U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

A. M. Thorne, Superintendent.

State: Wash. D. C.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 1799.

Locality:
Rosario Strait;
Hook's Ranch River.

1857

Chief of Party:
J. J. Gilbert.
Descriptive Report

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

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

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

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

One and three-fourths miles below Lummi Slough is a riffle, which stops navigation when the river is low, known as "Jawes 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 Whatcom to Semiahmoo (which is known as the "H.W. Diagonal Road"); it is about nine miles by road from Whatcom. It is a central trading point for farmers, being pretty regularly an
Communication with Whatcom by steamer, and having triweekly Communication by Mail Stage.
The population of Timdale I would estimate at about 30. Settled about 1860.

Twelve miles above Timdale is a larger and more thriving village named Lynden. It has a Post Office, and is the head of Navigation of the Nooksaekk. Settled in 1862 by Col. James Patterson, (brother in-law of President Andrew Johnson).

This village is growing rapidly. Last a vote of 60. It is near the Guide Meridian.

Six miles above Lynden is Nooksaekk 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 Nooksaekk, as the point indicated, or elsewhere.

The lands along the Nooksaekk are of the best quality. And while covered with heavy forest trees of fir, cedar, maple and cottonwood, they are more easily cleared than elsewhere on these Sound waters.

The soil, a rich loam, produces all the crops, fruits of temperate latitude.
The country is settling up rapidly, and this entire region, from Whidbey 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 Lummi Slough into Lummi 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 Lummi Slough to Lummi 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 steadied the outlet of Lummi Slough with buoys, and now, at low stage, of the river no water enters the Slough.
The above history accounts for a peculiar feature of this river, that the banks below the outlet of the Slingh are much more contracted than above.

J. Gilbert
Assistant C. G. Survey.