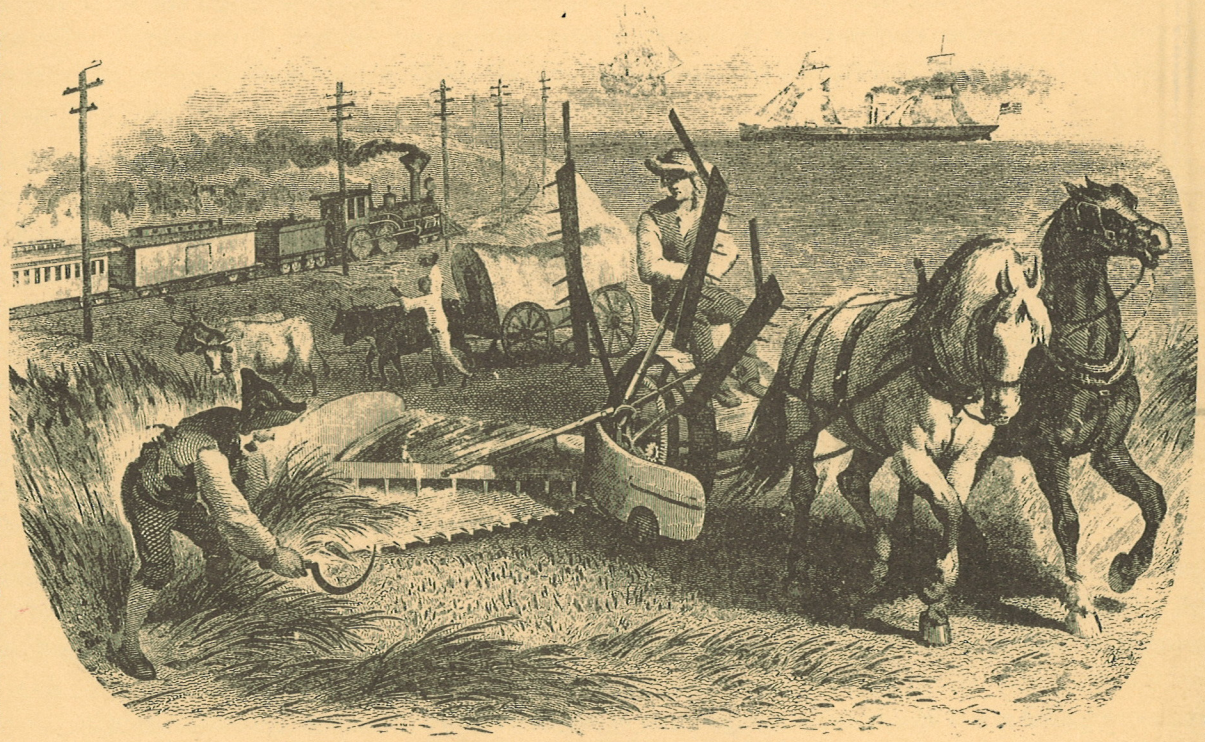
National Ocean Survey
WASHINGTON



1776-1976

Catalog of Early Nautical Charts

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / National Ocean Survey

INTRODUCTION

The birth of America and the development of the lifelines of commerce necessary to sustain the vast dimensions of the continent have depended greatly on accurate cartographic products. History as revealed by maps and charts has shaped human behavior and values of American industry. It is therefore particularly appropriate that as we celebrate the Republic's two-hundredth anniversary as a nation recognition be given to charting as a cornerstone to the growth of commerce.

In 1807, President Thomas Jefferson, in his message to the Congress, recommended the establishment of a national "Survey of the Coast," and this recommendation was implemented by the Act of February 10, 1807. Thus was born the nations first cartographic bureau. When the Survey began its hydrographic work, the shoreline of the country included only the strip along the Atlantic coast comprised of about 15,000 statute miles. Ferdinand R. Hassler, an engineer and professor of mathematics, immigrated to the United States from his native Switzerland in 1805. He was encouraged by his sponsor, Benjamin Franklin, to seek and was then selected as the Survey's first Superintendent.

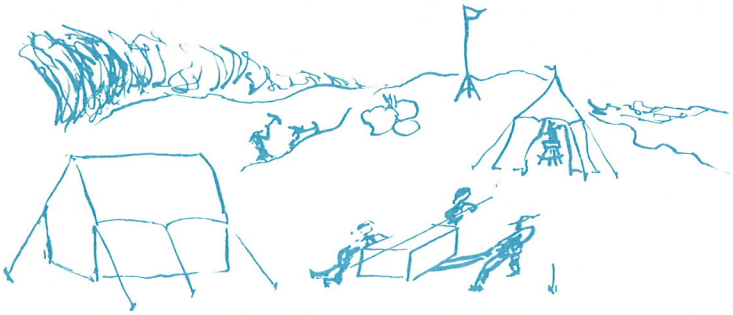
In 1816 two base lines, one in English Neighborhood, New Jersey, and the other at Gravesend Beach, Long Island, began the long history of charting America's waters. During the period from 1818 to 1832 surveying work of the agency came to a standstill due to a lack of funds. By the end of 1833 work was resumed and in 1836 the agency's name was altered to the "U.S. Coast Survey." Edmund Blunt, one of the first assistants to Hassler, headed a field party on Long Island which resulted in the first published charts by the Survey. By an Act of Congress March 3, 1871, a geodetic connection was authorized to be made between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts which enlarged the program work of the agency and caused the name to be changed in 1878 to the "U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey." Additional areas of responsibility came with the Air Commerce Act of 1926 to produce aeronautical charts of domestic areas. October 1970 brought about the present organization under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to include charting of the Great Lakes, and the name "National Ocean Survey."

Nautical charts of a century or more ago were and still are works of art. The Coast Survey from 1850 until about 1916 pioneered in the copperplate technique of chart construction and reproduction. During its heyday in the second half of the Nineteenth Century, this technique reached levels of artistic expression not previously attained in cartographic pursuit. Its practitioners were skilled artists that included one of America's most famous sons, James Mc Neill Whistler. In marking the Bicentennial it is a fitting tribute to this colorful period in American history that we offer the last large-scale effort of copperplate printing from the original printing plates housed in the archives of the agency. Many of the reproductions found in this catalog have not been printed since their original issue over a century ago. When the last limited prints of charts of the coastal states has been run off, the copperplates will be returned to the vault. There they will repose as treasured records of a vanished art. Each of the hand-pulled prints offered is a numbered issue. A certificate of authenticity will accompany each copy.

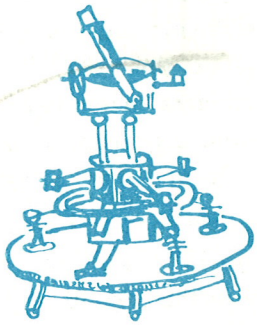
This remarkable period in cartographic development provides a lasting foundation on which decade by decade new and dramatic refinements continue to be made in the field of map making and printing. 1976 could well be the beginning of still greater opportunity for all.

THE NATIONS CHARTMAKER

1807 Survey of the Coast

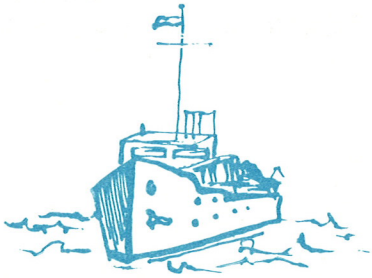


1836 U.S. Coast Survey



1878 U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

1970 National Ocean Survey



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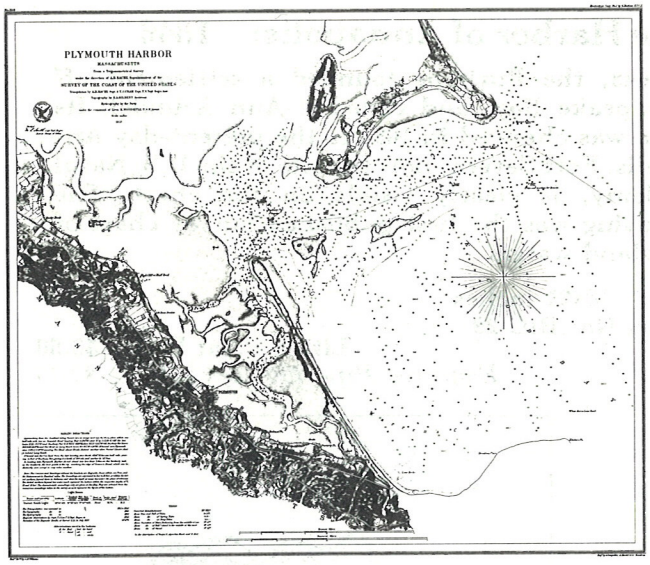
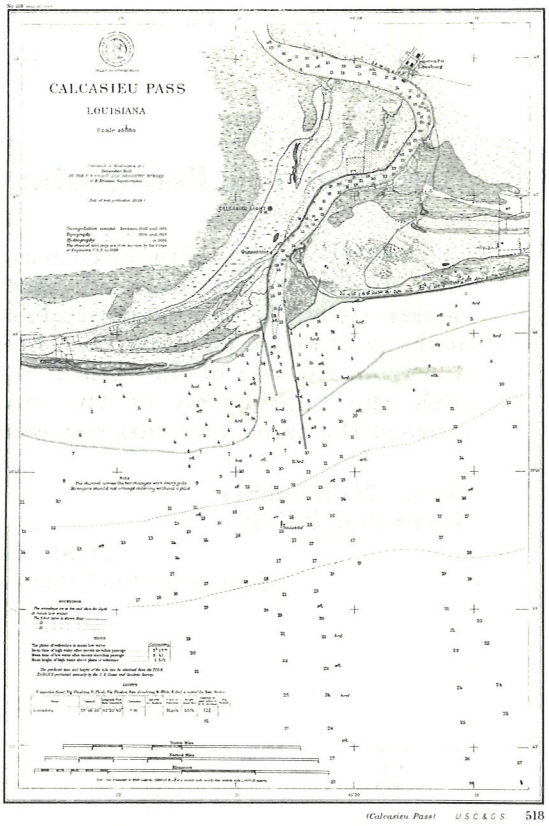


Plymouth Harbor: 1857

Plymouth, New England's first permanent settlement and linked historically to America's past, is exquisitely depicted in this very attractive chart. In addition, the unusual shaded relief technique accents the town and harbor of America's birthplace.

Size: 22x25 inches
Chart No: BiC-43

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (185 cys.) Price: $7.00

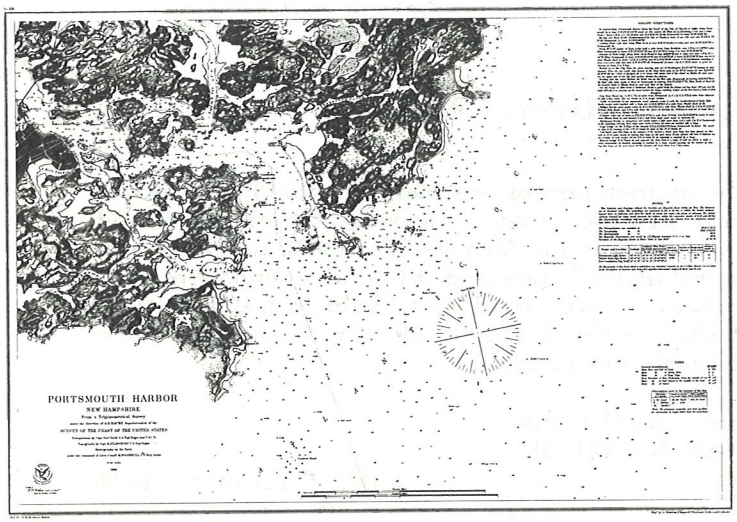


Calcasieu Pass: 1902

A beautiful example of early 20th century engraving, this small chart covers an area first settled in 1840. The town of Cameron, Calcasieu Light and prominent topography are depicted.

Size: 18x24 inches
Chart No: BiC-56

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

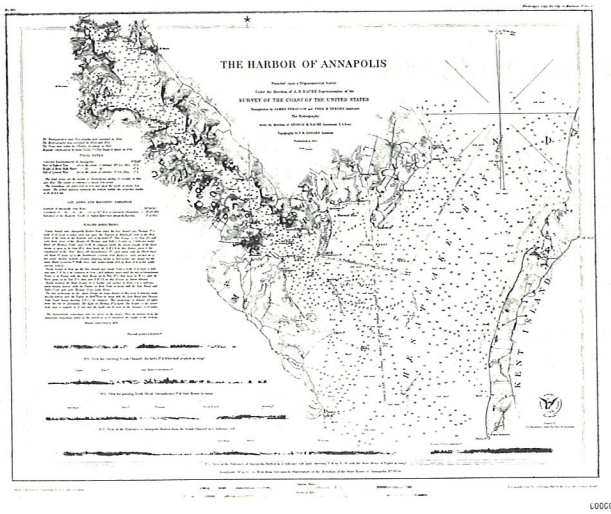


Portsmouth Harbor: 1876

Visible on this chart are New Hampshire's Three Bridges. Here the arm of the sea and the Piscataqua River join. Included is a mosaic of tiny islands rich in history and charm. On Peirces Island is the revolutionary framework of Fort Washington. East of Seavys Island is the U.S. Navy Yard, heir to Portsmouth's colonial shipbuilding industry.

Size: 21x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-36

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

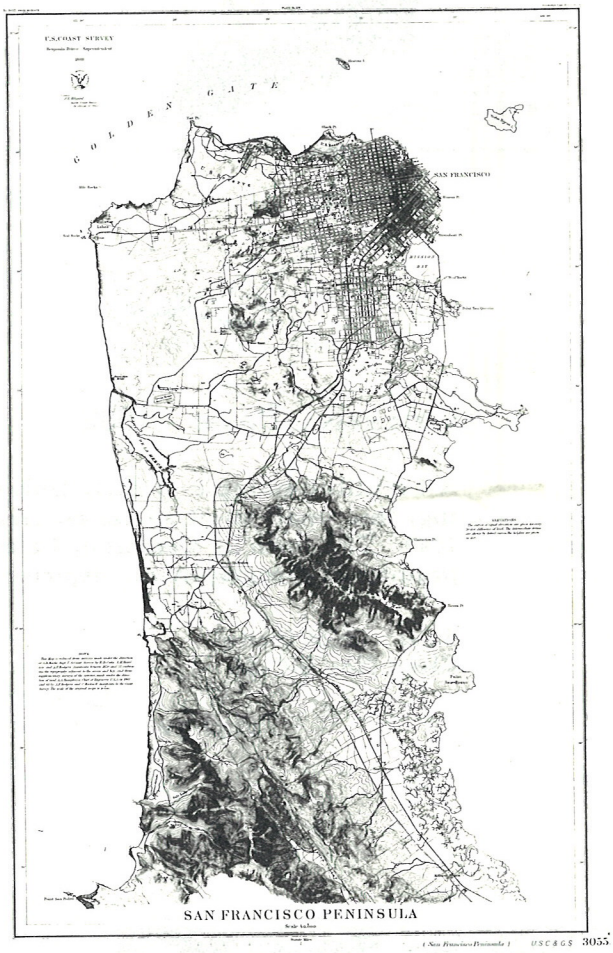


The Harbor of Annapolis: 1846

In 1648, the Puritans founded a settlement off Chesapeake Bay, and called it Ann Arundel. Its name was changed in 1695 to the present-day Annapolis. Fort Severn, now the site of the U.S. Naval Academy, is clearly visible on the chart. The engraving was the first published Survey chart of Maryland waters.

Size: 18x21 inches
Chart No: BiC-29

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $7.00

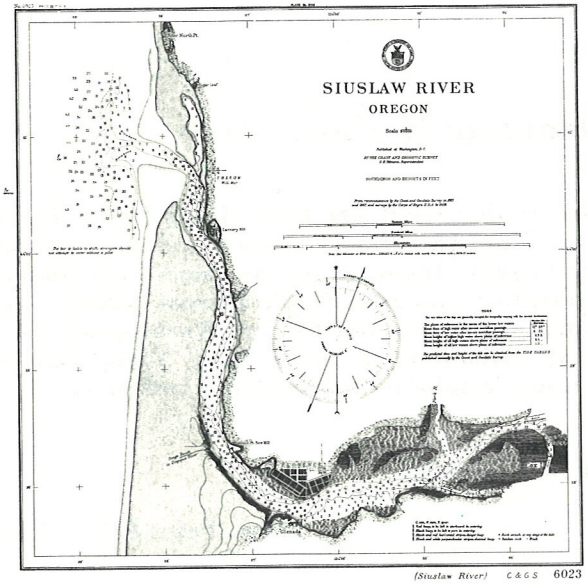


San Francisco Peninsula: 1869

"The City," as San Francisco was known at the time this chart was prepared, spreads across the eastern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula. As one of the world's major ports, San Francisco's isolation from the rest of the United States was ended with the completion of the transcontinental railroad the same year this engraving was issued.

Size: 20x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-32

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (185 cys.) Price: $9.50

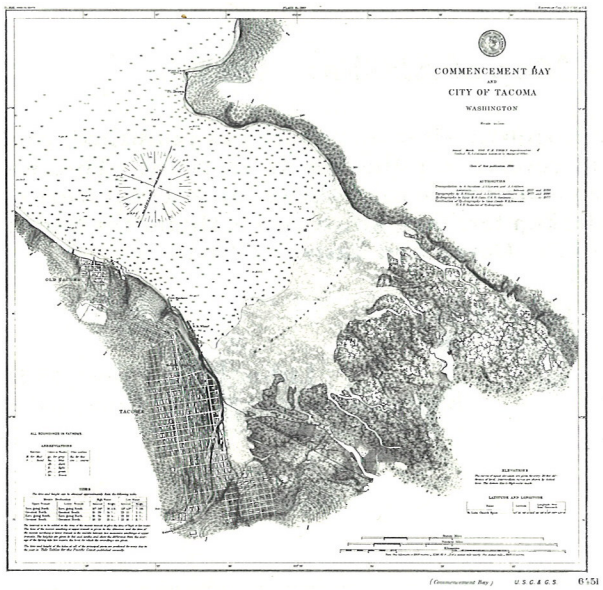


Siuslaw River: 1909

The mainstream of commerce on the Siuslaw River built Florence into a thriving fishing town and trading point for farmers. Formerly rowboats and "one-lungers" powered by one cylinder marine engines, were used for valley transporation. Shaded relief features portrayed add an extra dimension of realism.

Size: 23x23 inches
Chart No: BiC-57

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

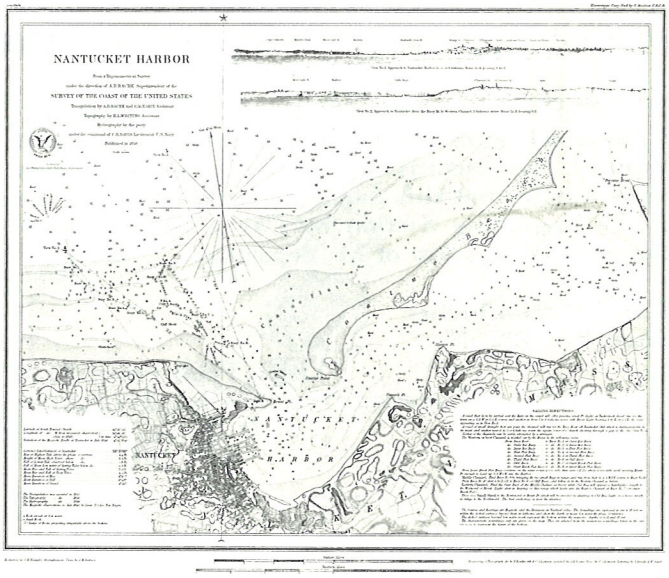


Commencement Bay: 1888

An early explorer of the Tacoma area was Lt. Cadwalader Ringgold of the Wilkes Expedition who, at the beginning of his surveys, charted and named Commencement Bay. Great detail of the gridiron street pattern and docking facilities provides a valuable record of Tacoma's growth and expansion 18 years after its settlement.

Size: 22x22 inches
Chart No: BiC-42

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (125 cys.) Price: $7.00

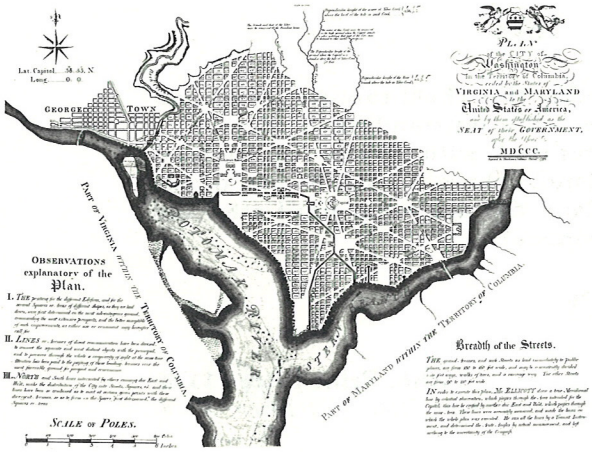


Nantucket Harbor: 1848

The town, a pioneer in whaling, shares with New Bedford the honors in Herman Melvilles' "Moby Dick." In 1768 it possessed 125 whaling vessels. Two very detailed and interesting renderings of headland approaches to the harbor are included, one showing the early Nantucket skyline.

Size: 18x21 inches
Chart No: BiC-33

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

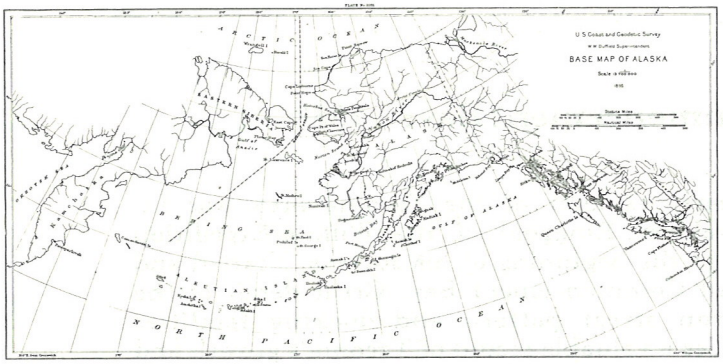


Ellicott Map of Washington: 1800

Major Andrew Ellicott, surveyor and mathematician, was officially appointed by President Washington in 1792 to complete the L'Enfant Plan. As the son of a prosperous miller whose family had founded Ellicott City, Maryland, in 1775, he began at once to correct and complete the Federal city plan. He added to this fine engraving the names and designations of city streets and numbering of blocks. Hydrography included soundings in the Potomac and Eastern Branch. The First official map of Washington is perhaps the most historic offering of the engraved prints.

Size: 23x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-47

Litho. Print Price: $1.50
Engraved Print (85 cys.) Price: $15.00
(very limited)



Base Map of Alaska: 1895

In 1899, shortly after this chart was published, gold was discovered on the beach at Nome. This extremely small scale map allows for wide coverage of the Alaskan territory which also includes the Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean and Eastern Siberia.

Size: 12x24 inches
Chart No: BiC-50

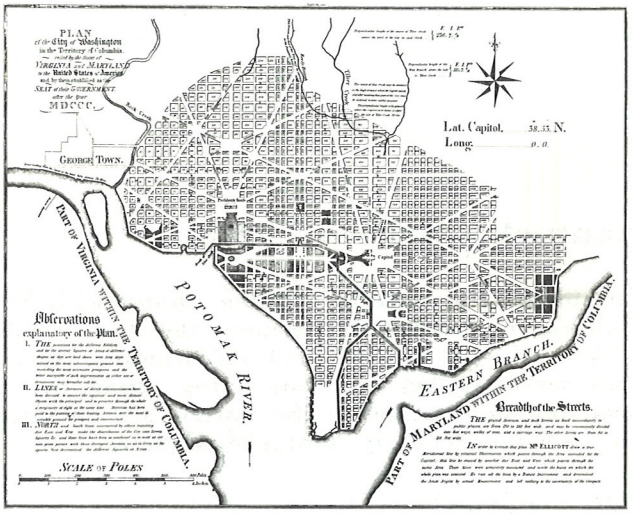
Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

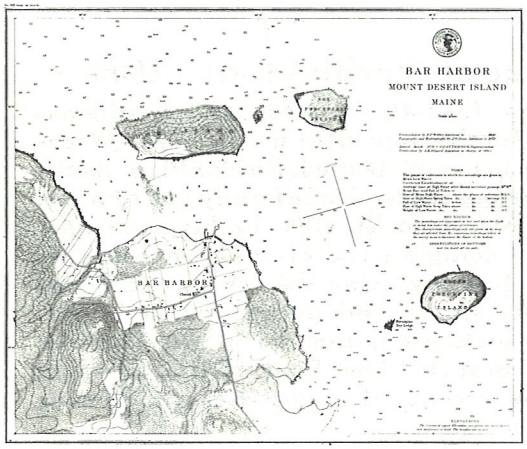
McClelland Map of Washington: 1800

The map is very similar to the Ellicott engraving. Street block numbers are included as well as street names. The records of the U.S. Coast Survey carry a note that this particular engraving was left at the Engraving Section by David McClelland in 1891 on the occasion of his departure.

Size: 17x21½ inches
Chart No: BiC-48

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $10.00



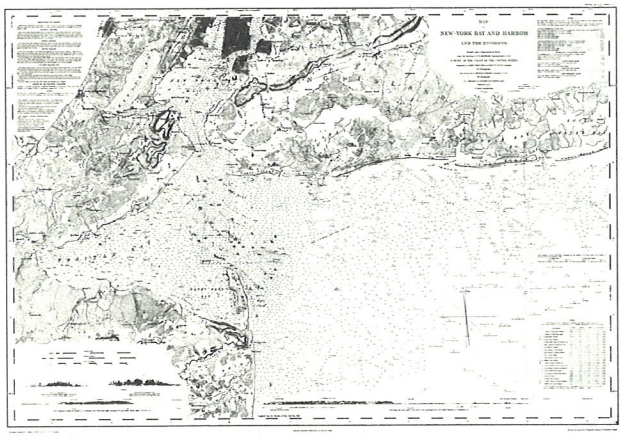


Bar Harbor: 1876

Excellent for framing this chart captures the small down-east village with outstanding clarity. De-Champlain is credited with having discovered Mount Desert Island. However, significant development of the island did not begin until after the advent of the steamboat.

Size: 17x18 inches
Chart No: BiC-35

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

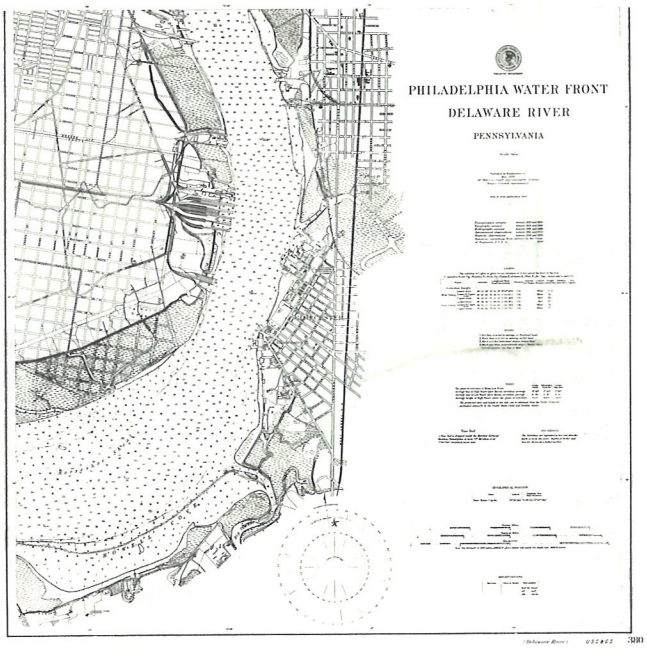


New York Bay & Harbor: 1845

A good pictorial image of the early growth of New York City and its environs is depicted in this chart. The only real concentration of urban development evident is on Manhattan Island and Newark.

Size: 28x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-10

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $9.50

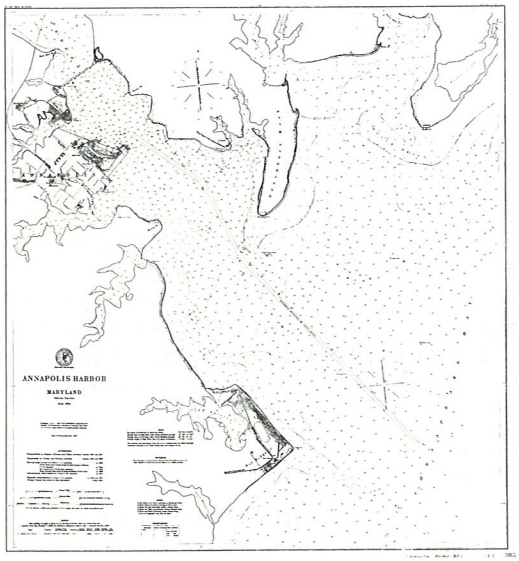


Philadelphia Waterfront: 1899

Philadelphia's early history during the revolutionary period was closely intertwined with that of the Nation. This chart defines the Nation's first capitol at its waterfront.

Size: 28x28 inches
Chart No: BiC-52

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

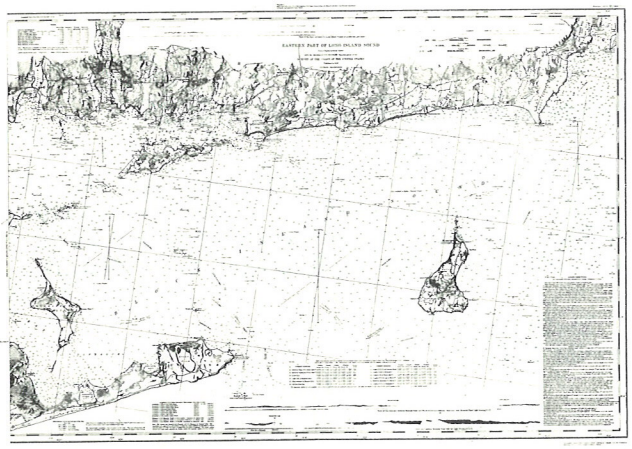


Annapolis Harbor: 1906

This engraving is an excellent piece of documentation of Annapolis and its surrounding waters at the turn-of-the-century. Extensive hydrography and close-up view of the city including the grounds of the Naval Academy exemplify early 20th century cartographic craftsmanship. An ideal companion to the 1846 print we offer.

Size: 33x35 inches
Chart No: BiC-51

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $9.50

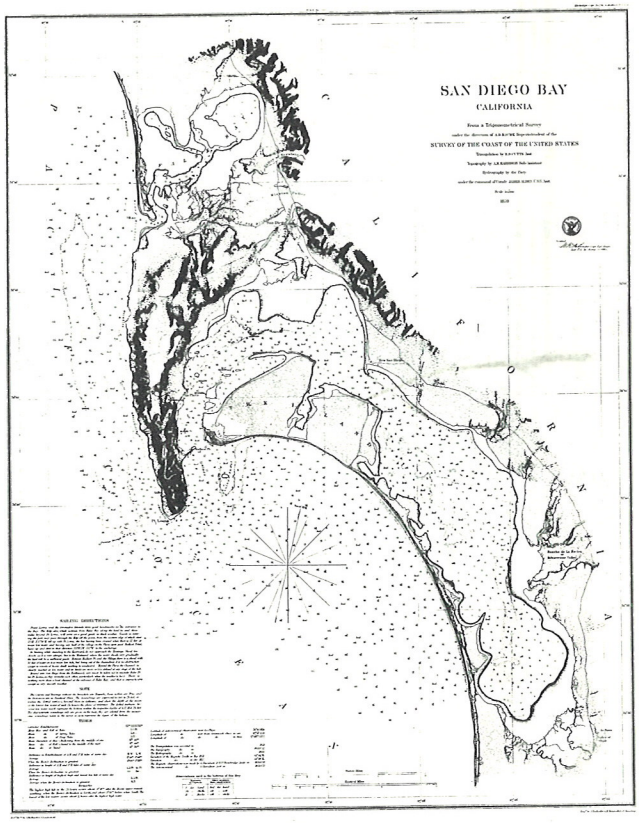


Eastern Part of Long Island Sound: 1848

At the close of the Spanish American War in 1898, the 25,000 men of the Cuban Expeditionary Force returned to the U.S., landing at Montauk Point on the Eastern end of Long Island. The chart offers fine detail of the southern coasts of Connecticut and Rhode Island, as well as of Block Island Sound.

Size: 28x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-15

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $9.50

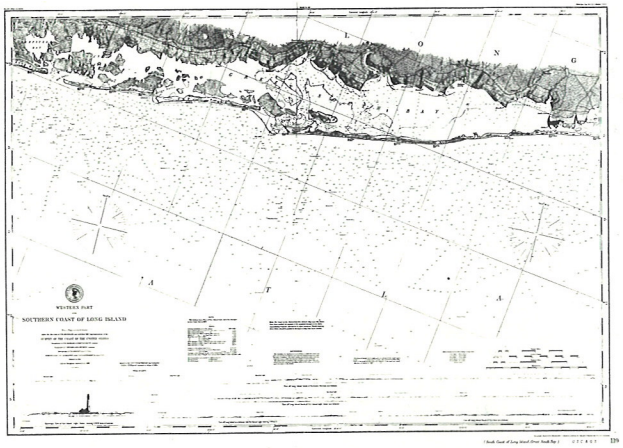


San Diego Bay: 1859

This chart shows (by symbol) the lighthouse at Point Loma. It's location was recommended by A.M. Harrison of the U.S. Coast Survey in 1851 "for reasons of its superior elevation, its good foundation and level surface."

Size: 24x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-21

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00



Southern Coast of Long Island: 1888

As captured in this late 19th century chart, Long Island had already developed considerable growth. Its exploration and colonizing spanning over several centuries from Henry Hudson's voyage in 1609 for the Dutch East India Company, to England's force of arms in 1664, til its colonial development and birth as a major seaport facility in the 19th century.

Size: 27x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-26

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $9.50

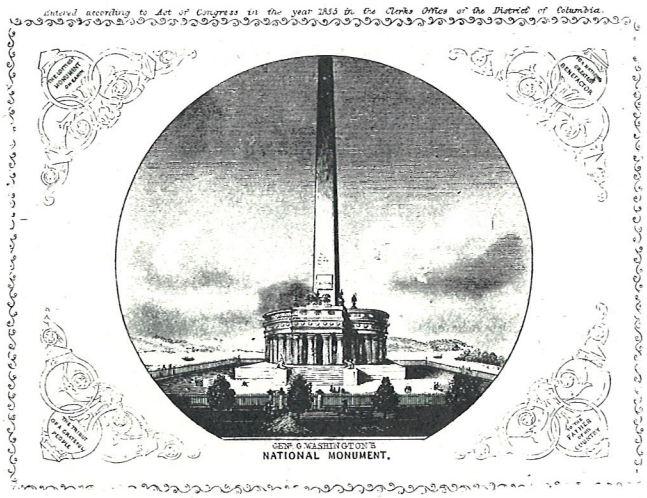
L'Enfant Plan: 1792

Pierre Charles L'Enfant was selected by George Washington on January 22, 1791, to create a plan for submission to the Congress for a seat of government on the bank of the Potomac. The Federal City began with surveys directed by L'Enfant and prepared by Andrew Ellicott assisted by Benjamin Bannecker. The Coast Survey received the original plan in a basket containing bits and pieces of varnished paper in 1887. These scraps were carefully assembled and restoration was made using solar light reflected by mirrors. Even colors were determined which appear in the reproduced copy. The print offered is an exact duplicate of the restored revision.

Size: 28x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-49

Litho. Print only (in color) Price: $1.50

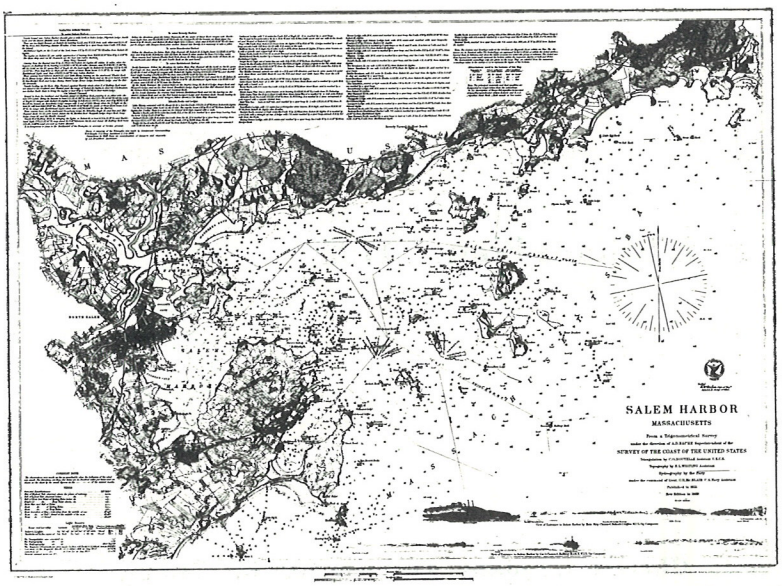
Federal City Buildings: 1856



Represented in these masterfully engraved prints are 16 of the most interesting federal landmarks of the nations capital. Their uniqueness is that they represent original designs for buildings and monuments which differ in many cases from their final versions. The Washington Monument identified here as the "National Monument" shows the design of Robert Mills of South Carolina. Mills, a protege of Thomas Jefferson, was the first native-born professional American architect. The fine detail of these delicately engraved prints will make ideal individually framed examples of American engraving at its best. (Each print is sold separately, see order form for titles.)

Size: Approx. 5x6 inches each
Chart No: BiC-44

Lithographic Prints (not available)
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $1.00 each

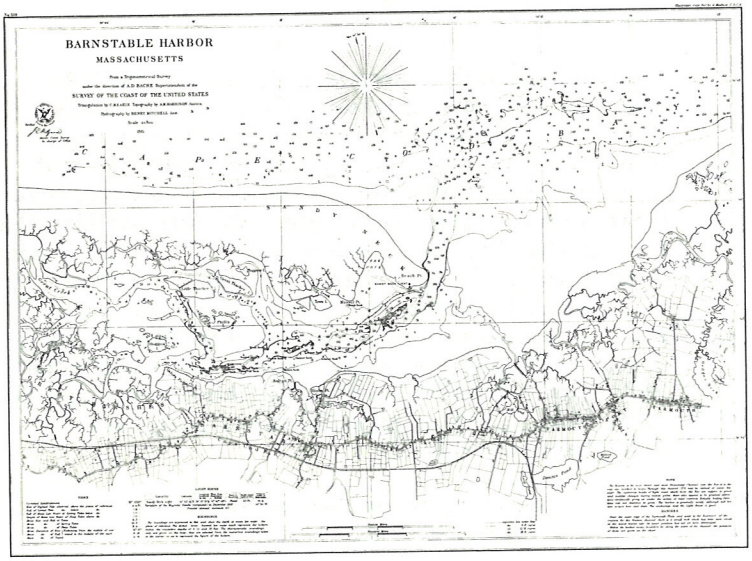


Salem Harbor: 1869

Size: 23x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-19

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

Historically linked to American History, this chart of Salem Harbor is one of the finest of the early surveys. Its embellishments include Baker's light at the harbor entrance and a very detailed street plan of Salem.

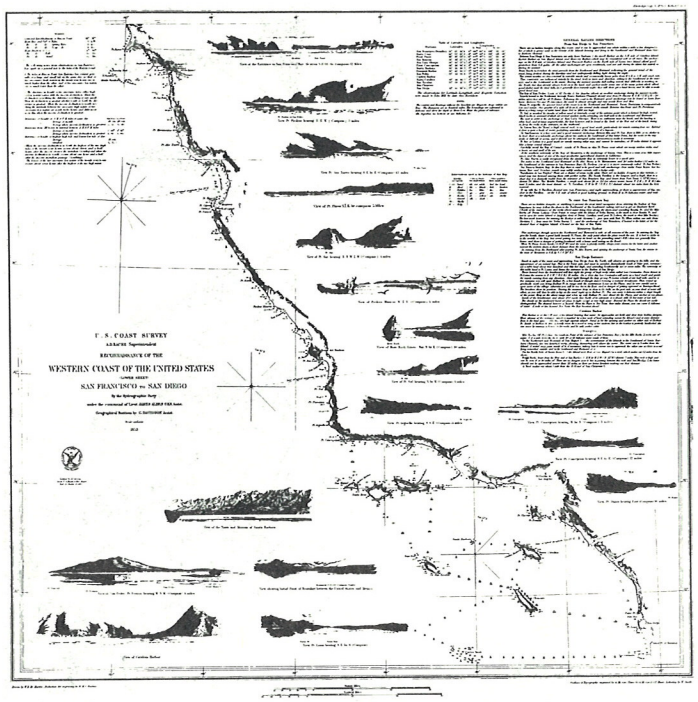


Barnstable Harbor: 1861

Size: 19x25
Chart No. BiC-28

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

First settled by the Rev. Joseph Hull and Thomas Dimmock in 1637, Barnstable developed into a commercial exchange dealing in codfish caught on the Grand Banks and rum and molasses made in the West Indies.

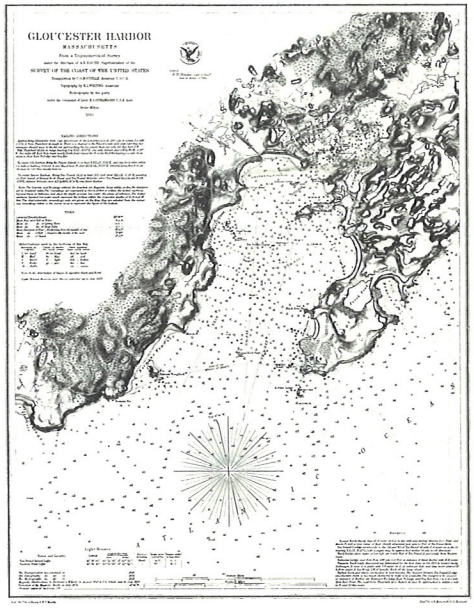


Western Coast of the U.S.: 1853

This large scale, comprehensive early chart covers the area between San Francisco and San Diego. Numerous headland views of major harbors and detailed sailing directions are portrayed. This particular rendering is historic evidence of the Coast Survey's extensive efforts along the West coast of the United States.

Size: 25x26 inches
Chart No: BiC-22

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (125 cys.) Price: $7.00



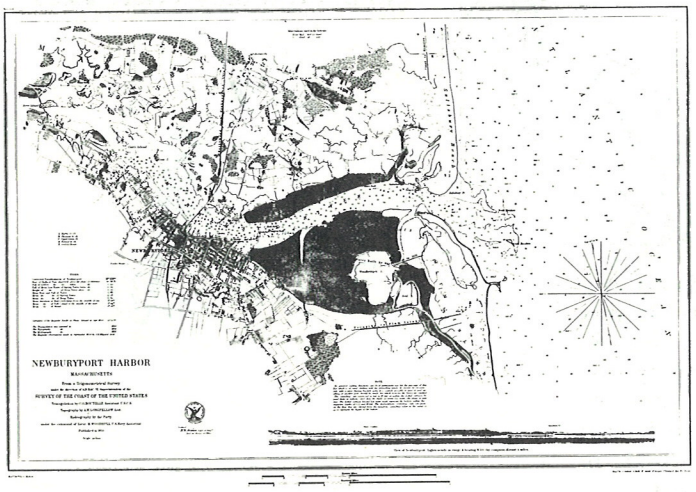
Gloucester Harbor: 1855

This picturesque, New England seaport twenty-nine miles from Boston has for three centuries held the seafaring tradition of the Gloucester fisherman. Fast schooners once sailed out past the protective breakwater at Eastern Point to the dangerous waters of the Grand Bank. The chart is a fitting tribute as a momento of Americana.

Size: 16x20 inches
Chart No: BiC-18

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

000001

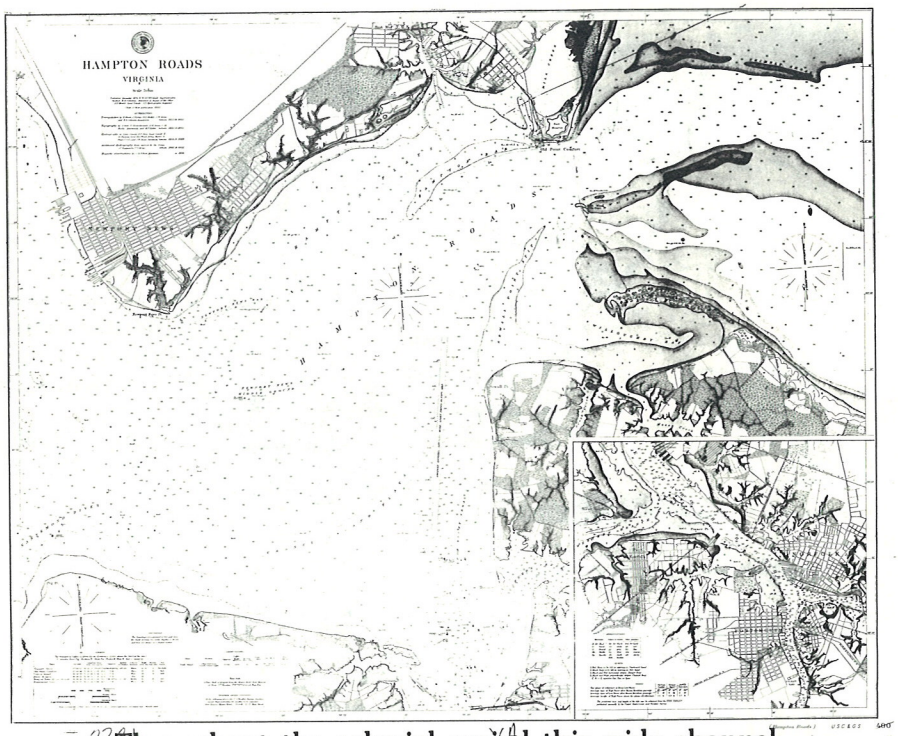


Newburyport Harbor: 1855

Between 1681 and 1741, 107 ships were launched from Newburyport shipyards. For a time Newburyport, seriously threatened Boston's pre-eminence as a major shipbuilding center. This highly detailed bird's-eye view is one of the more elaborate 19th century issues of the U.S. Coast Survey.

Size: 20x28 inches
Chart No: BiC-17

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

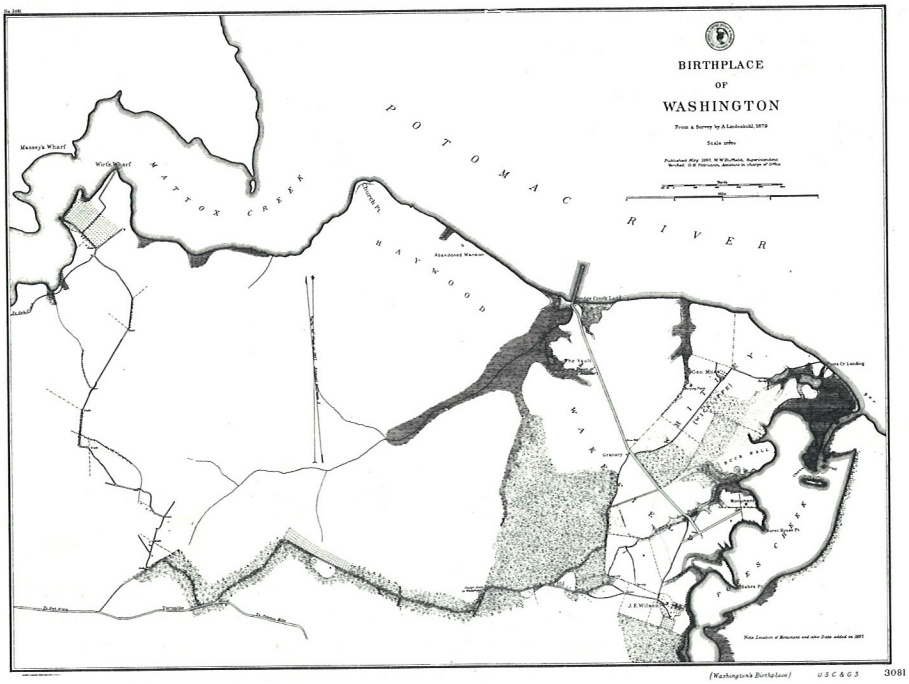


Hampton Roads: 1894

Size: 36x44 inches
Chart No: BiC-45

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $9.50

Throughout the colonial period this wide channel was a point of entry to the seat of government in Virginia. Large scale projection reveals Newport News at the mouth of the James. Also comprising the Hampton Roads area and included in a separate inset, are Norfolk and Portsmouth along the Elizabeth River.

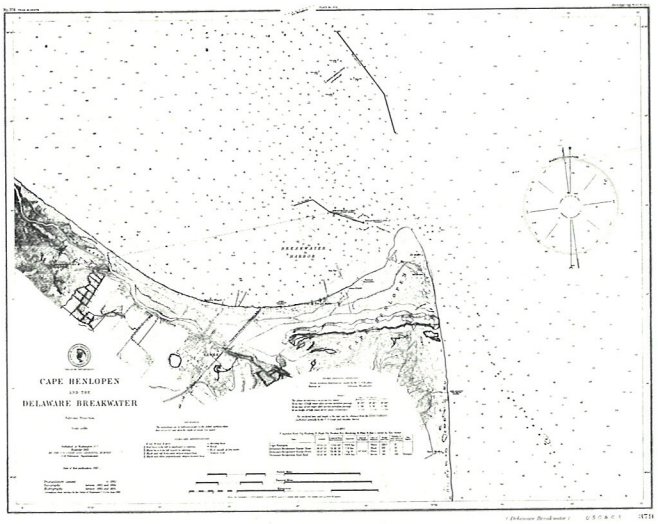


Birthplace of Washington: 1879

Size: 25x32 inches
Chart No: BiC-58

Litho. Print only Price: $3.50

This unique map was recently located among archive files of the National Ocean Survey. It was compiled in 1879 from field surveys by A. Lindenkohl, then head of the chart drafting operation. It indicates the original burial sites of Washington's family and the ruins of the house near Ice Ponds, as well as other interesting topographic features of Westmoreland County.



Cape Henlopen: 1901

One can point out many items of historical interest on the chart. Among them is Lewes, the home of the Delaware Pilots for 280 years. Breakwater Harbor is portrayed by the Delaware Breakwater and Light built in 1835. The never completed Iron Pier and Henlopen Light built in 1767 are also represented.

Size: 23x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-54

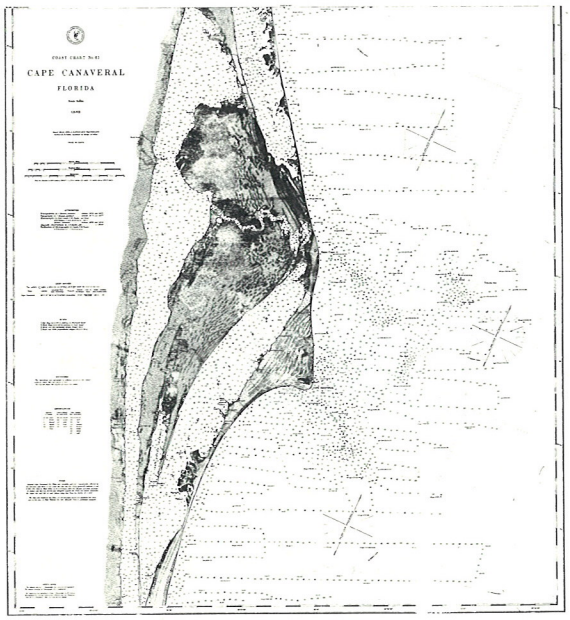
Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

Catalina Harbor: 1852

Until 1821, when Mexico freed herself from Spain and lifted the Spanish ban on foreign trade in California, Santa Catalina was the base for piracy operations with the mainland. Shaded relief and an exceptional headland view depicting the rugged terrain make this chart an interesting collectors item.

Size: 13x18 inches
Chart No: BiC-34

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (175 cys.) Price: $5.00



Cape Canaveral: 1883

Cape Canaveral was first noted in 1583 by Ponce de Leon who called it *Cape of Currents.* In this large and handsome chart one can see in great detail the topography which surrounds the Canaveral area.

Size: 38x35 inches
Chart No: BiC-38

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
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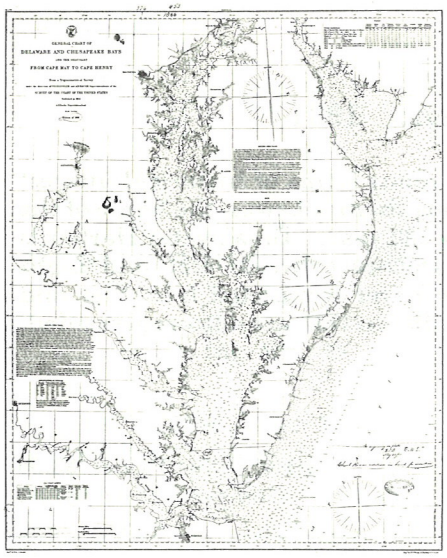

Delaware and Chesapeake Bays: 1882

This exquisite late 19th century chart covers the vast expanse of one of the most heavily navigated regions along the eastern seaboard. The chart centers on Delaware and the Chesapeake Bay which includes portions of Maryland, Virginia and their inland waters.

Size: 27x33 inches
Chart No: BiC-40

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
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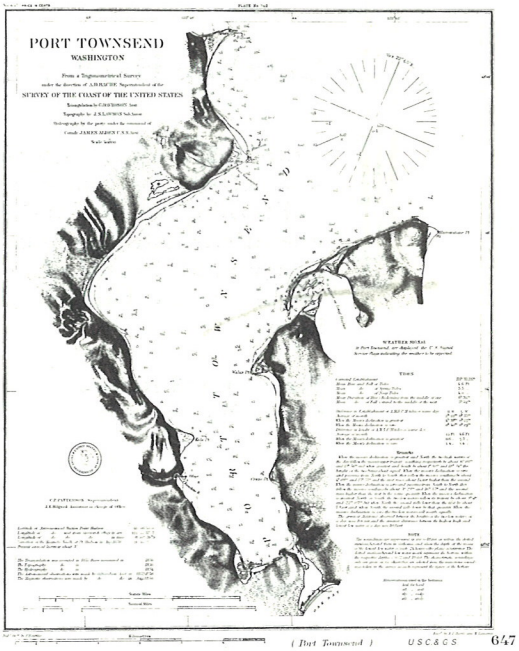
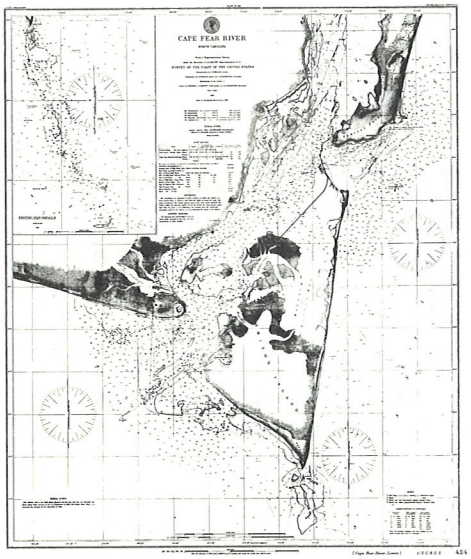


Port Townsend: 1858

Port Townsend was first explored and named by Capt. George Vancouver in 1792 and later surveyed by Commander Charles Wilkes in 1841. This particular chart was issued during the Territorial Period (1849-1885), a short time after the first settlement in 1852.

Size: 13x16 inches
Chart No: BiC-23

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $5.00

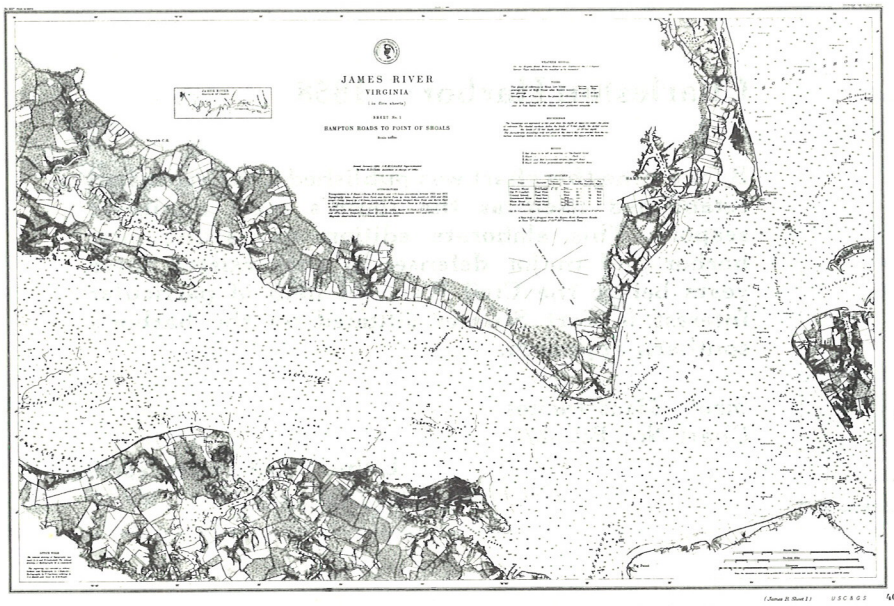


Cape Fear River: 1884

Smith Island, its extreme tip forming the Cape Fear entrance way, is the most prominent feature shown. Fort Caswell manned during the Civil War is represented at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. A separate inset appears at the upper left of the chart to bring out minute details of Frying Pan Shoals.

Size: 28x34 inches
Chart No: BiC-31

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $9.50



James River: 1882

Size: 28x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-39

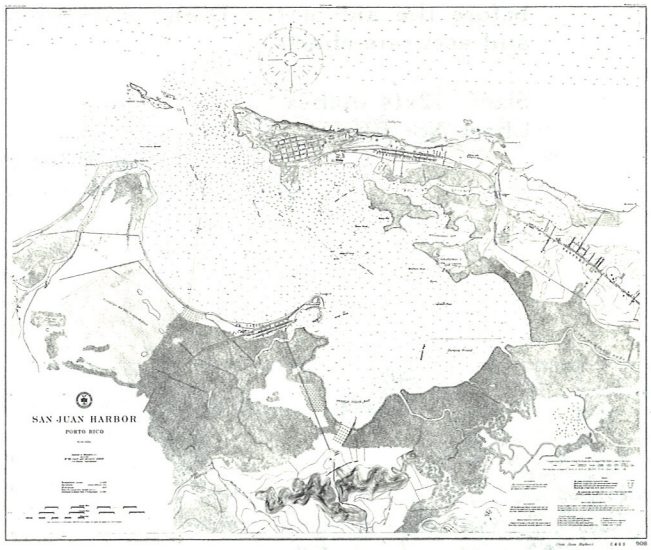
Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (125 cys.) Price: $9.50

One of five U.S. Coast Survey charts published covering the James River, this particular one identifies the area from Hampton Roads to Point of Shoals. Sir Christopher Newport, in 1607, first sailed through the broad waters of Hampton Roads into the James to effect the first permanent English settlement in America.

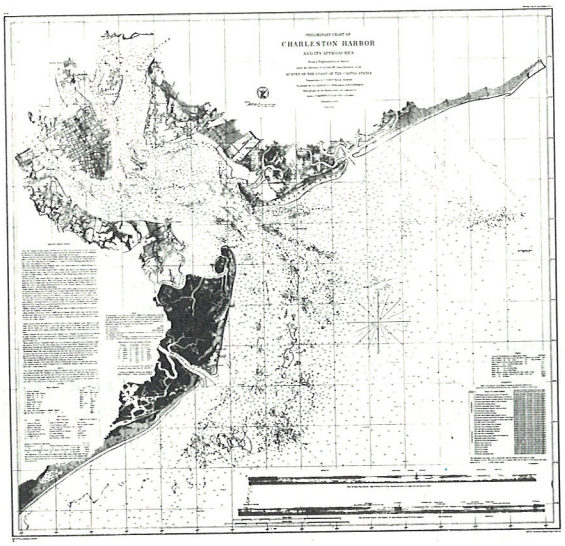
San Juan Harbor: 1912

Size: 36x44 inches
Chart No: BiC-55

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $9.50



An unusual view of this island Commonwealth. San Juan's developing center of commerce began with colonization by Ponce de Leon in 1508. This chart shows the territory soon after it was ceded to the United States in December 1898. Plantations of pineapple are clearly evident.



Charleston Harbor: 1858

By the time this chart was published Charleston had established itself as the south's most dominate seaport. This elaborate edition shows the city, harbor and major defenses as they existed three years before the Civil War. An item of particular interest is Fort Sumter situated on the harbor's southern approach.

Size: 33x35 inches
Chart No: BiC-27

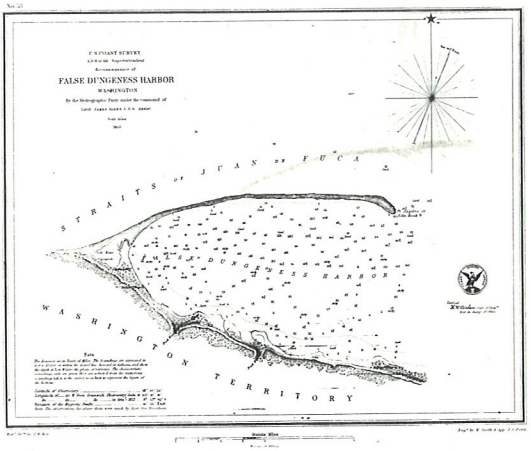
Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $9.50

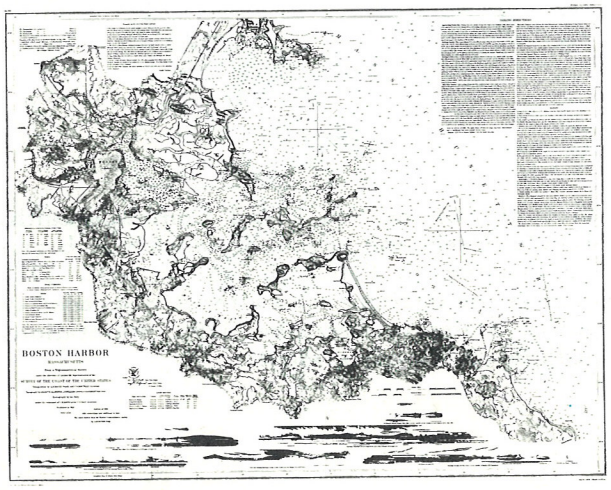
False Dungeness Harbor: 1853

Now called Dungeness Bay, it provides ample evidence of Coast Survey alertness to accuracy in furnishing depths to deal with the swirling eddies and strong tides associated with the region. Many a sturdy sailing ship piled up along these shores before the aid of the Dungeness Spit Lighthouse and accurate charts.

Size: 12x14 inches
Chart No: BiC-16

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $5.00



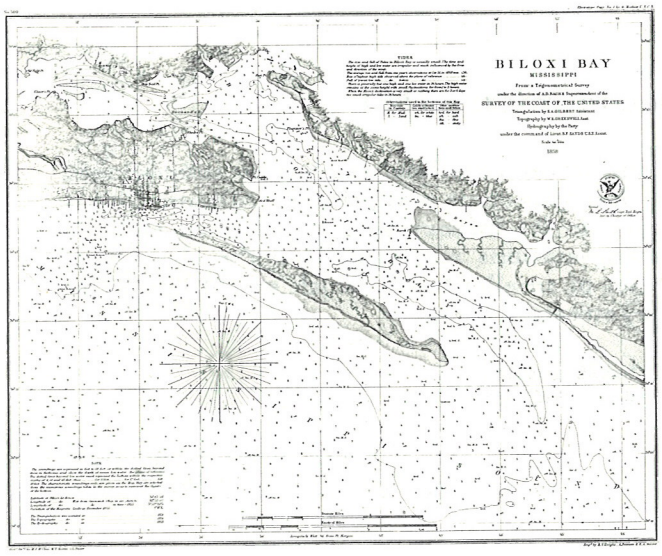


Boston Harbor: 1857

The large and attractive chart reveals the extent to which urban development had concentrated in and around the peninsula. Prominent at the bottom of the chart are views of the approaches to the harbor which add to the decorative quality of the engraving.

Size: 32x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-20

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $9.50

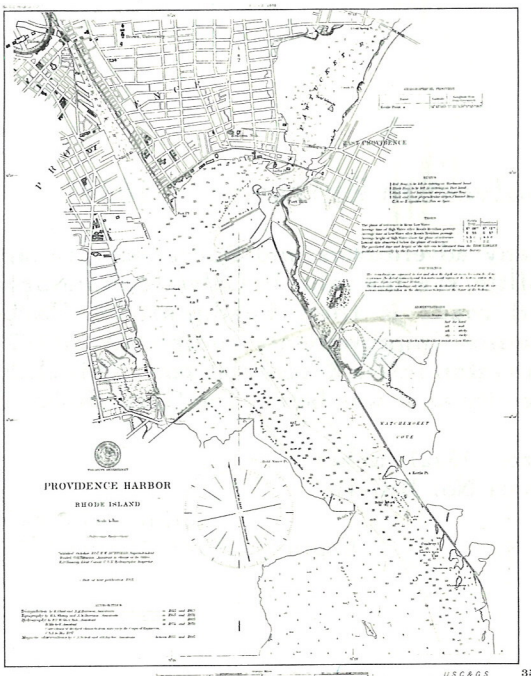


Biloxi Bay: 1858

This small but attractive engraving gives sufficient detail of the area where the French first settled in 1699. Residents using sail and rowboats for getting about and early dependence on the water led to boat building and racing for which Biloxi is noted.

Size: 15x19 inches
Chart No: BiC-24

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $5.00



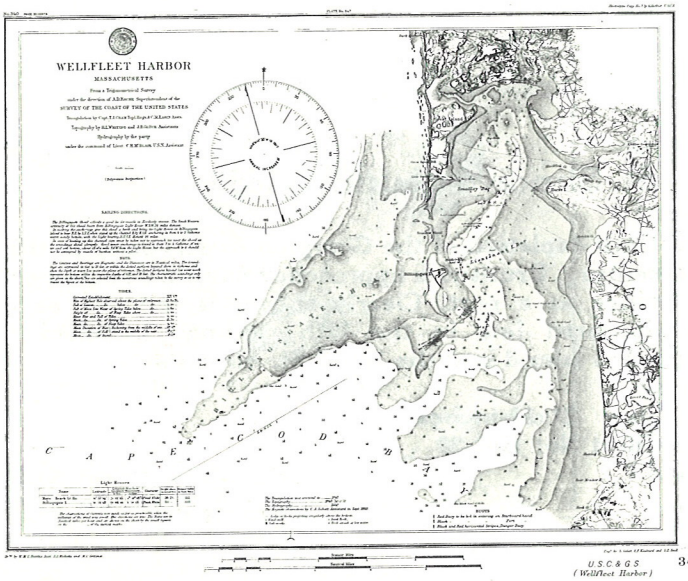
U.S.C.&G.S. 352
(Providence Harbor)
000001

Providence Harbor: 1897

History is captured in this late nineteenth century chart of Providence Harbor. Large scale projection gives detailed representation of the street plan for lower portion of the city. Docking facilities and other navigational information are indicated.

Size: 19x23 inches
Chart No: BiC-53

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00



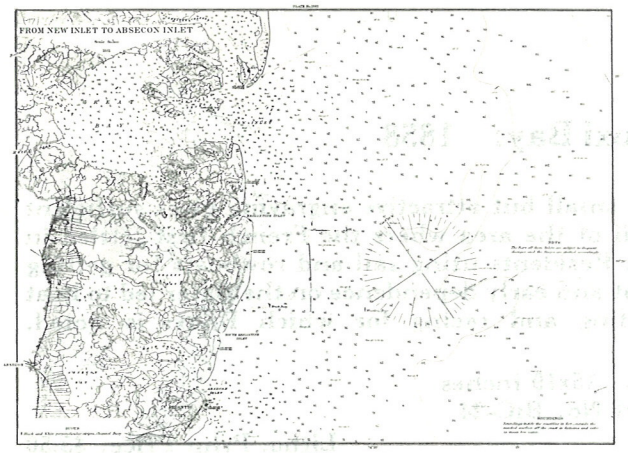
U.S.C.&G.S. 340
(Wellfleet Harbor)

Wellfleet Harbor: 1853

Pilgrims explored Wellfleet Harbor in the Mayflower's shallop before going to Plymouth. A beautiful example of 19th century cartographic art. Its reasonable size allows for easy handling and convenience in framing.

Size: 18x21 inches
Chart No: BiC-25

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (150 cys.) Price: $7.00

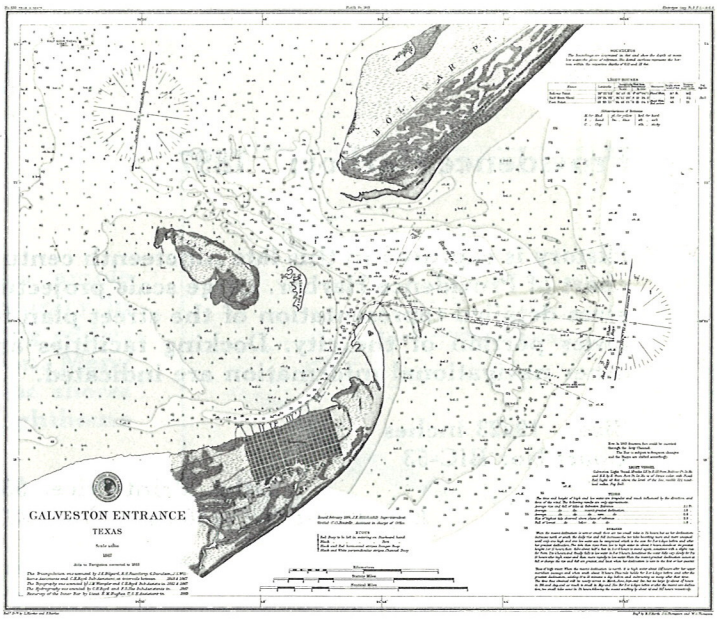


Absecon Inlet: 1881

The New Jersey coastline was largely undeveloped at the time this chart was printed. Atlantic City is portrayed in its infancy as a resort town and the life saving stations represented on the chart were nucleuses of smaller towns which would later offer seaside retreats.

Size: 15x20 inches
Chart No: BiC-37

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

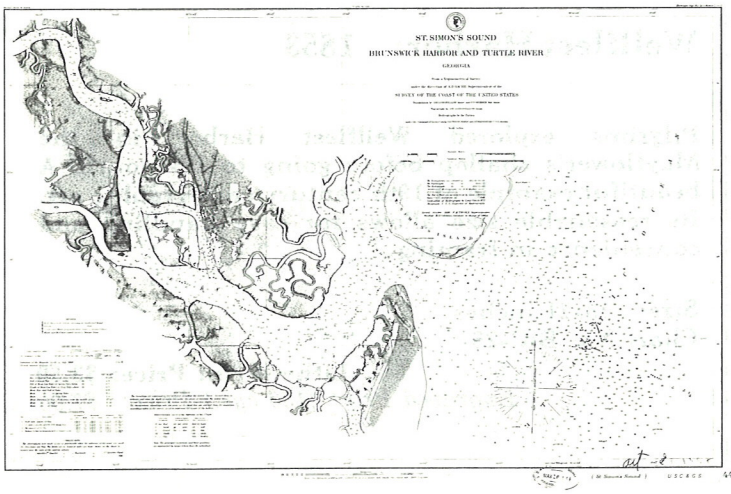


Galveston Entrance: 1884

Many adventurers and buccaneers, notably Jean Lafitte, saw the value in Galveston's natural harbor and made it their headquarters. Harbor and channel improvements completed in 1896 made Galveston into a deep water port. This chart shows the city as it was before the Great Storm in 1900.

Size: 18x21 inches
Chart No: BiC-41

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

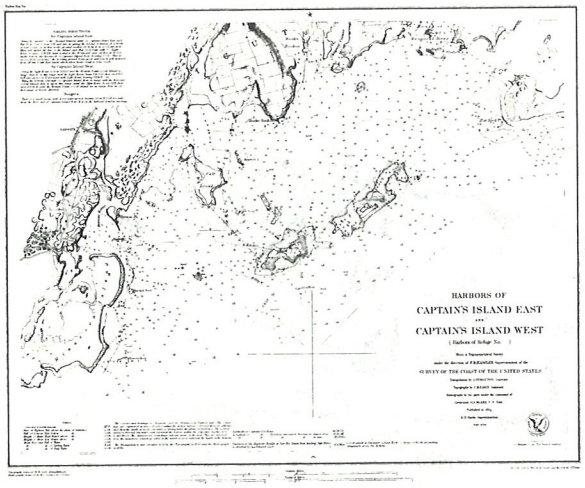


St. Simon's Sound: 1888

Until depletion of the Georgian forests early in this century, Brunswick approached Savannah in importance as a port. Clearly shown is the city as it appeared late in the 19th century. Included is Jekyl Island and the tip of St. Simon's.

Size: 21x32 inches
Chart No: BiC-30

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

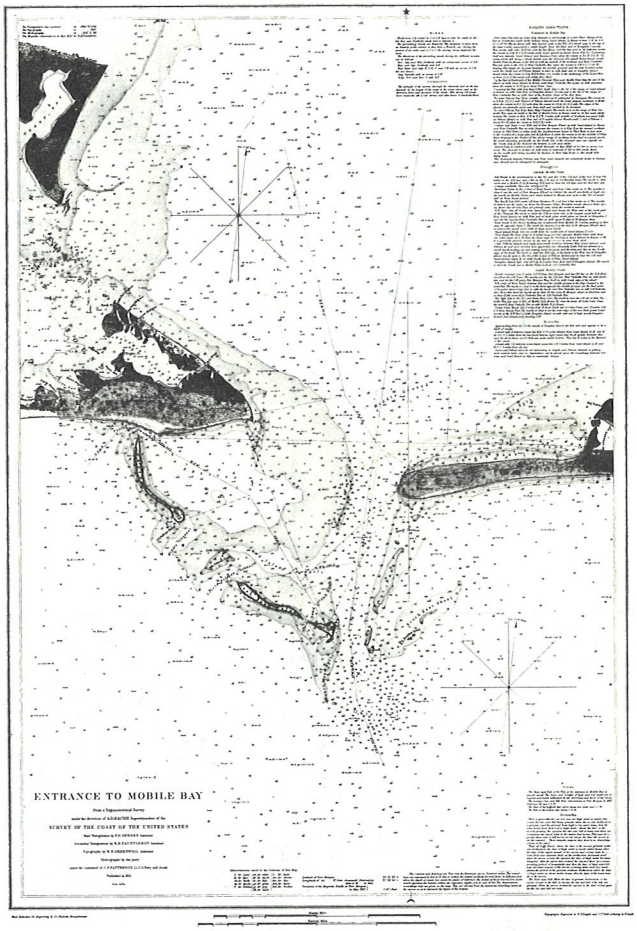


Captain's Island East and Captain's Island West: 1849

On this chart of Captains Islands can be seen the town of Saw-pits, Connecticut which later became Port Chester, New York. It was one of the earliest published charts of the U.S. Coast Survey.

Size: 17x20 inches
Chart No: BiC-11

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00



Entrance to Mobile Bay: 1851

Without this chart Admiral David Farragut might not have been victorious at Mobile Bay where he won the battle at its south entrance and captured Dauphine Island. This area was also the scene of conflict during the War of 1812.

Size: 21x30 inches
Chart No: BiC-14

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
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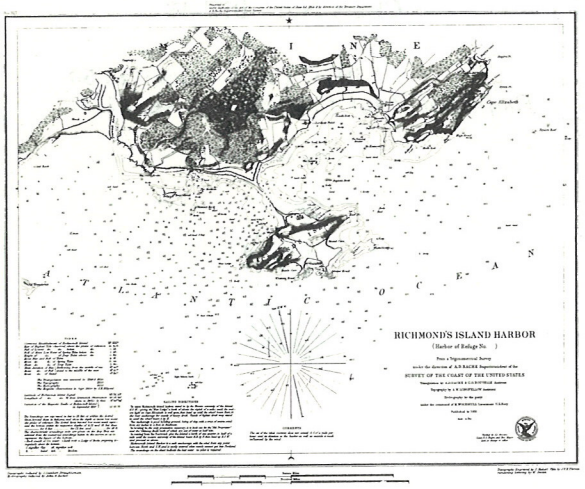
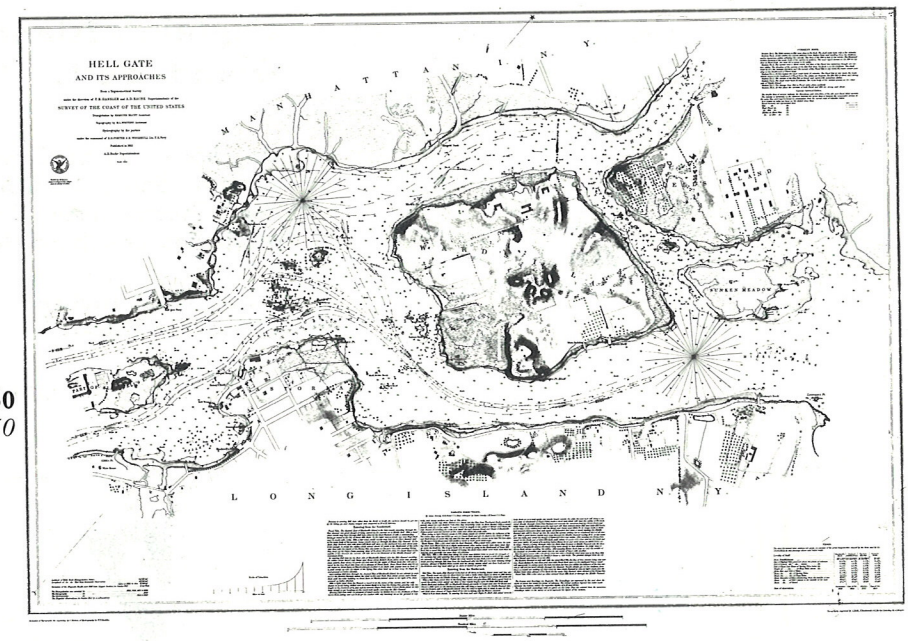


Richmond's Island Harbor: 1851

Located in southwest Maine not far from Portland is the tiny isolated Richmond's Island. Despite its small size, one mile long and ¾ of a mile wide, it harbored a settlement and trading center early in the 17th century. This particular chart was used by many 19th century clipper ships as they entered the harbor area.

Size: 18x22 inches
Chart No: BiC-12

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (100 cys.) Price: $7.00

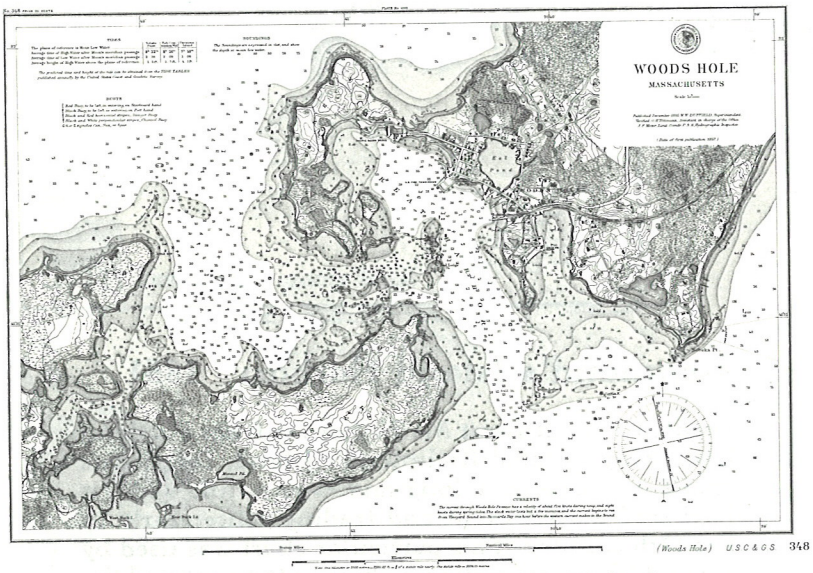


Hell Gate: 1851

Size: 28x39 inches
Chart No: BiC-13

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (125 cys.) Price: $9.50

Adriaen Block in 1614 first named the narrow channel, *Hellegat*. Charted by the U.S. Coast Survey it was long considered dangerous to ships because of rocks and strong currents. The chart is the first edition by the Survey which incorporates a number of interesting features including townships, locations of small buildings, property lines, and sailing directions.



Woods Hole: 1895

Size: 17x23 inches
Chart No: BiC-46

Litho. Print Price: $3.50
Engraved Print (200 cys.) Price: $7.00

With the establishment of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1930 international interest has been given this small New England seaport. A very detailed amount of topographic information of the area is provided. Its development as a fishing port is defined by the many factories illustrated along the "Great Harbor."

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BiC-41			
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BiC-47			
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BiC-49			
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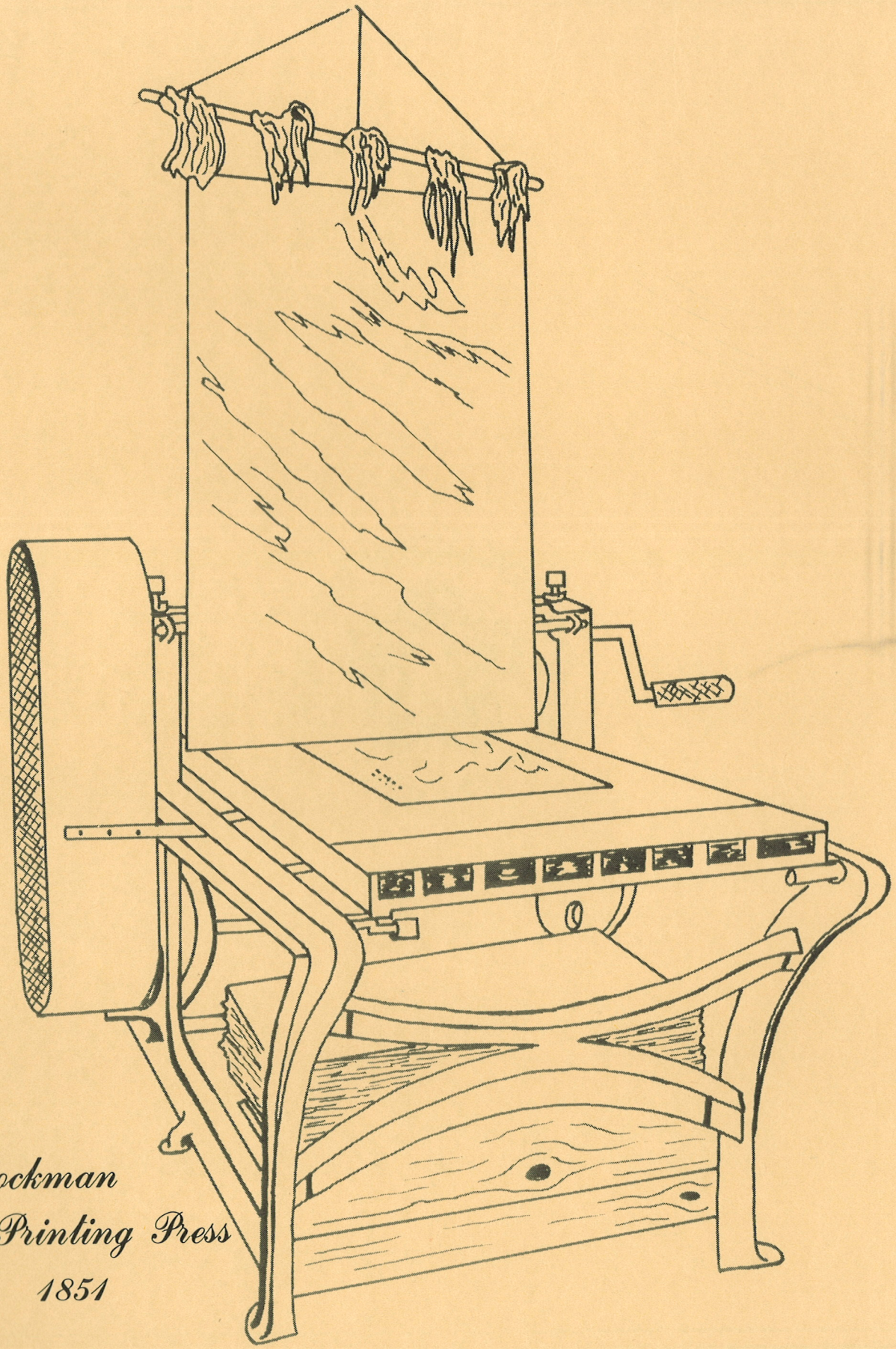

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