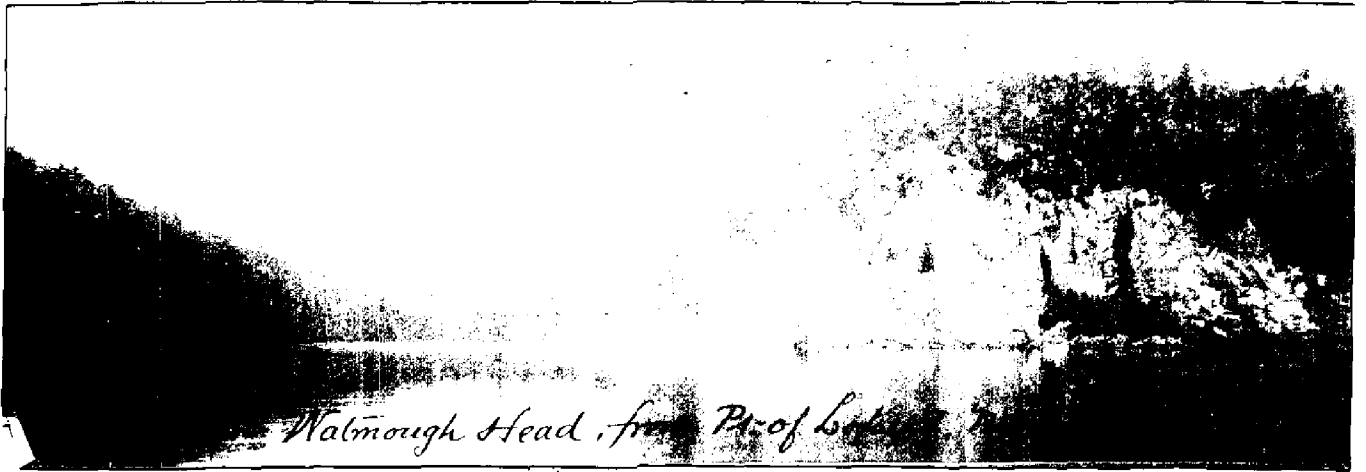


The South end of the island is rocky, both shores. James Id is a mass of rock with two principal bays, which cut it nearly in two. There is an anchorage in the bay on the North side. The water is very bold all around James Island, and the currents very strong.

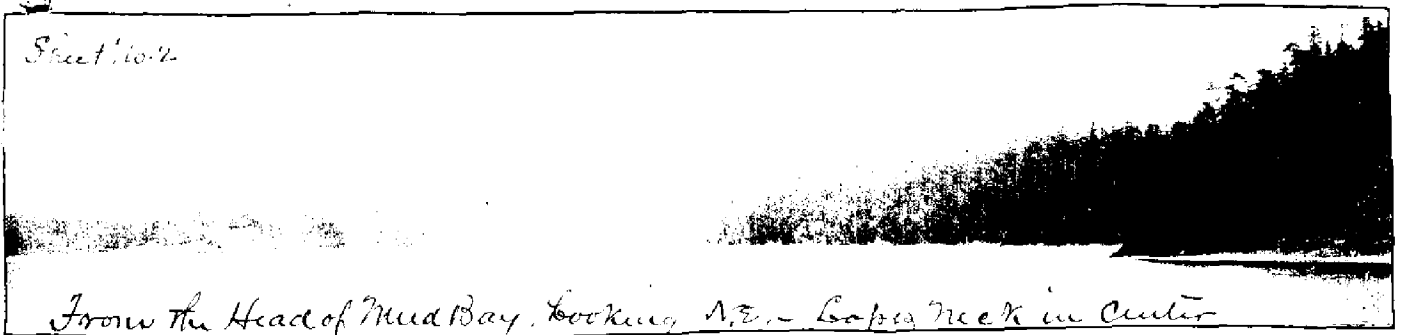
Decatur Head is rocky, and connects with the main island by a low gravel spit.

named by Assist. Geo. Davidson in 1854, from a number of erratic boulders on its slope, it is a mass of sandstone.

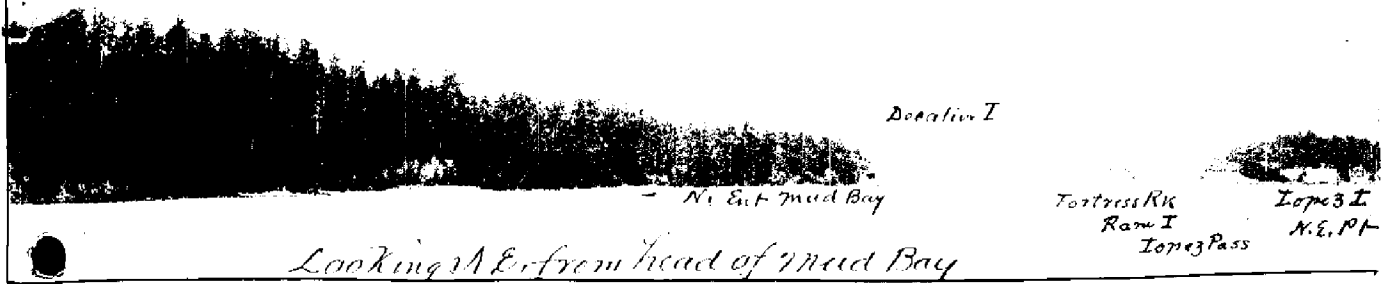
Watumough Light, is shallow near the head, it affords good anchorage at all times in 4 to 8 fms. Watumough Head is very steep toward the light, is 460ft high, and its character is well represented in the print.



Mud Bay, at the head of Lopez Sound is very shallow, and the steam launch could not get within less than a mile of the Head at low tide.



Sheet No. 2



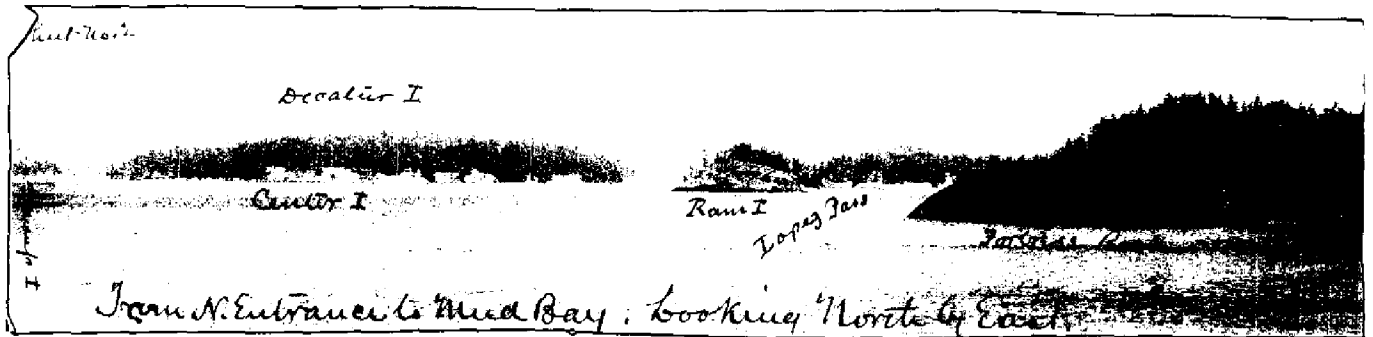
A wagon road from the South end of the island to Lopez Id P.O., passes close by the head of Mud Bay.

Sheet No. 2

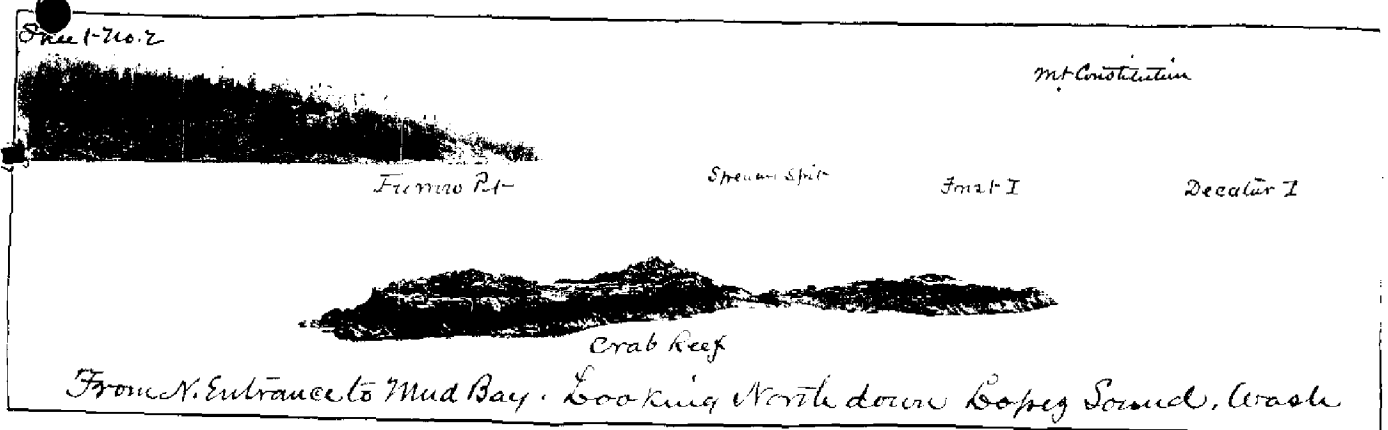


Lopez Pass is free from danger, and the water deep. Vessels can go either side of the chain of islands inside entrance, only keeping clear of the kelp. There is a dangerous reef off the S.W. part of Outer Island, only bare at extreme low tides, it is quite near the island, but vessels in these bold waters would naturally run very near to it - entering Lopez Sound through Lopez Pass. - One steamer the Phenomenon

ran upon it a year or two ago. Another reef
 in Mud Bay, which I called Seal reef, because
 of the great number of seals using it for a roost,
 would be dangerous if vessels had occasion to
 run near it, it is only bare at low water,
 with deep water all around it.

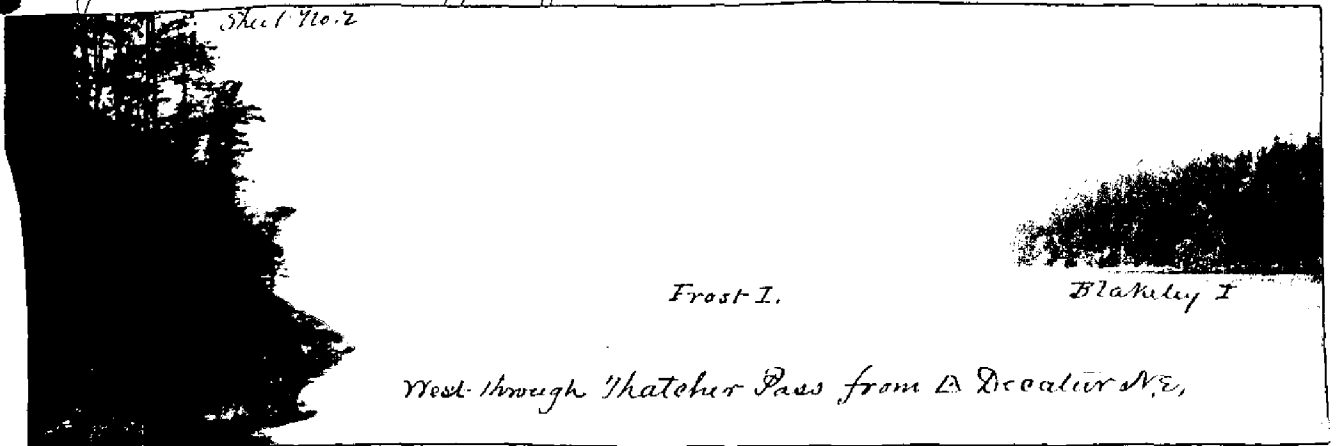


There is a rock covered at $\frac{3}{4}$ tide off the Bluff
 on Dreatur Island. - it is indicated on the Sheet. -
 it is not marked by keels, and is a danger
 to small vessels running along them at high
 tide. I found 4 fms or more inside of it. - It
 is not improbable that other sunken rocks are near.



Lawsons Reef, in Thatetur Pass is known

It is visible only at extreme low tides, and during the season is surrounded by a dense mass of kelp. - it is a serious danger at night, but a careful navigator will always give it plenty of room.



Off the North End of Flower Island are a number of rocks covered at high tide. - There is a deep Channel West of Flower Island. - I could find no anchorage in 12 fms on the west side of the island.

There is much good land on Lopez Island between the Neck and Watough Head, some of which is improved, but most of that portion of the island represented on Sheet No 2, is rocky and covered with fir timber.

The curves are nearly accurate where they cross the roads, and on Watough Head, and a few other hills where it was feasible to run the table.

But the greater portion are sketched and do

not pretend to even approximate accuracy,
they merely indicate the general appearance
and direction as well as heights of the hills and
valleys. The tides run swiftly through the
Passes. - Flood tides coming from Rosano Strait
and Vice Versa. - These conditions are reversed
at Peavino Pass, Sheet No. 1.

J. J. Gilbert
Assist

