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APR. 8. 1897

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*W. W. Huffield*, Superintendent.

State: *Washington.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographical* Sheet No. *2301.*

LOCALITY:

*Washington Sound,  
Washington.  
Pear Point to  
Eagle Point.*

1897

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*J. J. Gilbert, Asst.*

*copy  
No. 2301.*

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
WASHINGTON SOUND  
PART OF SAN JUAN ISLAND  
WASHINGTON

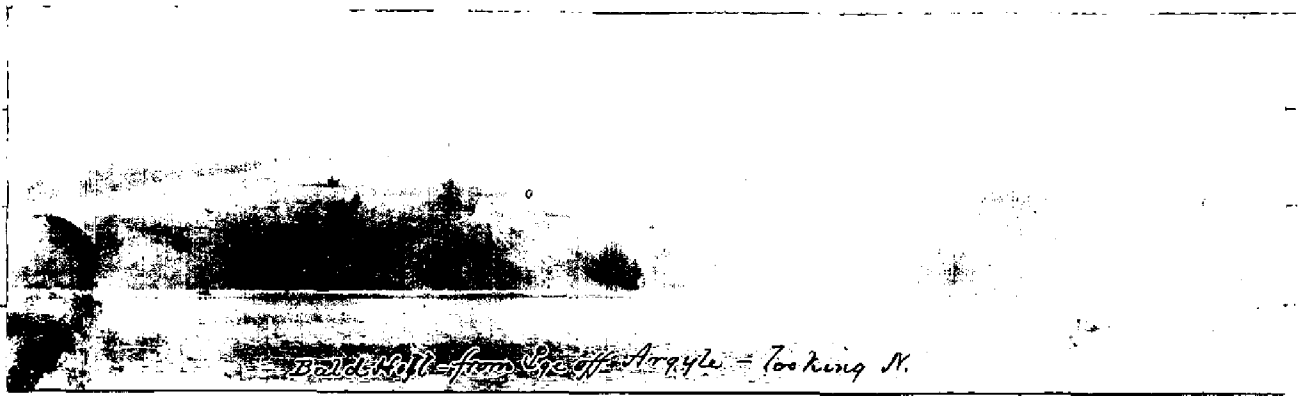
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Sheet No. 12, 1897

Topography of Washington Sound, Wash.

This sheet embraces the shore-line of San Juan Island from Bear Point, around Cattle Point to Eagle Point. In 1895 the survey was extended to a point about half or two thirds of a mile beyond (westward of) Bear Point, but as there were no stations in sight after turning Bear Point, and I feared there there might be some error of direction, and also because I found at low tide two rather dangerous reefs near Bear Point. I therefore began the topography at Bear Point, and made a new survey of the shore-line to westward. The shore-line for about one mile from Bear Point is rocky, with no very extensive reefs, after leaving the point, while the land is wooded except along shore. One mile west of Bear Point is a noticeable bluff, about 200 feet high, in the face of Bald Hill, it is visible from all parts.

of Griffin Bay, and Entrance to San Juan Channel. The view taken from anchorage between Argyll and Dinnis Island, shows the bluff, but not very distinctly.



Westward from the bluff is a long gravel spit, probably composed largely of material from the bluff. The spit extends to a small island, rocky and bare, and then makes an acute angle toward the shore. The spit encloses a large lagoon, which owing to the shallow outlet never runs bare.

There is a shallow bay to westward of the small island and spit: most of it is bare at low tide.

Argyll is on the rocky point 500 metres S.W.

from the small island. The Bay north of Argyle is a fair harbor with good holding ground.



Argyle from Sea

Argyle is the Post-Office for all the south end of the island. There is a wharf shown in the view, a small country Store, a flouring mill, not now in operation, and four or five residences within about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. On some of the C. & G. S. Charts Argyle is erroneously located at Mulus Cove,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles South of its true position.

The mail Steamers touch here daily, going to and from Port Townsend.

The anchorage at Argyle is partly protected in S. E. weather by Dinner Island which lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S. E. from Argyle. This is a small rocky island sparsely covered with

trees, about 45 feet high, off the south end are extensive reefs, which however are well



defined by kelp. There is a channel between the island and San Juan, which appears to be free from all dangers except the reefs on each side of it which are shown on the maps. The view of Dinner Island was taken from the anchorage of the launch, about half way between the island and Argyle.

The view on the next page was taken from the same position and shows the reefs and shoreline south of Argyle, and west from Dinner Island. All the reefs seen in the view are covered at high tide, the largest one, where the

party is seen at work is only covered a



Shore-line and reefs at low tide, South of Argyll. - from S. off Argyll.

few inches. Between these reefs on the west-  
and Dimer Island and its reefs on the east is  
a clear channel, but it has no depth, - about  
12 feet at low tide.

From Dimer Island southward are a number  
of bays or coves which have not heretofore been  
named. I have named them from the people  
living there.

Memfild Bay is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S.W. from Dimer Island.  
Except some reefs on the north side it is free from  
dangers, and affords summer anchorage for  
small craft. The shores are all rocky.

Mulus Cove, is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile South of Memfild Bay.

It is well protected, especially under the South Entrance. - A winter stream empties here, and the head of the bay is shallow.

Jansen Bay is S.W. from Milnes Cove nearly one mile. The west-point of the Bay is Bow Point.

This little bay is quite shallow, and the protection from wind is poor, but it seldom gets rough.

To the North and West from Bow Point are extensive patches or fields of kelp, but I failed to discover any reefs among them.

One half mile S.W. from Bow Point is Half Tide Reef. - The name does not appear appropriate, for it shows above high tide, just a few points of rock; - at low tide an extensive reef is visible.

Two hundred metres S.E. from Half Tide Reef is a small reef which is bare only at extreme low tide. - A schooner named the Hope once struck on it, and gives it a name.

One half mile S.S.W. from Half Tide Reef is



another dangerous reef, it shows three feet above tides at lowest water. The steamer "North Pacific" struck on this rock several years ago.

From Low Point southward the shore line is low and curves to the eastward, there is a broad gravel spit all the way to Fish Creek, and the water along shore is shallow.

At a point on the shore line 2100 metres S.W. from Low Point, and nearly due south from North Pacific Rock is the remnant of an old wharf. It did not reach out to low water mark. This wharf was used to land passengers and freight during the occupation of the island by the military. The road from this old wharf runs to the site of the American garrison, which was on the summit of the Barr hill to westward.

The old fort was on the crest of the hill, 210 feet above the level of the sea. The outline of the old earth works is still well marked. Two of the buildings used as officers quarters remain, and also some

of the old barracks. These old barracks buildings were originally put up by the Hudson Bay Co. - which had a post located here. - They are peculiar in that they were built without nails, - the siding being dovetailed into the studding.

Half a mile east of the old wharf in Griffie Bay, is a good sized lagoon. - apparently the water in it is quite deep, and a row boat can enter it at high tide. We discovered some Oysters in this lagoon, and concluded they must have been planted there. - The entrance is quite narrow, as a gravel spit extends nearly across the opening.

Half a mile further east is another very shallow lagoon behind a gravel spit.

Offshore between these lagoons is the anchorage for vessels seeking shelter in Griffie Bay during stormy weather.

Between the second lagoon and Fish Creek are two rocks showing above tide, and connected with

the shore by reefs at low tide.

Fish Creek is hardly an appropriate name for the long narrow bay  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile NW. from the second lagoon. It is in no sense a creek, as no water flows into it from the land. It is about 100 metres wide and 400 metres long, and safe to enter.

The water at entrance is a little shallower than it is further in. At low tide there are six or seven feet at the entrance. - The head of the bay for 100 metres is shallow.



Camp West Side of Fish Creek, San Juan Id.

My camp during the season was on the South Side of this bay, where I found perfect protection

for steamer, and boats in all weathers. The view of camp was taken from across the bay.

The high hill in background is Mt. Fairlayson.

The land is low from the head of Fish Creek across to the little bay behind Goose Island. And at some time in past ages the "Creek" extended through, and the peninsula to north of Creek was an island. This peninsula is covered with forest, with the rock cropping out in many places.

About 600 metres north from the entrance to Fish Creek is Harbor Rock, a small rocky islet 150 metres off the point. It rises 8 or 10 feet above the tides, and is entirely bare. The space between Harbor Rock and the point is filled with reefs. Some of them showing above low water. - There appear to be no reefs outside of Harbor Rock.

From Harbor Rock the trend of the shore is S.W. to a point, named on British Charts, Neck Point.

This is a rocky point, connected to the main

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island by a low gravel neck - it has been an island at some time.

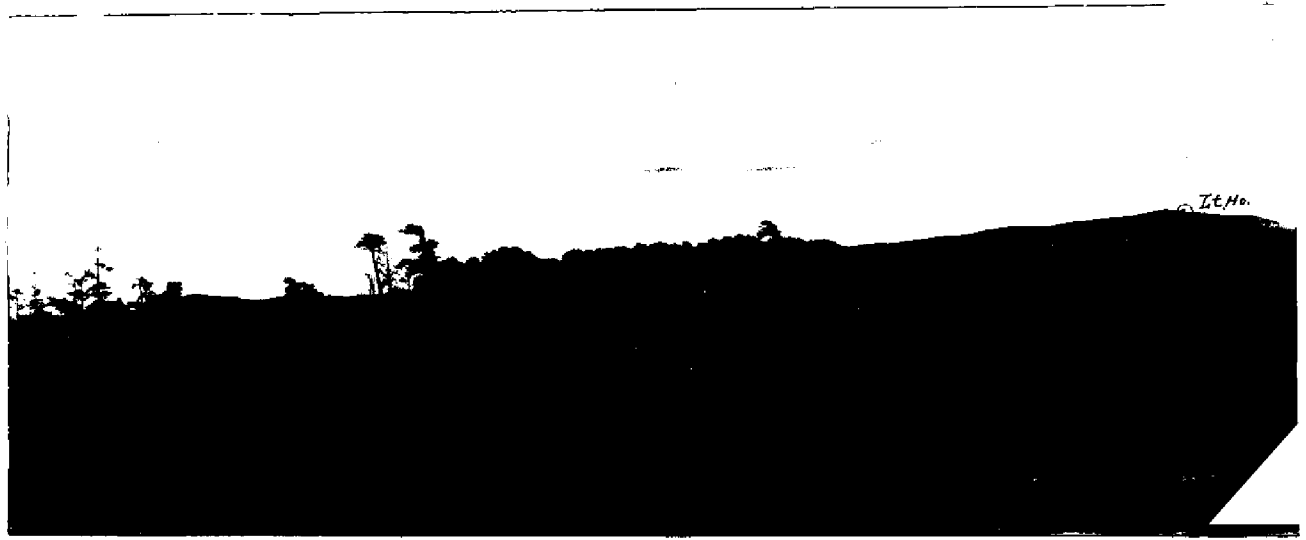
Half a mile S. by W. from Neck Point is Goose Island, lying 350 metres off shore. Behind it is a small bay with sandy beach. - At low tide a long gravel spit at S. end of sandy beach extends nearly out to the island. Small steamers often run between the island and shore, at high water, to avoid the strong currents. Goose Island is a bare rock.

Half a mile S.W. from Goose Island is Cattle Point, probably named because it was pasture ground for the stock of the Hudson Bay Co.

This is a bold point 80 feet high, the bluff is rocky at the base and a sort of cement above the rocks, while on top it is sandy.

There is here a small wooden box which I have hesitated to call a Light-House, as the lantern is of the kind used for stake lights. - The prairie which begins at this point extends all the way

to the old Garrison, something like three miles.



I insert this view taken from Mt Finlayson, as the foreground shows the point from the interior.

Mt Finlayson is one of the land marks, useful in navigating these waters. This view of it

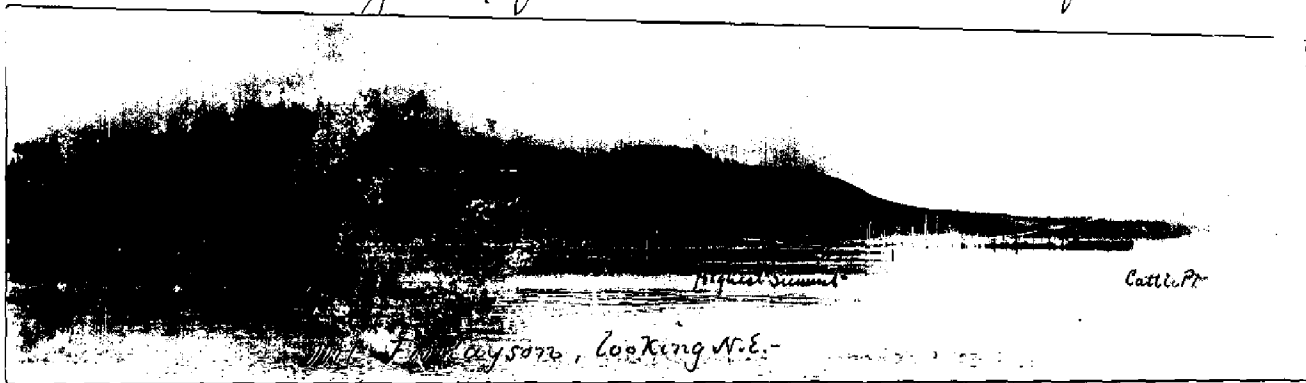


View - S.W. from bluff in Davis Bay, Lopez Id. - Cattle Pt and Mt Finlayson in distance

was taken from a bluff in Davis Bay, Lopez Id.

The hill has two principal summits, - The trees grow nearly or quite to the Summit on the North side while the South face is prairie,

The height of Mt Foulayson is given on the British Charts as 550 feet, which is an error, as I made it only 297 feet, which cannot be far out of



the way. This view was taken from the Steamer, looking N.E., -

From Cattle Point the shore line trends a little north of west, and there is a broad gravel beach for about two miles, for the first mile there is a nearly perpendicular bluff of gravel & cement.

at the highest point, under Mt Foulayson it is 120 feet high. This bluff is but imperfectly shown in the print.

From the end of the Gravel beach to Eagle Point, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles, the shore is rocky, and very irregular, while it is generally nearly straight

Just east of Eagle Point is Eagle Cove, - a small bay without protection, not suitable for landing except in quiet weather.

The next little bay eastward from Eagle Cove is a place used as a landing for Indians, the rocks in the bay affording some shelter, on the bluff are some Indian houses which are occupied during the Salmon season.

This landing was also used in early days by the Hudson Bay Co. whose station was but a short distance back.

Between Eagle Point and Cattle Point are a number of Fish traps, they are shown on the sheet although I did not take the time to locate them with the exactness I should have used if they were of a more permanent character.

A large percentage of the piles go out every winter, and are replaced in the spring, but not often in the same place and shape.



These piles are driven in pretty deep water,  
 sometimes as deep as 8 fathoms... being in

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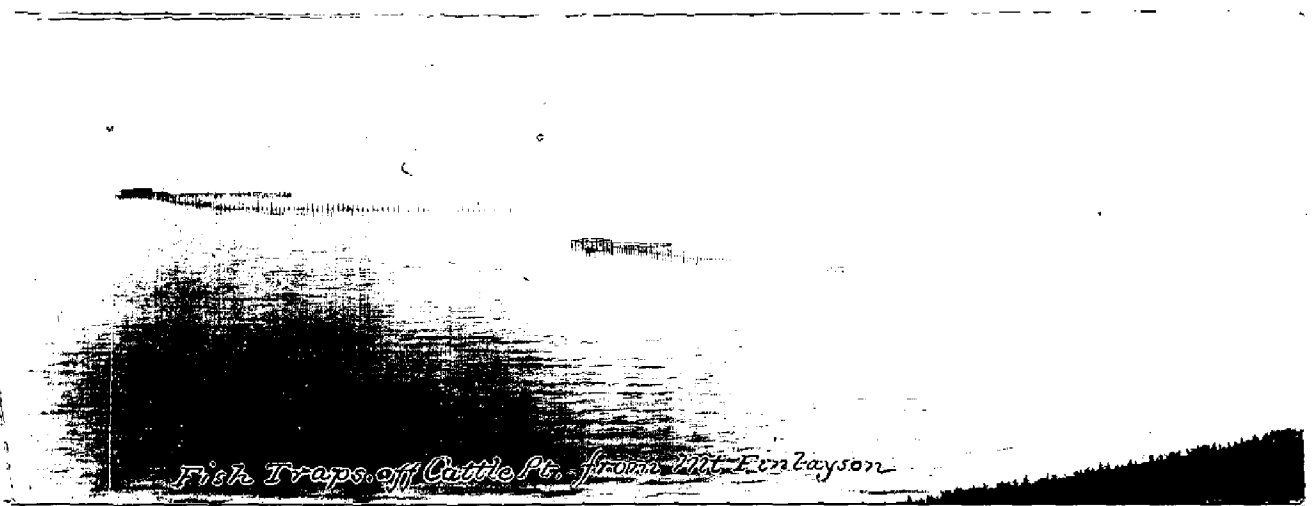


Such deep water, they suffer more or less from every  
 summer storm, and the pile-driver may be seen  
 making repairs nearly any day. in the picture  
 above it is seen under tow. The view as well  
 as that on the next page, is taken from near the  
 top of Mt. Inlayson, it shows two traps, at the left,  
 quite near to shore, and others at a distance.

The most distant are one mile or more off shore.

The view on page 13 also shows other traps, to  
 the westward of those shown in these last two  
 views.

This last view shows probably the largest trap.



of all, it is irregularly curved and has a "pot" at each end, it is half a mile long.

The fish taken in these traps are sent to canneries at Anacortes, Friday Harbor, and Vancouver B.C.

There are large kelp patches to the southward of Cattle Point, they are in rather deep water, and I did not find any reefs amongst them.

The same is true of the kelp fields between Neck Point and Harbor Rock.

The interior, represented is largely under *Cultivation*.

J. J. Gilbert

Assist. C. G. Searcy