

**1920s REPORT BY**  
**THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**ON**  
**THE EXUMA CAYS**

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**(1887-1947)**



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1887-1947  
The first CROWN LANDS OFFICER

Scanned and compiled by Paul C. Aranha

**From Ship Channel Cay southwards to Hungry Hall (Wax Cay area).**

## THE EXUMA CAYS

The Exuma Cays are an archipelago lying between Latitudes 23'.25' to 24'.58' North and Longitudes 75'.26 to 76'.51' West.

The majority have no particular names, but any small rock on which migratory sea birds nest is a "Bird Cay" - a small Cay adjacent to a larger one is a Little Cay - which name is corrupted to Lil' or Lilly- The larger one is Big Cay - and any Cay on which there is a beach or patch of sand is a White Bay Cay.

Fish Hawks select rocks in which they construct their nests and these rocks , once selected, are occupied by succeeding generations of birds.

The occupation of some of these rocks antedate the memory of the oldest inhabitants and some are noted on Charts of A.D. 1836 - and each is called "HAWKSNEST"

The names of many Cays change with each squatter or owner and unless diligent search and enquiry is made as regards ownership, it is extremely difficult to identify, for instance, "Captain Mingo Rolle - God rest the dead Cay", with Hog Cay the Eastern portion of which was granted to Mary Munn in the year of grace 1789

By the same token - Mullins Cays partly granted to Eliz. Mullins about 1789 has been successively Tommy Young Cay - Henderson Ferguson's Cay - F'eddy Bowe Cay - and now 1929 - Paul Clarkes Cay -

Not being endowed with the spirit of prophecy I know not what its future names may be.

## THE EXUMA CAYS (CONTD.)

The larger Cays compare favourably with Hog Cay in size and quality of land and are nearer to the Nassau Market.

They could, and, in the past did produce good cattle and stock.

But as the former or original owners died - their descendants quitted the monotonous life on the cays and settled in Nassau or elsewhere - more often to semi starvation instead of the former prosperity they enjoyed.

In these days of cheap books and radios and musical instruments life could be less drab and more endurable.

A sample in what can be done in making a home more comfortable can be seen at the Hermitage Estate at the East end of Little Exuma, where living compares favourably with that in Nassau.

But to develop such farms will require a knowledge of stock raising and an outlay of at least £1000 in capital, and very little profit for 2 years - but it can be done.

Several of the cays - Stanyard Cay - Guano Cay Farmers Cay and Barratarria are settled - but the people barely exist.

There are a few phonographs, but reading is limited to the Bible, Hymnal, National Bellas Hess's Catalogue and Standard 2 or 3 school readers.

## THE EXUMA CAYS (CONTD.)

Corn hom'ny - potatoes and fish are in many cases the only foods.

Illness is nearly always attributed to Obeah and death is very often the result of ignorant carelessness and lack of attention to sickness in the incipient stage.

But, as a whole these people are better off than the inhabitants of the Berry Islands - who live under almost similar conditions.

The Cays are well worth visiting - pretty scenery good sea bathing and plenty of fresh air - and for those who enjoy yachting, crusing through the group for a few weeks should be an enjoyable trip.



SAIL ROCKS

I

**1** This group - situate between Latitude 24'54' and 24'58' North and Longitude 76'44' and 76'49' West includes a double and, in some places, a triple row of honeycombed rocks - 62 in number and varying in size from rocks 6 feet long and 1 foot high to a rock  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long, and over 200 feet wide.

Only the hardiest shrubs grow on a few of them - the majority being barren and surf beaten -

Whelks and curbs are plentiful and there is also good fishing -

The rocks are also the seasonal home of migratory sea birds -

There is no harbour and the nearest refuge from bad weather is at the South end of Ship Channel Cay - about eight miles South of the most Southerly rock - Little Sail Rock -

Three rocks only have names - the most Northerly is COAL BLACK ROSE which is about 400 feet long - 50 feet wide and 4 feet above H.W.M.

The most Southerly is LITTLE SAIL ROCK - about 600 feet long and 100 feet wide and 3 feet above H.W.M.

About 700 feet Northwardly of Little Sail Rock is BIG SAIL ROCK - about 1500 feet long - in some sections 200 feet wide and with a mound 15 feet high about 300 feet from the South end -

On this mound some vines, and a species of cactus called Dilldoe struggle for an existence.

**2**

There are 3 larger rocks - the largest about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long is situate approximately in Latitude  $76^{\circ}46\frac{1}{2}'$  North and Longitude  $24^{\circ}56\frac{1}{2}'$  West -

The next Cay Northwardly from this is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long, and about 100 feet wide.

Westwardly of the last mentioned is another cay about 1600 feet long - with a similar rock between the two.

On these three large rocks the only vegetation is a plant called wild pussley -

Besides these larger ones there are six others over 800 feet long -

From North going Southwardly there are 49 rocks bunched together and these stretch out for a length of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles - and then there is a gap of a mile or more, and the other 13 rocks extend another mile to the South -



These comprise 9 rocks situate between Latitudes 24'53' and 24'54' North and is approximately 76'47½' West Longitude -

On the charts they are called North - Middle and South Dogs.

At present the only purpose they serve is to give the sea something to break over -

(1) The North Dog is locally called "Man of War Rock" and is about 150 feet long and 8 feet high - it is barren -

(2) 700 feet South by West of Man of War Rock is another rock 20' long and a foot high -

(3) S. by W. of (2) is 150 feet long and 6 feet high and has some pussley growing on it -

(4) S. by W. of (3) about 15 feet long - and appears as a few points jutting out 1 foot above the water -

(5) S. by W. of (4) is a small rock locally called a head -

(6) S. by W. of (5) and similar to it

(7) Is 700 feet S. by W. of (3) and is 120 feet long and 4 feet high -

(2) to (7) are charted as Middle Dogs, but have no local name -

(8) Is about ¼ mile S. by W. of (7) and is about 200 feet long and 3 high -

(9) S. by W. of (8) is the South Dog - though locally it is known as Ocean Rock and sometimes is called "Jimmy Knowles" - It is 300' long and 4' high.

**4**

MUSHROOM ROCK

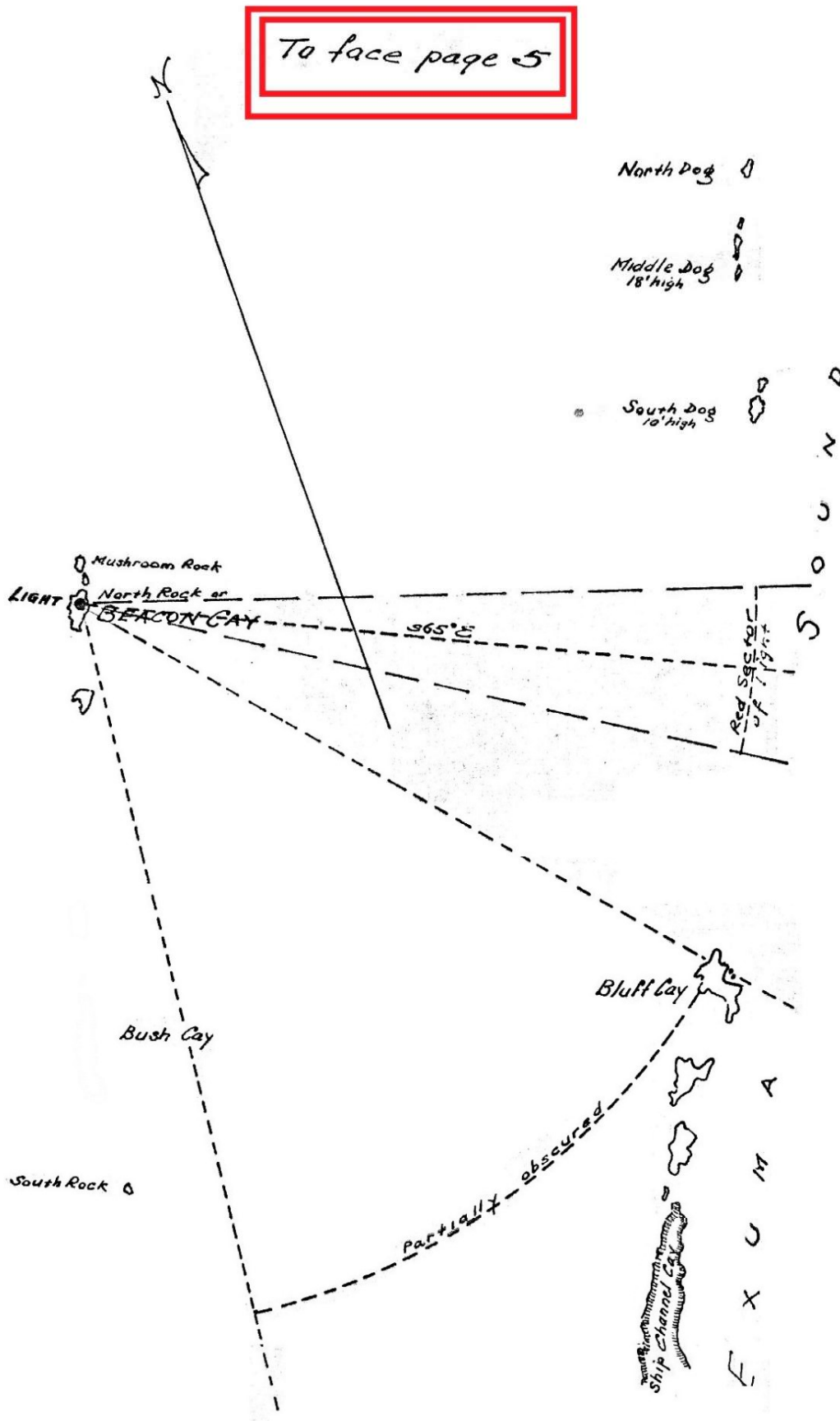
4

So called on the chart is about 200 feet long -  
75 feet wide and 20' above H.W.M. - Honeycombed and  
barren and is situate in Latitude 24 53' North and  
Longitude 76 49' West -

Immediately South of this rock is another about  
40 feet long X 20 feet wide and 8 feet high - The only  
thing on it is its surface -



# Page 5 MAP



## EXUMA CAYS SHIP CHANNEL CAYS

Copied from Admiralty Chart N.º  
N. Point of Bluff Cay Lat.  $24^{\circ}51'52''$  N  
Long  $76^{\circ}48'05''$  W

Sea Miles 0 5 cables 1 Mile  
10 cables

This rock - also called in charts "North Rock" and situate in Latitude 24'53' N. and Longitude 76' 49' West - is one of the most important of the Exuma Cays - as there is a light on it that guides the Mariners on their way to and from Nassau and from or to all the Islands lying South Eastwardly of the Bahamian Capital -

The Cay is about 400 feet long and 200 feet across at the widest part, and probably has an acre of rocky surface on the North end of which grows a patch of prickly pear cactus -

The rock is about 30 feet above H.W.M. with almost precipitous sides -

North of the Middle, is an octagonal structure surmounted by a light which is visible from all directions and for a distance of about 8 miles -

The greater portion of the light appears white but a narrow sector - the centre of which bears approximately E.S.E. is red and indicates the clear channel between the ocean on the East and the banks on the West

This light is maintained by the Bahamas Government which employs two Keepers who live on the Cay with their families -

Life on this Cay is not at all attractive - Besides the combined Lighthouse and dwelling, there is a kitchen a rain water tank and a boat shed -

The only plant life is the small patch of cactus which could be dispensed with -

Firewood is obtained from Ship Channel Cay, about 2½ miles to the S.E. but to get there depends on wind and weather

6

BEACON CAY AND ADJACENT ROCK (CONTD.)

6

The Cay is in an exposed position - there is no harbour - and with some winds embarking or landing would be a difficult matter -

The nearest neighbours are in New Providence - about 30 miles distant -

A redeeming feature of such a life, though, is that there are no irresponsible chauffeurs to send the unwary to an untimely end, and one has plenty of time in which to ponder over the wonders of nature -

About 800 feet South by West of Beacon Cay there is an L shaped rock about 250 feet long and nearly as wide at the North end, but very narrow at the South end.

The East side is 12' high and it slopes down to a foot or so above H.W.M. on the West Side - It is barren and has no name.



7

BUSH CAY AND ADJACENT ROCKS

7

A ROCK - no name - about 500 feet long and nearly 200 feet wide with about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres of surface - and rises 40 feet above H.W.M.

It is situate in Latitude  $24^{\circ}52\frac{1}{2}'$  N. and Longitude  $76^{\circ}49'$  W. and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile S, by W. of Beacon Cay -

There is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of thin soil in which grows stunted cactus and bay cedar and other hardy plants

Large loose rocks cover the Cay -

On the West Side of the Cay, and about the middle of its length, there is a small Cave with a half dozen pockets from which some one has removed the Cave earth - leaving a small quantity in two of the pockets -

The Western side of the Cay is steep - and the cliffs overhang considerable and are badly undermined

The East side is less steep and is washed clean by the sea.

150 feet North of Bush Cay - is a low lying rock - about 25 feet long and 20 feet wide - 18 inches above H.W.M.





BUSH CAY

Bush Cay lies in Latitude 24'52' N. and Longitude 76'49½' W. and is about 1600 feet long and from 40 to 400 feet wide - with an area of approximately 10 acres -

It is 30 feet high on the West side

It is practically 2 Cays - joined by a narrow isthmus or neck -

The Northern portion is 400 feet long and 125 feet across the widest part -

The name of the Cay is a misnomer as cactus and grass and a few shrubs - none over 2 feet high - are the only plants.

The Cay is covered with loose hard rocks and there is no soil visible -

500 feet from the extreme North and there is a cave with several rooms on the West side of Cay - but from which all earth has been removed.

Further South in the cliffs there are 2 or 3 cave holes - but none contain cave earth -

East side of Cay is devoid of any growth and is water swept.

Sea Birds nest here during the season.

On the West side of this rock and Beacon Cay there is 12' deep water - on the East side over 20 feet a few hundred feet from land.

BUSH CAY AND ADJACENT ROCKS (CONTD.)

9

9

SOUTH ROCK

This is the chart name - but locally it is a rock-

It lies in Latitude 24 52' N. and Longitude 76 49½' W. and is ¼ mile South of Bush Cay - It is 15 feet across and 3 feet high - Barren - and with sides that are well undermined by the action of the waves. It bears S. 87 W. of Bluff Cay - and together with Bluff Cay is shown in charts as a guide for steering through the channel from the ocean to the banks.

There is a channel to the North of South Rock, which is used by local mariners and fishermen.

There is 10-12 feet water West of this rock and over 20 feet on the East side -

## 10

SHIP CHANNEL CAYS

10

BLUFF CAY

This is the chart name only - locally it is known as one of the Ship Channel Cays - as are all the cays to the North of Allen Cays -

It is situate according to Admiralty Chart No. 1509 in Latitude 24°51'. 52" North and 76°48'.05" West and is about 1000 feet long and in some places 300 feet wide with an area of about 4½ to 5 acres.

There is no bluff on Bluff Cay - the Bluff like rock is 100 feet East of the Cay and 200 feet South of its North end.

From North going Southwardly - the first 200 feet is not over 30" high and is covered with holes filled with salt water - one of these holes is over 25' long and 15 feet wide with water 3 feet deep and even has a little sand beach -

This portion of the Cay is about 100' wide and except for 2 or 3 green shrub plants is bare.

Along the Northwest portion of the Cay the shore is 8 to 10 feet high and for over 300' length is undermined 20' in forming several caves with 4' headroom and with their floors just below L.W.M.

The floors are covered with sand - and overhead, on the surface there are several openings, the mouth of shafts that connect with these caves.

The remainder of the Cay is from 3 to 6 feet high with about ¼ acre of shrubs and cactus -



**11**

SHIP CHANNEL CAYS (CONTD.)

II

BLUFF CAY (CONTD.)

The middle of the cay - an area of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres is covered with loose soft sand stones, apparently washed up -

At the South end of the Cay, the most prominent object is a loose boulder - 25' long about 12' wide and 4' high of the same coarse soft sand stone - quite different from the hard baked rock of which the cay is formed -

During the season, like all other small uninhabited cays, it is the home of sea birds.

150 feet South of the above mentioned rock is another about 50 feet East of the shore - which is 40' across and 6' high - this also shows the effect of the waves.

About 800 feet S.W. of Bluff Cay is a Cay about 1200 feet long and from 100 - 400 feet wide and on which according to the charts a beacon originally stood.

There is none today, though there is a pile of rocks about 8' diameter which might originally have been a cairn.



About 500 feet from the North end is a hill 25 feet high and 400 feet further South is another mound 15' high -

On these risings grow shrubs only - the balance of the Cay is bare.

On the West side - shore is 4 to 6 feet above H.W.M. on the East side it is slightly above sea level

On charts this cay is shewn smaller than Bluff Cay, but it is larger - its area is about 6 acres.

Water around Cay is 15 - 16 feet deep.

The nearest harbour is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the South - at the Southern end of Ship Channel Cay -

300 feet South of S.W. point of last cay is another - in approximately Latitude  $24^{\circ}51\frac{1}{2}'$  N. & Longitude  $76^{\circ}48\frac{1}{4}'$  West.

This Cay is 600 feet long and from 100 - 300 feet wide with an area of approximately  $2\frac{3}{4}$ as.

Except for a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of hardy shrubs on the highest part of the Cay it is bare. The surface is covered with large stones which seem to be a top layer of the Cay, cracked up by some seismic disturbance and on this is a layer of loose stones thrown up by the Sea -

Water over 15 feet deep surrounds the Cay -

Both North and South of this Cay are cuts or passages between the ocean and banks but strong tides flow through them -

The nearest harbour is 3 miles away to the South of Ship Channel Cay.

It is a bird cay -

Separated by only a few feet from the North end of Ship Channel Cay is a Cay 400 feet long - from North to South and in some places 300 feet wide -

It is situate in Latitude 24' 51' North and Longitude 76' 48' West.

A half mile away it appears as a part of Ship Channel Cay -

It is 20 feet high along the East side and about 4' above H.W.M. on the West side -

It has a few shrubs and is of no agricultural value -

It is a bird Cay.

At low tide one walks dry shod to Ship Channel Cay -



Ship Channel Cay.

This Cay is situate between Latitudes 24' 48' and 24' 51' North and in Longitude 76' 48 $\frac{1}{2}$  West and is over 3 miles long - with an area of approximately 200 acres.

The Northern part of the Cay - a length of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles is narrow - averaging about 400 feet wide -

From North Southwardly for over  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile there is a hill ridge - in places 35' high - running along the middle of the cay and sloping on the East side to about 3 or 4 feet above H.W.M.

The West shore is much higher -

Near the South end of this section there is an area dotted with large deep cave holes some of which contains salt water -

On the East side near these holes, there is a sandy hill 30' high, with a short beach immediately North of it.

Across here the land is about 600 feet wide -

About 300' South of this section is the highest point on this portion of the Cay - a bluff about 40' high - a few feet in from the shore - with a sheer drop to the actual shore which is about 6' above H.W.M.

On the West side of this hill there is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of good soil with trees 10 - 12 feet tall.

The Hill ridge continues Southwardly but nearer the West side of the cay - to within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the South West end.

In this narrow section, along the East shore, there are several isolated hills -

The land between these hills and in the middle of the Cay is low - only a few feet above H.W.M. and - except on the East side hills which are of sand formation there is no soil visible and loose rocks are thickly scattered over the whole of this section.

The trees are stunted - none over 6 feet high - cabbage palms are plentiful -

From the highest hill Southwardly for over 500 feet - the ground on the East side for a distance of 200 feet inland is covered with loose white boulders - some over 20 feet square and 6 feet thick -

South of this section the Cay is low lying and drift wood and debris can be found in the trees 200 feet inland.

Across here the Cay is about 400 feet wide.

In the Southern half mile of this Northern section along the East shore are several sandy cliffs which seem to be gradually disintegrating and across here land is only 250 - 350 feet wide -

East of and opposite the end of this narrow section, there is a deep narrow bight facing North -

From the South end of this bight a creek runs Southwardly for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile -

The creek is shallow water being less than 3 feet deep - but is in some places over 600 feet wide -



The peninsula east of the creek is from 200 - 400 feet wide - with land 20 feet high, but with little soil -

On the West side of the creek there is a marl salina over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long and 300 - 400 feet wide - and between this and the West side sea - the land is about 500 - 600 feet wide - but in the middle of this land is a narrow crab pond extending over 3 or 4 acres -

South of the Creek is a hill about 50 feet high, which 70 years ago, was called Claret Hill -

From this hill Southwardly, the land is elevated and terminates on the East side in high white cliffs over 50 feet high that are visible many miles out to sea.

On the West shore, opposite this hill is a beach about 300 feet long and within 50 feet of this beach is a small pond, not over 75 feet in diameter -

Along the North side of the pond a road leads over a rising for 300 feet to a natural well 20 feet deep with 12 feet of good water - This well has been used by local mariners for generations.

From the road, at the seashore, 2 rocks out to sea bear 280 distant about 1000 feet - and 296 about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant - and Beacon Cay bears approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  -

200 feet South of this beach is another about 100 feet long

The Southwest end of the Cay is a peninsula about 400 feet long and 300 feet wide and about 6 - 12 feet above H.W.M.

Between this peninsula and the cliffs there is a beach - with clear white water -

On the East side of the Cay near the South end, there is a beach about 1000 feet long - and except for a short beach on the inside of the bight and the small beaches previously mentioned - the shore is rocky -

Along the North part of the Cay - shoals and bars skirt the East shore - the deep water being a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile out to sea -

On the West side there is from 10 - 15 feet of clear water -

The Southern portion of the Cay, has a few acres of good soil, but fire has swept through it recently -

Brittle top - a palm species, grows at the extreme South end -

If means to prevent pilfering by passing seamen could be devised the cay would be suitable for goat raising, but otherwise there is little to be done with it.

South of this Cay there is a double row of smaller Cays - all in the same group -

These form Ship Channel Cay Harbour - with 9' water.

At present this cay is the nearest from which the light keepers at Ship Channel Cay can obtain fuel wood.

1. LITTLE SHIP CHANNEL CAY - see plan opposite - lies in Latitude 24.48' North and Longitude 76.50' West - and is about 250 feet South of Ship Channel Cay -

It is 700 feet long - with an average width of 430 feet and contains about 7 acres -

It is about 12' high in the middle and about 6' above H.W.M. in the Southwest corner and about 30 inches high along the other portions of the shore.

There is a small beach on the South Side - and very little soil on the Cay -

There are a few small earth filled pockets and in these grow stunted trees - none over 4' tall.

On the West side water is 10 - 12 feet deep and on the East side is Ship Channel Cay Harbour with water up to 9 feet deep -

Near the Northeast corner of the Cay are a half dozen small cave holes with a few inches of salt water and in these at times passing turtles place turtle; though it is not a regular ranching place.

This would be a good camp site for a yachtsman spring water might be obtainable on the Cay - There is good anchorage - good fishing and it is not far from Nassau -





2. Midway between this Cay and Ship Channel Cay to the North there is a rock about 80 feet in diameter -

3. About 150 feet South of the Cay lies a low rock about 80' long by 20' wide -

See 5 on map opposite to page 18 - This Cay is about 800 feet long, and has an average width of 230 feet - with an approximate area of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres -

It is situate 200 feet East of the Southern end of Ship Channel Cay in Latitude 24 48' North and Longitude 76 50' West -

There is about an acre of thin soil in the middle of the Cay with trees from 8' to 12' tall -

A strip 50' wide along the East side and 150 feet of the North end are barren -

The remainder of the Cay seems to have no soil and the only thing growing on it is granny kinney bush a hardy plant that thrives where even grass will not grow -

A ridge 10 - 15' high runs along the middle of the Cay - and slopes down to 4' to 6' high along the shore on both sides -

Loose surface rocks are found all over the Cay -

A channel between this cay and Ship Channel Cay has 7 feet water - and small boats can enter Ship Channel Cay harbour which is on the West side of this cay, from the ocean on the East -

Water in the Harbour is not over 9 feet deep -

This Cay is exposed and with heavy winds from North East or South the sea must break over it.

There is no fresh water -



Between this Cay and Long Rock which lies 150 feet to the South - there is a sunken rock - about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide -

See 6 on map opposite to page 18

LONG ROCK - also one of the Ship Channel Cays is situate 1000 feet South of Ship Channel Cay in Latitude 24 48' N. and Longitude 76 50' West and is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles long and from 100 to 550 feet wide - with an average width of 300 feet - and an approximate area of 50 acres -

About a half of the length of the Cay - with an area of 20 acres has some black soil -

A portion of this might possibly be used, by leaving a windbreak of trees along the East side -

The Northern and Southern portions of the Cay and the East side are of honeycomb rock in which grow only the hardiest shrubs.

The Cay is elevated - The North end is about 10 feet high and the South end about 20 feet high - with a continuous ridge along its whole length and from 10 feet to 35 feet high.

There is no known fresh water supply.

West of the Northern portion of this cay is Ship Channel Cay Harbour with up to 9 feet of water, and which is smooth with winds from almost any direction.

West of the Southern section is open sea with 5 to 6 feet depth near by shore.

A reef and bars extend along the whole of the Eastern side.

It should make as good a winter home as Salt Cay (Treasure Id.) near New Providence - with the added advantage of a harbour -

See 7 on Map opposite to page 18

An irregular shaped Cay about 1500 feet long and averaging 250 feet wide with an approximate area of 9 acres is situate in Latitude 24 47' North and in Longitude 76 50' West.

Except for 3 short beaches on the East side the shore is rocky and is from 6 inches to 6 feet high along the West side and from 18 inches to 2' high on the East side.

Near the North end there is a hill 20' high - and near the South end, there is another hill 12' high - and, in the middle, a length of over 600 feet is 35 feet high.

There is no soil - the trees are not over 4' tall.

There are many pot and water holes, but even in the highest portions of the cay, the water is brackish, as a result of the salt spray that goes over the cay -

This is a bird cay also -

On the West of this rock the water is from 9 to 12 feet deep and on the East there is Ship Channel Harbour with water up to 9 feet deep.

The entrance to this harbour from the banks is about 600 feet North of this Cay and South of Little Ship Channel Cay.

See 8 on Map opposite page 18

This Rock is situate in Latitude 24 47' North and Longitude 76 50' West and lies 600 feet South of Little Ship Channel Cay.

It is U shaped and varies in width from 50 to 100 feet and is about 200 feet long.

It is about 30 inches high near the East end - where about 2500 square feet is covered with a shrub called granny kinney bush - the remainder of the rock is not over 1 foot high and barren -

Between this Rock and Little Ship Channel Cay is the entrance to Ship Channel Cay Harbour - which is safe in storms (not 1926 hurricanes) for boats of 6 feet draft or under -

It acts as a breakwater during West winds and also accomodates the curbs and periwinkles that cling to it.



These rocks are situate in Latitude 24 47' North and in Longitude 76 50' West.

For lack of names, the cays are lettered, both in the map opposite and in the following descriptions -

There is no harbour along these rocks, but at either end there is a fairly good one, Ship Channel Cay Harbour to the North and Allen Cays Harbour to the South.

These Harbours are under 2 miles apart -

A. This Cay is situate about 400 feet West of the South end of Long Rock in the Ship Channel Cay Group.

It is 650 feet long and averages 150 feet wide, with an area of approximately  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

It consists of a hill about 300' long and 20' high and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in area - sloping down to a few feet high along the shore -

Cactus and stunted trees - none over 4 feet high grow sparsely on this elevation -

Here and there can be seen some thin grey soil.

The surface is covered with large loose rocks -

Birds nest here during the season.

See B on map opposite.

A Barren Rock about 700 feet East of A above, and about 300 ' South of Long Rock in the Ship Channel Cays.

It is 400 feet long and 60 feet in the widest  part and figure 8 shaped -

**25** It is from 3 to 8 feet high -

Between this and the rock to the South West is a channel for boats drawing under 10 feet.

C. This rock is about 1000 feet long and has an average width of 160 feet with an area of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

It is situate about 500 feet South by East of A previously described and 800 feet South by West of Long Rock of Ship Channel Cays.

At the North end there is a peninsula 100 feet long and 10 feet high joined to the main portion by a narrow neck 2 feet high -

100 feet and 300 feet South of this neck there are two risings 20 feet high -

About 200 feet North of the South End there is a hill 25 feet high -

In between these the land is 6 feet high -

On these elevated points grow Bay lavender and pussley plants - the remainder of the Cay is barren -

This also is a bird or "Lil' roun" Cay -

Deep water surrounds this rock -

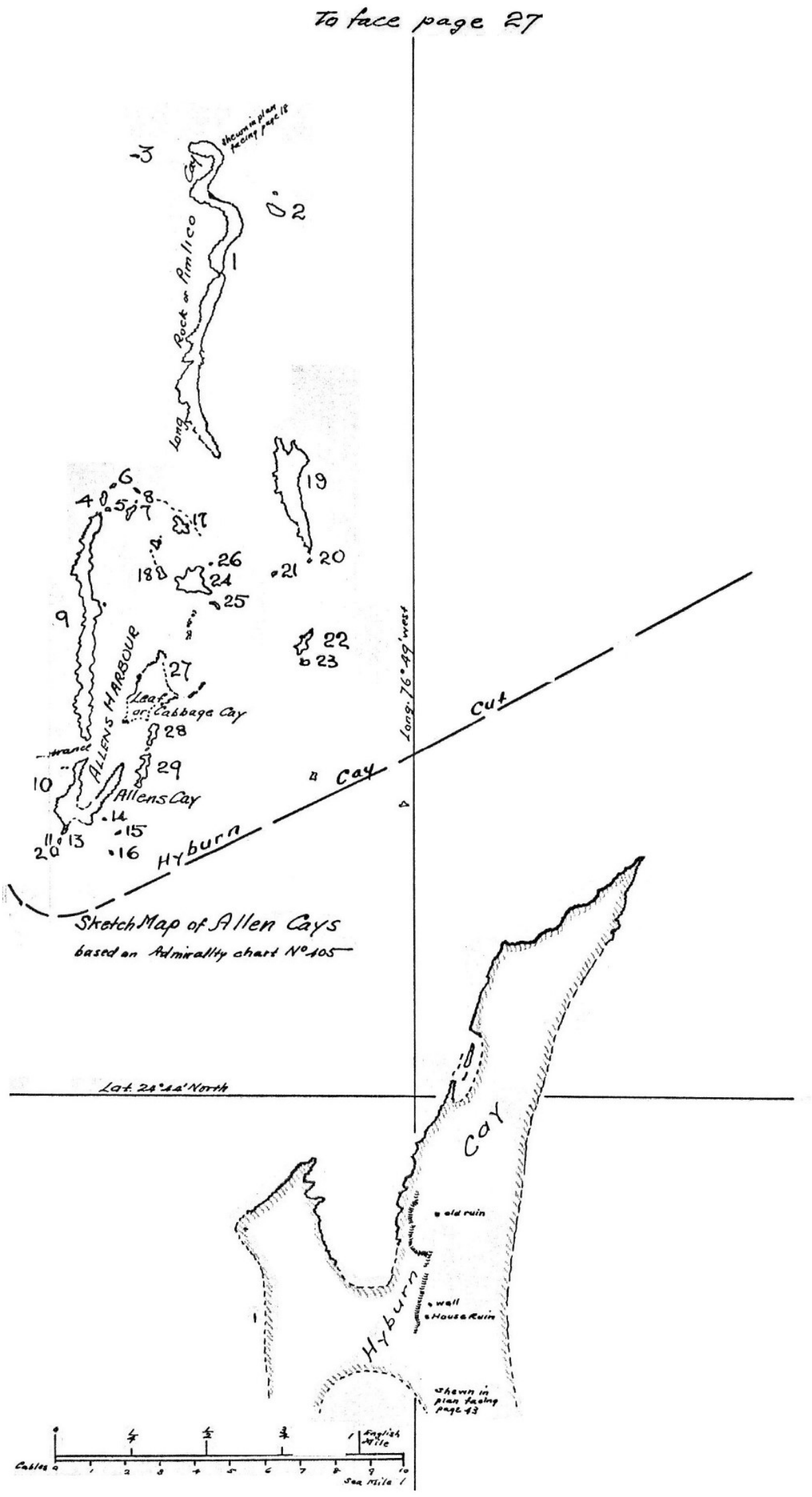
D. A barren L shaped rock 600 feet North to South - and 200 feet wide at the North end, and averaging about 100 feet wide with an area of less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres -

It is 50 feet South East of the last described rock and 900 feet East by North of Long Rock of the Allen Cays

**26**

The rock is barren - At the South end there is a mound about 15 feet high.

It is surrounded by deep water.





This small group is situate North West of Hyburn Cay -- between Latitudes  $24\ 44\frac{1}{2}'$  and  $24\ 46\frac{1}{2}'$  North and in Longitude  $76\ 49\frac{1}{2}'$  West.

Three, only, have names - the others for lack of such are numbered both in the following description and in the map opposite - which map is based on Admiralty chart No. 405 -

There is no fresh water at present on the Cays, though it might be obtainable on Cays 10, 19, 27.

There is good fishing in the vicinity and apparently good shooting on Hyburn Cay - two miles to the South East AND WHICH IS PRIVATELY OWNED - and also where there is good water.

Among these cays there is a harbour for boats drawing up to 5 or 6 feet - and which is fairly safe and smooth except in heavy Northerly winds.

With a hurricane from the North a boat could be beached on the bight of Cay 10 or on Cay 27.

Around the outside of the cays the water is from 12 to 20 feet deep.

1. Long Rock, or Pimlico Cay the most northerly of these cays, is what its name implies -

A very irregular shaped rock - the surface is honeycombed and, pitted with holes, where not covered with large loose stones -

The rock is about 1 mile long, in a straight line from end to end, about 600 feet more following the twists and turns of the Cay.

In some sections it is over 250 feet wide, in others (excluding an isthmus) under 100 feet across.

The area is perhaps over 20 acres -

The Cay is formed of two sections joined by a narrow isthmus 30 feet wide and 1 foot high - the Northern section being slightly shorter than the Southern.

It is from 15 - 25 feet high except at the isthmus and for a short length near the South end which is about 4 feet high -

About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile North of the South end there is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre patch of Cabbage Palm and further South a small patch of prickly pear -

The remainder of the Cay is either barren or covered with pussley -

Deep water surrounds the rock -

From the North end of Long Rock the White Cliffs of Ship Channel Cay bear 13                      -                      The Northeast end of Hyburn Cay is 150                      - and Bush Cay about  $2\frac{1}{2}$

2.        From the North end of Long Rock a rock 300 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 3 feet high bears South East about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile Distant.

300 feet North of this rock is a sunken Rock - about 50 feet long -

3.        West of the Northern end of Long Rock is another rock 50 feet across and 3 feet high -



4. This rock is 400 feet long and 200 feet wide at the South end and 125 feet at the North end - with an average width of approximately 140 feet and an area of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres

It has a crinkly rock surface, with a few pot holes in which there is some sand - But put together there are not 100 sq. feet of soil -

In these holes, shrubs and a few 7 year apple trees - none over 3 feet high - struggle for existence -

Over a half of the cay is devoid of any vegetation.

Loose stones and rocks are scattered over the surface.

At the North end of this rock is a hill 25 feet high and at the South end another about 20 feet high - the middle is lower -

The shore is from 3 to 6 feet above H.W.M.

5. About 20 feet from the South East point of this rock is a rock 25 feet across and 3 feet high -

6. To the North of Main Rock is another 30 feet across and 3 feet high.



7. A rock 200 feet long, lies 600 feet South east of No. 4 and is separated from it by water from 4 to 6 feet deep -

Near the South end it is about 100 feet wide - and has an average width of 75 feet - and an area of approximately  $3/8$  acres.

The middle is about 3 feet above H.W.M. and is covered with large loose rocks -

There is no soil and at the South end only there is a small patch of pussley -

8. Just North of this rock are 3 small rocks bunched together.

9. This irregular shaped rock is about 300 feet South by West of No. 4 and is approximately 4000 feet long and from 60 feet to 300 feet wide - averaging less than 200 feet - with an area of 15 acres.

It is from 15 to 20 feet above H.W.M. and has no visible soil -

The extreme South end is the higher portion with the Western shore about 10 feet above H.W.M.

The Eastern shore is much lower -

Stunted trees grow on it - though some sections are almost barren -

There is no spring water -

A few iguanas live on the Cay -

75 feet South by East of the South end of this Cay lies a rock - 30 feet across and 2 feet high.

ALLENS CAY

10. This is the most Southerly of the Allen Cays though there are 2 rocks to the South of this Cay.

It lies about 500 feet South of Cay No. 9 and the passage between the two cays, is the entrance to the harbour -

The area is approximately 8 acres -

The Cay is U shaped and is actually 2 rocks joined at the South end or bottom of the U by a sand isthmus about 250 feet long by 200 feet wide - and 3 feet high -

On this section only grass grows -

The eastern section is a ridge 10 feet high in the middle and sloping to 3 feet at the shore -

This section is about 850 feet long and averages 100 feet wide -

On this section there is no soil and trees are not over 4 feet high -

The Western portion is about 900 feet long and averages about 200 feet wide -

On the East side of and near the North end of this section, there is a short beach - and near the South end the sand isthmus widens out and spreads into another beach along the Eastern shore -

This section is from 2 to 20' high - the highest portion being near the Southern end -

Trees do not grow over 5 feet tall and there is very little soil.



In front of the Northern beach - the water is 4 feet deep and there are some kraals built of large stones, and several small holes on the land in which fishermen sometimes place turtle for safekeeping -

Sponge and turtle fishers ranch here regularly -

There is no water, but it is obtainable at Ship Channel Cay or Hyburn Cay - respectively 4 and 2 miles distant -

Iguanas are found here also -

This is a rather good cay and could be developed into a pretty home site -

11. South of this Cay distant 500 feet and 600 feet and

12. respectively, are 2 small rocks, the first 150 feet long - the 2nd 100 feet long - and near the Southeast point

13. of the West section is another smaller rock -

14. East by North about 400 feet from the Southeast end of the cay there is a low lying rock about 100 feet long -

15. East by South and Southeast by South of the and

16. Southeast end of the Cay are 2 other low lying rocks each approximately 800 feet distant.



17. This rock is about 1400 feet South by West of Long Rock and 1400 feet East by South of the North end of 9.

It is 400 feet long and has an area of about 2 acres.

About 150 feet from the South end there is a rising 9 feet high - the other portions of the cay are low in places only 2 feet high -

The surface is hard rock with crinkly rock along the shore -

There is very little soil and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre is covered with stunted trees -

There are plenty of loose stones all over the Cay -

Water around this cay is from 10 - 15' deep except along the Southwestern side where it is only a few feet deep.

For boats under  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet draft there is an entrance to the harbour between this Rock and Rock 7.

This draft is controlled by the shallower water further South -

17 a. About 400 feet Southwest of 17 is a sunken rock 300 feet long - lying North by South.

18. About 850 feet Southwest by South of No. 17 is a rock 150 feet long by 6' high above water -

At low tide, between this and 17 a. water is only a few inches deep.

**34**

19. This rock lies about 1200 feet East of the South end of Long Rock -

It is about 2000 feet long and averages about 250 feet wide - with an area of nearly 12 acres -

The widest part of the Cay is about 300 feet South of the North end - about 600 feet wide -

There is a hill about 20 feet high - which is slightly nearer the South than the North end -

There is a beach 300 feet long, about midway of the cay on the East side - and in a bight on the North side of the cay, there is another beach about 100 feet long - other sections of the shore are rocky -

South of this Northern beach, there is a buttonwood swamp about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in area with large buttonwood trees

From this pond Southwardly to opposite the South end of the beach on the East side of the Cay - the soil is sandy - and possibly with no salt spray and with plenty of rain would produce crops -

The remainder of the Cay has black soil, which also seems fertile -

In all there are 3 or 4 acres of soil -

This cay, though, is not well situated - It is exposed to the North and East winds and during gales must be a rather unpleasant place.

Deep water surrounds this cay.

20. 20 feet South of this cay is a rock 15 feet across - From this rock a bar runs Southwardly over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to a point to the East of No. 22.

21. This rock is 75 feet across and 5 feet high -  
It is 600 feet Southwest of No. 20.

22. A rocky Cay 400 feet long and 250 feet across  
the widest part - with an average width of approximately  
165 feet - and an area of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

It is situate about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile South of No. 19.

The surface is covered with loose rocks and  
there is about an  $1/8$  acre of grass and pussley -

Under the grass can be seen coarse sand and  
gravel, but otherwise there is no soil -

It is wind and water swept -

23. 20 feet Southeast of, and separated from No.  
22 by a narrow bar is a rock 150 feet across either way -

It is about 15 feet high in the middle and has  
a few tufts of pussley -

The surface is a crinkly rock -

East of this rock there is a bar that runs  
Northwardly for over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the South end of Cay No. 20.



24. This rock is 400 feet long from Northwest to Southeast and from South to Northeast is 250 feet wide - with an average width of 165 feet and an area of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres -

The Southern portion is a ridge 12' high - with loose rocks scattered over the surface and with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre having patches of thin soil - on which grow stunted trees -

The surface is smooth -

25. 100 feet Southeast of No. 24 is an hard smooth surfaced S shaped rock 300 feet along its centre and averaging 60 feet wide -

It is 30 inches above H.W.M. and barren -

26. 300 feet Northeast of this Cay (No. 24) is a rock 30' across and 4' high.

Between Nos. 24 and 19 and Long Rock, or Pimlico Cay the water is over 15 feet deep -

LEAF CAY, local name or CABBAGE CAY

27. This cay is situate East of the Southern portion of No. 9 and Northeastwardly of No. 10 and with them and a few intervening rocks - form Allen Cays Harbour -

It is about 1200 feet long from North to South with an average width of 300 feet - and an area of approximately 8 acres -

27. The North end, about 200 feet in length, is (contd). rocky and extremely narrow - not over 120 feet wide - and 3 to 10 feet high.

The remainder is white sandy land on a smooth rock foundation.

The greater portion of the shore is sandy - with pretty beaches -

Along the East side the sand hills are about 10 feet high - on other sides the land is from 3 to 5 feet high -

Near the South end, there is a small swampy section in which an attempt was made to dig a well -

The water in it is salt, though it may be seepage from the sea, which is close by.

The soil, with a plentiful supply of water, might be fertile, but the cay is too exposed to the ocean and Easterly winds -

This cay, leaving hurricanes out of the reckoning, should be a good home site -

The cays and rocks around form a pretty view - there is the ocean on the East with its White caps and surf during out winds, and a calm harbour on the West - The cay could be landscaped - and cocoanut trees set out - in some prearranged order - but, the hurricanes must be considered.

28. 150 feet South by East of the Southeast point of the Cay there is a rock 225 feet long and 75 feet wide and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high with a patch of pussley on it.

29. 200 feet Southwest of the last named rock is another about 225 feet long by 100 feet wide and a foot high - It is barren -

Between these 2 last (28 and 29) is a sunken rock -

30. From East point of No. 27 Eastwardly 600 feet distant is a rock - 200 feet long North to South and 150 feet wide - It is not over 2 feet high at the South end and lower in other parts.

Between ALLEN CAYS AND THE NORTH END OF HY-BURN CAY are several small rocks - the largest is 150 feet long -

They are 4 to 5 feet above H.W.M. and are barren -

They have no names -



Hyburn Cay is situate in Latitude 24 43' North and Longitude 76 49' West -

It is over 3 miles long - and was granted as 430 acres.

All Hyburn Cay is divided into three parts -

The eastern or main section is elevated rocky black land -

The middle section is a low lying sand isthmus joining the eastern and western sections - It is nowhe over 4 feet high.

The Western section is black rocky land, less elevated than the Eastern portion and is about 1 mile lo

Hills on the Northern part of the East section are from 20 - 70 feet high -

In the Southern part it is much lower, but terminates at the extreme South end in a hill 35 feet high.

More than half of the Eastern shore is a fine beach - the remainder is rocky -

The Western shore - is rocky - except for 2 beaches together about 600 feet long, near the South end

On a hill about 40 feet high and directly opposite the isthmus are standing the walls of the old estat house originally a well built structure about 36 by 20 w walls 18 to 20 inches thick.

It has 16 doors and windows and is surrounded by a 10 feet terrace -

It is called South house on Chart No. 405 - and can be seen many miles away -

Near by is the ruin of a kitchen -

A road leads up from the Southeast corner of the Isthmus to the house passing by a well curbed around with masonry, but now filled up - and by several house ruins - probably servants quarters or barns - and through a gateway in a well constructed yard wall, several hundred feet Southwardly from the house -

A heavy and dense forest growth covers this section lignumvitae is plentiful - (In fact from here Southwardly it is abundant) and the soil is good -

The Isthmus is about 1000 feet long between the 2 other sections and 1500 feet wide from North to South -

The North shore is a beautiful beach - the South shore is also a beach, but at low tide, it is bordered by marl banks that extend out several hundred feet -

In some parts there is a heavy forest growth, but a large portion is covered with Pond Top Palm trees - and there are a couple of acres that are swampy -

From the Eastern end of the Northern beach a path leads Southwardly near and West of the edge of the Eastern section - passing a walled pen, and 30 feet beyond this pen is an old cow well - now partly filled up.

The Western ridge is from 6 to 20' high and is covered with a dense growth also -

The Northern portion of the Western shore is a beach over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long - the remainder of the shore is rocky -

About 800 feet West of the Northern point, there is a deep well - noted in the charts as bad - but containing a plentiful supply of good water -

The area of the well at the bottom is over 500 sq. feet and it has been curbed in by the Government -

The whole cay is divided into many cattle pastures, the walls are still standing, though in bad repair -

The Northern and Southern bights are termed Harbours, and in ordinary heavy winds from the East or West, both are smooth -

There is about 6 feet water in the bight -

With a Norther the Southern Bight is a haven and vice versa - but during a hurricane with shifting winds woe betide the vessel -

In the Northern bight can be seen the remains of two vessels broken up against the shore during the 26 hurricane.

This Cay is reputed to be next to Hog Cay the best stock cay in the Exuma Range -

After seeing Hog Cay, and some of the mainland estates I think that the reputation should be a fact.

It has the advantage of being nearer to market and of better transportation facilities, than have places 50 - 100 miles further South East and stock should reach market in better condition -

But the stock business needs capital and also, more important, knowledge.

Stock raising is much more than tying a sheep on a barren plate rock and selling him 6 weeks afterwards, which seems to be the practice in many places.



Quality production with a reasonable amount of quantity apparently pays better dividends than numbers -

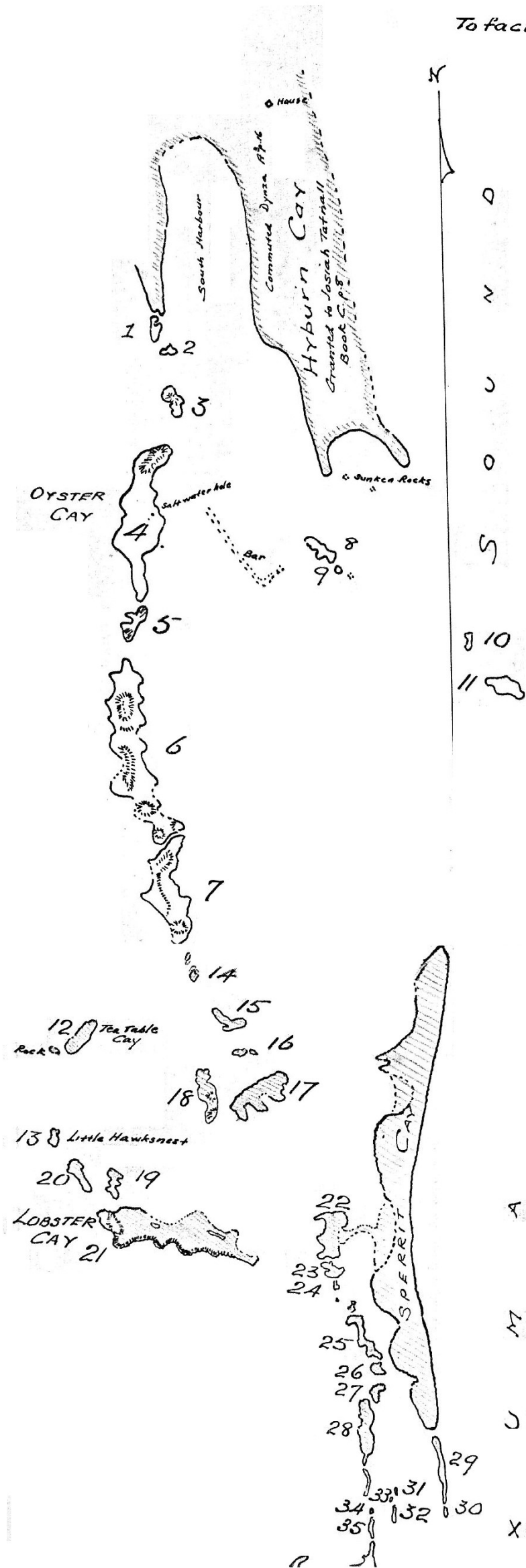
There are said to be plenty of pigeons on this Cay and the empty shells prove that shooting is indulged in -

The ocean borders this cay on the East and water 8 - 12 feet deep flows along the Western shore -

This Cay was granted to Josiah Tatnall - Grant Book C page 8 (1787) - Commuted by Francisco D'Ynza Commutation Book A3 page 16 and is now (1929) said to be owned by the estate of the late W.J. Pinder decd. and R. G. Collins.

Bearing S.W. by W. from the extreme North Point of Hyburn Cay and almost due North from the North end of the Western section is a low lying rock almost awash - On the chart it is called Chub Rock - Locally it has no name.

To face page 43



For position see map opposite -

These "off" cays extend Southwardly from Hyburn Cay to Normans Cay and are situate in approximate 24 39' North and in Longitude 76 49' West.

They are rocky, with little or no soil and are inhabited by migratory sea birds during their breeding season -

There is no fresh water - and at present they have no commercial value -

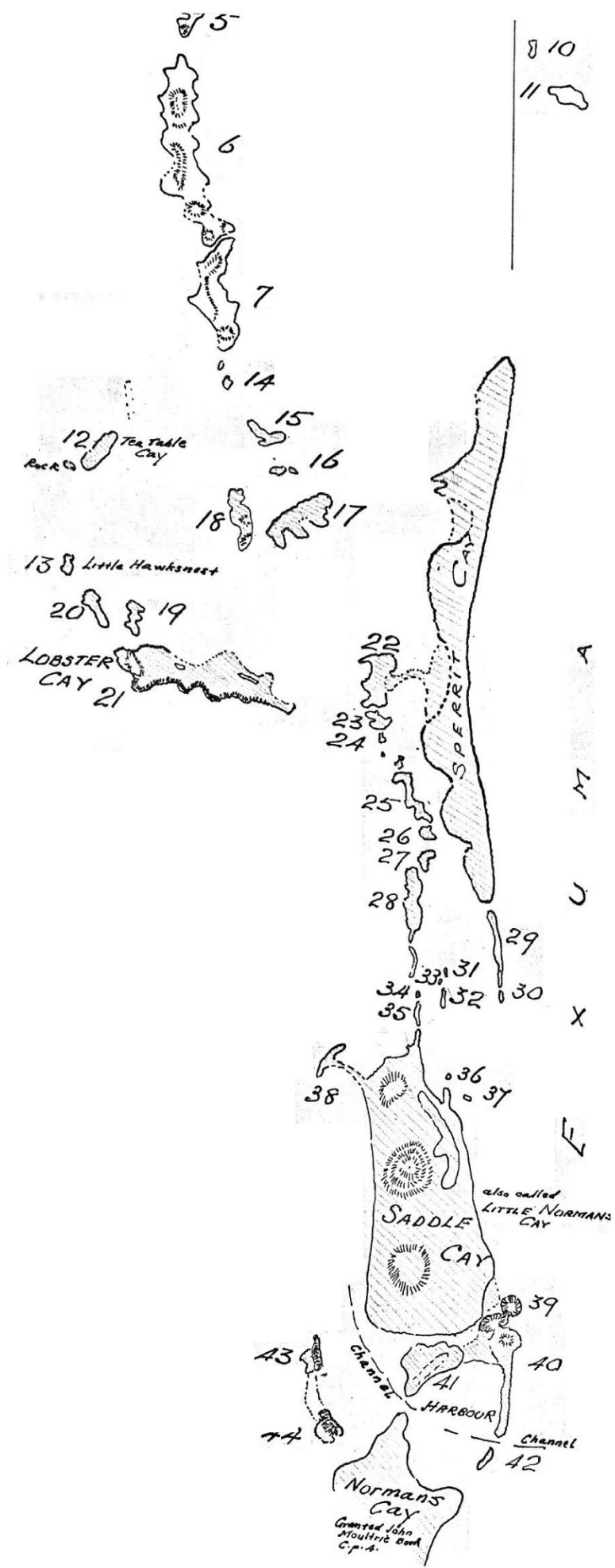
Water along the West side of these cays is from 3 to 10 feet deep and on the East side of the most Northernly it is from 8 to 12 feet deep and East of the Southern banks of the group is the ocean.

1. About 10 feet South of the South West Point of Hyburn Cay is a barren rock 350 feet long - 8 shaped the neck a few feet wide and in the widest part 100 feet across - It is 30" above water.

2. 200 feet South of this is another rock 120 feet long by 120 feet wide - 2' high - barren -

3. 325 feet long by an average of 100 feet wide - area approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre - Hard crinkly rock, no soil - a few stunted shrubs and buttonwood - About midway there is a mound 8' high - balance of rock is from 3 to 5' high.





EXUMA CAYS

Plan or Map showing approximate position,  
shape, and size of Cays and Rocks situate between  
Hyburn and Normans Cays  
Scale about 1/4 mile to an inch  
Lat. 28° 40' 00" N } approx.  
South end of Sperrit Cay - Long 76° 48' 46" W }

4. 1700 feet long by 200 feet average width - area 8 acres - Rocky, honeycombed, with a few small cave holes in which there is some soil.

In the middle of the Cay are several 6 feet deep salt water holes.

The surface is covered with loose rocks -

There are a few large trees in the cave holes, but over the other parts of the cay vegetation, if any, is stunted.

The middle of the cay is from 20 - 25 feet high. Along the shore is from 3 to 6 feet high except at the South end where it is 12' high.

On the chart this is called OYSTER CAY - the name is perhaps derived from a diminutive oyster found on this cay and several adjacent rocks -

These oysters are not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick.

5. This Cay is about 250 feet long and has an average width of 100 feet.

It has a rough crinkly rock surface - with not over 400 sq. feet covered with pussley -

Near the South end there is a hill 16 feet high - at the North end a mound 8 feet high - and the shore is about 3 feet above H.W.M.

See map opposite to page 43

6. A Cay 2100 feet long and averaging 200 feet wide - with an area of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  acres - and with a rocky surface, with practically no soil -

There are several hills from 14 - 20 feet high -

Except for 3 small beaches, the shore is rocky -

Near the South end there is a narrow gully through which the sea flows at high tide and separates a portion of the Cay.

There are some stunted trees and inland there are several salt water holes -

Between Cays 3, 4, 5 & 6 there are deep water cuts or passages.

No. 6 is possibly the Lowburn Cay of the charts.

7. A Cay 1200 feet long and averaging 275 feet wide with an area of nearly 8 acres -

Both ends are rocky with very little soil - about 400 feet South of the North end there is some white land - probably  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of good soil - directly South of this, there is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of black soil - a total of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres of soil -

Loose stones and rocks are plentiful -

Near the South end there are some deep cave holes - and the land is 15 feet high -

At the North end the land is 10 feet high -

There are 2 small beaches on the West side of the



8. A rock 400 feet long and about 100 feet average width and about 15 feet above H.W.M.

It has a patch of granny kinney bush near the S.W. end -

There is deep water along the N.E. side of the rock.

9. A honeycombed rock 100 feet long and 75 feet across the widest part - It is 12' high - and has a few tufts of Bay Lavender -

The sides of the rock are about 6 to 8 feet high -

About 120 feet S.E. by E. of this rock is a sunken rock - about 50 ' long -

West of (8) and (9) there is a sunken rock and adjoining this rock a bar runs out Northwardly and Eastwardly -

10. A Barren Rock about 5' above H.W.M. along its shore and 14' high in the middle. Its surface is a series of pot holes and sharp points -

The edges of the cay are smooth and slippery -

It is 200 feet long and about 60 feet wide -

11. A rock with steep slippery sides - about 420 feet long and averaging 100 feet wide - and 20' high in the middle.

There are a few stunted buttonwood trees about 1 foot high - and some shrubs -

12. A Sandy Tea Table Cay with a narrow ridge from 10 - 12 feet high along its southern edge - It is 450 feet long and averages 120 feet wide - with an area of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

The balance of the cay is 3 feet high -

Growing on it are 2 sorry looking thatch trees and a few cocoa-plum trees 6 inches high, grass and bay geranium.

Between this Cay and No. 7, there is a long sand bank as shown in map.

200 feet West of this Cay is a low lying rock about 150 feet long and 20 feet wide and 1 foot high - separating the two is shallow water.

13. LITTLE HAWKSNEST - A rock 120 feet long and averaging 75 feet wide - It has a rugged, pitted surface - and overhanging edges - in some places the sides are undermined 12 feet deep.

The shore is 5 feet above H.W.M.

The middle is 10 feet high and is surmounted by a fish hawks nest whence its name.

A few square feet of pussley garnish the sides of the nest.

Deep water surrounds the rock -

14. A Rock 200 feet long, and 100 feet wide and 5 feet high at the North end - The remainder being 3 feet high.

It has a rough, barren surface.

About 150 feet North of this rock is a smaller one - also barren.

15. A T shaped Rock about 450 feet long and averaging 180 feet wide -

It has a rough surface and is covered with pussey and shrubs, and loose stones -

16. Rock 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, with about 300 sq. feet of shrubs that are 2 or 3 inches high.

The Rock is about 3 feet above H.W.M.

15 feet East of this rock is another 100 feet long by 30 feet wide and 2 feet high - It is barren -

17. A Cay 650 feet long and averaging 250 feet wide Near the West end it is 8 feet high - with the remainder of the Cay from 3 to 7 feet high -

In the middle, a length of 300 feet by 100 feet wide is covered with stunted trees and shrubs -

Loose rocks abound -

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C<sup>3</sup> 11)



**49** CAYS BETWEEN HYBURN CAY & NORMANS CAY (CONTD.) 49

18. A rock over 500 feet long and averaging 100 feet wide - For 150 feet from the North end, the rock is 6' high, barren and scrubby -

About the middle of the cay - but nearer the East side, there is a hill 10 feet high - and at the South end another 12' high -

All other portions are 4 feet high -

On the hills and valleys between them stunted buttonwood grows -

19. A rock about 275 feet long, and averaging 75 feet wide - It is 8 shaped with 2 mounds 8' high in the centre of each section - and with sides 4' high.

There is a shrub patch 10 feet square and the remainder of the cay is barren -

The surface is a series of pot holes, many of which are full of salt water -

20. A Cay 300 feet long and averages 100 feet wide - It has a sand mound 10 feet high at the Northeastern end. While other portions of the cay are not over 2 feet high.

On the mound grow a few stunted trees, and the South end has some bay cedar plants -

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C<sup>3</sup> 11)

21. LOBSTER CAY - chart name -

This cay has no local name

It is about 1800 feet long and averages 270 feet wide with an area of approximately 11 acres.

The Northwestern end is a hill ridge from 20 to 25 feet high, with perpendicular cliffs on the Southern side.

The remainder of the cay is from 3 to 10 feet high.

The Southern shore is rocky - while the Northern shore has several beaches - Both shores are deeply indented and very irregular -

There are some patches of good soil - probably 2 or 3 acres in all -

Along the beaches the soil is sandy and white.

There are 2 ponds which have water during the rainy season only -

This cay would be an ideal site for a fort like structure or for a camp - From its hills there is a fine view of the surrounding cays - a harbour for a yacht is not far away - and a motor or row boat could be safely anchored - Conchs, whelks and fish abound around here -

Between this and the cay to the east are two small rocks -

## 51 CAYS BETWEEN HYBURN CAY & NORMANS CAY (CONTD). 51

22. A Cay 500 feet long and averaging 250 feet wide - The South and North ends are rocky with no soil and many pot holes - these ends are from 3 to 4 feet high.

On the east side of the North end there is a natural hole about 20 feet square and 2 feet deep - which looks as if it had been hand cut - This hole is filled with water and contains fishes.

On this rocky portion, there are trees about 5' tall -

The sandy portion is 300 feet long and is about 4' high and the trees grow 12 feet tall -

This portion is 200 feet wide and adjoining it on the East is a beach 200' long and 150 feet wide -

At Low tide this beach is connected by a sand bank to SPERRIT CAY - which is about 500 feet to the East -

At High tide this sand bank is 2 feet under water - I am told that this bank is growing -

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay 3rd June 1936  
(Surveyor General's Book C<sup>3</sup> P.8)

SPERRIT CAY - (a corruption of the word Spirit) - is on the charts called LONG CAY -

It is about a mile long - and averages about 300 feet wide and contains 36 acres.

The whole length of the cay is a ridge from 25-40 feet high.

A third of the width along the Eastern shore is barren and honeycombed - the remainder of the Cay is covered with shrubs and grass. The only soil is along the beaches.



SPERRIT CAY OR LONG CAY (CONTD.)

About  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the North end there are a few stunted trees -

The sides of the cay are extremely steep and there is a narrow plateau on the top of the ridge -

The East shore is rocky and unhospitable and is bordered by the Ocean.

Along the West side there are several beaches, and from one of these which is about 1200 feet long and 300 feet wide, a sand bank extends Westwardly and joins a beach on a Cay (No. 22) immediately to the West -

At the Southeast part of this beach where it joins the rocky main portion of the cay - there is a button-wood pond, which was originally larger, but is gradually being filled in -

Loose rocks and stone cover the cay.

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay 3rd June, 1936.  
(Surveyor General's Book C.3 P. 8)

23. This rock is West of Sperrit Cay and South of 22 It is 250 feet long from East to West about 70 feet wide and is 10' above H.W.M. on a mound near the South end - the sides are 3 feet above water -

There is no soil, and many loose stones cover the rock - A few stunted shrubs struggle for existence.

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay 3rd June, 1936.  
(Surveyor General's Book C.3 P. 8)

24. A rock - 120 feet long - and averaging 40 feet in width and 2 feet above H.W.M.

**53**

25. An irregular twisted rock - about 600 feet long - and with an average width of 75 feet -

At the North end there is a mound 10 feet high - and another 8 feet high near the South end.

In the bight on the East side there is a beach 70 feet long - Only a few shrubs grow on it -

250 feet North of 25 is a smaller rock 30 feet across and 30 inches high

50 feet Northeast of 25 is another rock 100 feet across and 30 inches high -

These lie between No. 24 and No. 25 -

26. 30 feet Southwest of 25 and connected by an underwater bar, is a rock 150 feet long and averaging 70 feet wide -

In the middle is a mound 7 feet high and the shore is 3 feet high -

The surface is honeycombed and there is no soil and only the hardiest shrubs grow on it -

27. A honeycombed rock 200 feet long and 60 feet wide.

It is about 4 feet high, and has a few buttonwood trees 18 inches tall and some shrubs -

Granted to Arthur S. Vernay (Surveyor General's Book C<sup>3</sup> P.8)

28. A rock about 1100 feet long and averaging 100 feet wide -

Its North end is about 50 feet West of No. 27 and rises 12 feet above H.W.M.

For 500 feet Southwardly the rock is from 3 to 9 feet high - then there it narrows suddenly to 10 feet wide, for a length of 200 feet -

A channel 2 feet wide goes across the rock at this point and at high tide, a length of 400 feet South of this, which is not over 10 feet wide and 3 feet high, is a separate Cay -

The Cay is nearly barren - there are only a few patches of pussley and shrubs -

29. A barren rock 700 feet long and nearly 100 feet wide - It is bordered by the Ocean on the East and is South of Sperrit Cay

20 feet Southeast of No. 29 is a rock 25 feet long and 7 feet high -

30. A rock 100 feet long - lies about 50 feet South of No. 29 - It is also bordered by the Ocean on the East.

31. A rock 20' long - 12' wide and 18" high -

32. A rock 150' long 7' high

33. A rock 100' long 7' high

34. A rock 60' across - 3' high



**55** CAYS BETWEEN HYBURN CAY & NORMANS CAY (CONTD.) 55

35. 60 feet South by West of 34 is a rock 250 feet long - 100 feet wide and 12 feet high - It has a few stunted trees - and at low tide is connected to Little Normans Cay or Saddle Cay (chart Name)

36. East of the Northern part of Little Normans Cay is a rock 20' across and 5' high -

37. 250 feet E.S.E. of No. 36 and also East of Little Normans Cay is a rock 150 feet long with cliffs on the East side 20 feet high.

38. LITTLE NORMANS CAY OR SADDLE CAY

SADDLE CAY is a chart name only - Locally this and Nos. 39, 40 and 41 are together called LITTLE NORMANS CAY-

This Cay is about 3000 feet long and at the South end is 1000 feet wide - and about 600 feet wide at the Northern end - and has an area of about 40 to 45 acres.

It lies in Latitude 24 39' North and Longitude 76 49' West -

This cay is actually 3 Rocky hills surrounded by white sandy land -

Granted Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C<sup>3</sup> 8 & 9)

38. LITTLE NORMANS CAY OR SADDLE CAY (CONTD.)

The Northern Hill is 40' high - the other two about 60' high - and along the Southern half of the East shore are white soft rocky cliffs 25 to 30 feet high -

Along the East side there is a buttonwood pond over 6 acres in area - near this pond are several casuarina trees -

There may be 8 to 10 acres of good fertile land on the Cay.

Near the Northwest end a sand spit extends Northwardly for 500 feet and the greater portion of the shore is a beach -

On this Cay I noticed several small madeira plants, the only ones I saw along these cays -

South of this cay are 3 smaller cays - which at low tide can be reached by dry sand banks - but between them and this cay and Normans Cay to the South are basins with water 12 feet deep which are fairly good harbours - though the entrance channels are not over 6 feet deep -

This Cay could be developed into an ideal homesite -

There is a harbour and along the beaches are bordered by clear water and there is the ocean on one side to the East and the banks on the other to the West - and it is only 36 miles from Nassau -

But for a small Cay, where one could spend a week or two, fishing and shooting and cruising about by own choice would be Cays 39 - 40 and 41 -

At low tide one can walk across from No. 38 to No. 39.

Granted Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C.<sup>3</sup> P. 9)

39. A rock 150 feet across and 20 feet high - trees 3' tall grow on it - It is 45' East of the Southeast point of Little Normans Cay - from which it is separated by shallow water and sand banks -

The ocean borders it on the East and shallow water on the South and one can walk across to No. 38 or No. 40 at low tide.

40. This Cay is situate South of Little Normans Cay, and Southwest of Cay No. 39 and locally is considered a part of Little Normans Cay (No. 38)

This Cay is actually 2 Rocky Hills joined together - the Northern hill 40' high - the Southern 30 feet high - and with a long narrow barren ridge extending 700 feet Southwardly from the Southern hill -

Granted Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C. 3 P. 9)



40

This ridge is about 60 feet wide - while in one section the cay proper is 300 feet wide -

It is 1100 feet long and averages 120 feet wide, with an area of 3 acres -

At the Northern end a sand bank exposed at low tide connects it to Cay No. 39, and on the West of the hills there is a sandy patch of good land - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre with trees 12' tall - on the hills the trees are not over 4 feet tall - from this sandy beach extends a narrow sand ridge just above H.W.M. which joins it to Cay No. 41 - on the West -

At half or low tide this ridge is about 200 feet wide -

South of this ridge the water is clear and from nil to 10' deep about 400 feet from land.

North of the ridge the creek between it and Little Normans Cay is from 60 to 150 feet wide with water 12 feet deep.

A boat should find safe anchorage in here, during any weather; though the channel from the West is somewhat intricate -

Entrance from the ocean, between this Cay and Normans Cay is clear -

Granted Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C.<sup>3</sup> P. 9)

**59** CAYS BETWEEN HYBURN CAY & NORMANS CAY (CONTD.) 59

41. A sandy cay - about 650 feet long and averaging 200 feet wide - with an area of approximately 3 acres -

The cay lies Southeastwardly and has a ridge along the East side from 20 - 25 feet high -

Except for 300 feet that is Rocky and about 7 feet high at the Southwest Point - the shore over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in length is a sand beach -

The soil is a coarse white sand in which only top trees seem to grow -

Locally it is considered as a part of Little Normans Cay ( No. 38 )

42. 200 feet South of No. 40 is a rock 200 feet long, 100 feet wide and 12 feet high -

Between this and No. 40 is an entrance to the harbour between Little Normans Cay and Cays to the South.

South of this rock is Normans Cay -

43. A rock 300 feet long from North to South and about 125 feet across the widest part - and has about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres -

The Eastern half of the rock is a cliff about 18 feet high - with no soil and a few stunted trees - the Western half is a foot above water - and similar vegetation

A narrow bar - 1 foot out at low tide, and 300 feet long connects it to Cay No. 44.

**60** CAYS BETWEEN HYBURN CAY & NORMANS CAY (CONTD.) 60

44. This Cay, 300 feet long from Northwest to Southeast is about 200 feet across the widest part -

The Eastern portion is a cliff 120 feet wide and 25 feet high - with stunted trees, the Western portion is rocky and about 1 foot above H. W. M.

A bar extends about 400 feet Southwardly to the Northwest end of Normans Cay -

Between these rocks and Cays to the East - i.e. Nos. 40 - 41 and 42 - There is a harbour with water 10 to 12 feet deep at low tide -

From the West side the entrance channel is close to the Southwest end of Little Normans Cay, and at low tide has about 5 to 6 feet of water - from the ocean on the East there is a clear channel -

There are two arms to this harbour and according to the direction of the wind, either one can be used -

Granted Arthur S. Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C.<sup>3</sup> P. 9)

Cays Nos. 22 to 35 and including Long Cay or Spirit or Sperrit Cay granted to Arthur Stannard Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C.<sup>3</sup> P. 8)

Cays Nos. 36 to 44 and including Saddle or Little Normans Cay also granted to Arthur Stannard Vernay  
(Surveyor General's Book C.<sup>3</sup> P. 9)



This cay is situate between Latitudes 24 35' North and 24 39' North and in Longitude 76 49' West.

It is hooked shaped and has a total length of nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles and averages 1000 feet wide and was granted as containing 660 acres.

Some portions of the cay, are extremely narrow - not over 300 feet wide -

The whole cay is elevated, and along the West shore the hills are steep and rise to 40 feet above H.W.M.

Beaches extend along nearly the whole length of the Western shore of the main part of the cay and along nearly all of the Eastern shore of the Eastern arm.

Inside of the bight on the West side of the Harbour there are several beaches also.

A heavy timber growth covers the surface, except near the houses where fields were kept within recent years

From a beach on the West shore, 2 paths over a steep hill lead to a walled in yard enclosing the ruins of an old dwelling house which must be the original estate house -

The Northern path passes by several house ruins situate between the shore and enclosed yard.

All these houses were, recently, occupied by the Winder family, who were part owners of the Cay -

Around these ruins are found citrus fruit, sapodillas, plums and a large area of sisal.

From the ruins, and from a gate in the enclosure wall, one obtains a fine view of nearly the whole cay and the adjacent cays and rocks to the South.

600 feet to the Southeast of the houses is a duck pond and near the south end of the cay is a salt pond about 300 feet across.

At the Northwest end of the cay there is a cave with several rooms and about 50 feet South of this is another cave, with a low passage leading Northwardly that might connect the two together.

About 150 feet and 300 feet respectively to the South of these are two other cave like openings, but the mouths are blocked with boulders that prevent entry without removal -

A bight facing Southwardly, and formed by the main portion of the cay on the West, and the Eastern arm and the Cays and rocks extending Southwardly therefrom, on the East is a harbour for shallow draft vessels -

The Northern portion is almost landlocked and surrounded by hills -

Entrance to this part is either at the South end of the Eastern arm of the cay from the ocean sides or by a narrow channel along the East side of the Western or main portion of the cay from the Southern part of the harbour -



The Southern portion is more open and would not be very safe during storms - and is entered through a cut at the Southwest end of Normans Cay - This cut has a 12 feet depth of water.

Water in the harbour is from one to 12 feet deep at low tide with probably 3 feet more at high tide.

The ocean flows along the Eastern shore of the Cay and along the Western shore water is from 5 to 10 feet deep -

Footprints of Wild Hogs were seen on this cay and I am told that there are quite a few and that they are the offspring of domestic animals left on the cay by the Winder family -

It is fertile and also reputed to be good for stock raising - good drinking water is obtainable -

This Cay was granted to John Moultrie in 1787 Grant Book C page 9 -

It was commuted by Geo. Adderley - Commutation Book A3 page 330.

It was owned by the late Philip Alexr. Bullard who died in 1892 and who by a Will recorded in Reg. Genls. Book 78 page 147 bequeathed it to his 5 children - James, Adelaide, Robert, Francis, and Albert.

By a deed dated 22nd Dec. 1913 and recorded in Book Z10 p338. in the Reg. Genls. Office James Bullard conveyed his share to Eliza Winder for the sum of £50.

Eliza Winder died intestate and the Supreme Court declared her son Alfred Napoleon Winder to be her heir and appointed him administrator of her estate.

By a deed of assent he conveyed to himself the undivided interest of Eliza Winder in Normans Cay - Deed recorded in Book G11 - 40 - and later on conveyed this interest to one Ernest Lincoln Taylor by deed

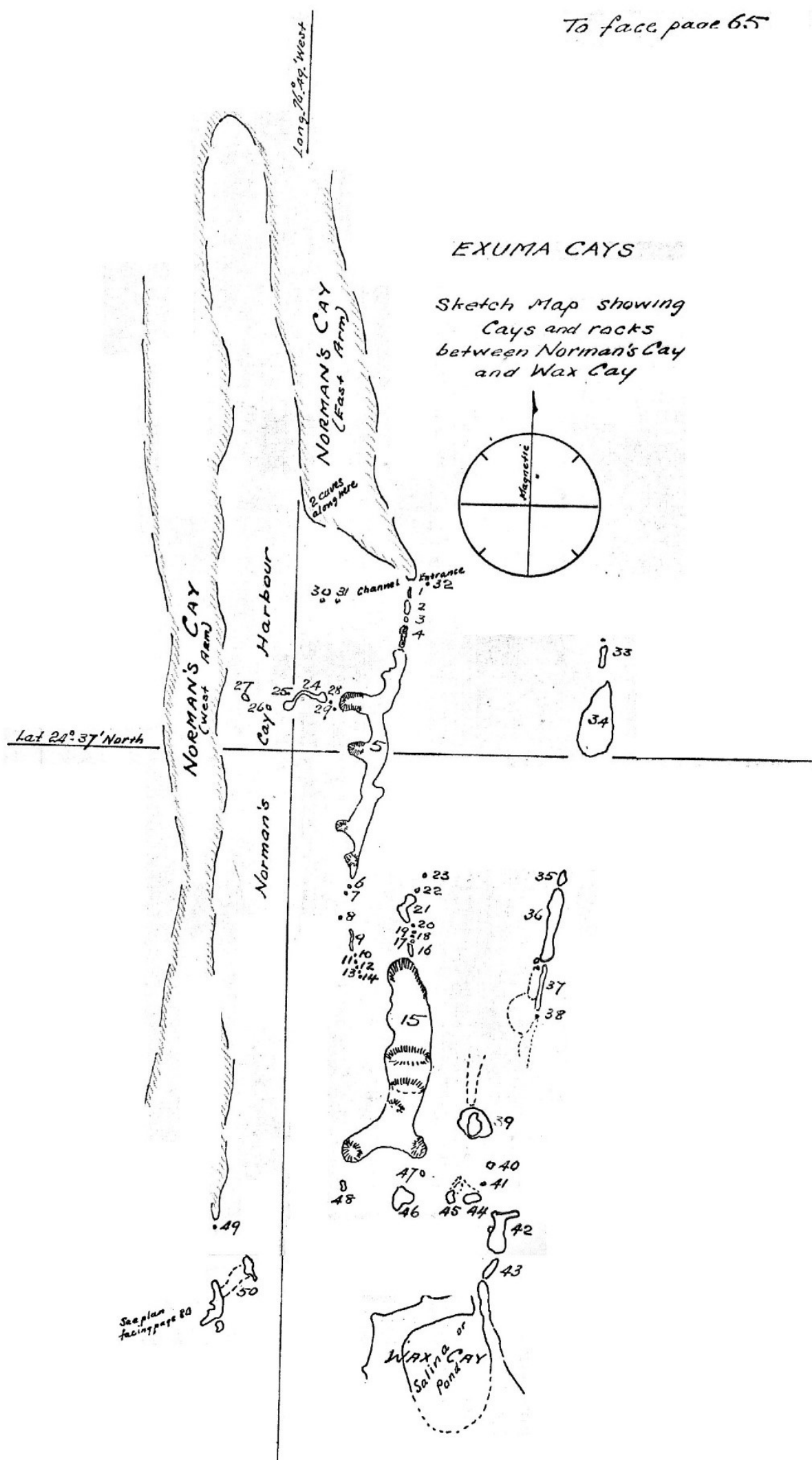


recorded in Book E12 p.215 - and see renunciation of dower  
Book A12 p.421 -

By two deeds - one recorded U11 p.108 - Marie  
Louise Moree, daughter of Albert Bullard and the other  
recorded U11 p.466 - Mitchell Bullard - son of Albert  
Bullard both conveying to Jos. W. Johnson - a jeweller of  
Bay Street their portions of their fathers 1/5th share.

Albert Bullard had other children Mrs. Matilda  
Hanna. who died leaving a son Alphonse Hanna as her heir  
and presumably owner of the other 1/3rd portion of his  
share - and Frank or Francis - whose whereabouts have not  
been ascertained.

Page 65 map



**65** CAYS AND ROCKS BETWEEN NORMANS CAY AND WAX CAY. 65

1. 100 feet South of the East arm of Normans Cay and separated by deep water is a rock 200 feet long and 30 feet wide -

The only plants are a few shrubs -

The deep water is the channel from the Ocean to Normans Cay Harbour - which appears to be perfectly safe for vessels of under 5 or 6 feet draft -

2. 5 feet South of No. 1 is a rock 300 feet long and 100 feet wide and 12' high - It has a few bushes -

3. 100 feet South of No. 2 a rock 20 feet across - 3 feet high -

4. 20 feet to the South of No. 3 is a rock 250 feet long - 80 feet wide -

The North end is a hill 20' high - the South end is 6' high -

At the South end of this rock there is a short narrow neck of land joining to it another rock about 80 feet in diameter and 10' high - Total area of the 2 portions - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre -



66

5. 20 feet to the South of No. 4 is a rock or cay about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long and averaging 400 feet wide - area about 48 acres.

On the West side it is a series of bights and hilly bluffs, with beaches in the bights -

The East shore is more regular, but has several beaches -

Where there are beaches, the land is composed of sand, the elevated portions are rocky.

There is some soil and the trees growing thereon are large -

6. About 80 feet South of No. 5 is a rock 20 feet across and 1 foot high -

7. 60 feet South of No. 6 is another rock about 10' across and 1 foot high.

8. 400 feet South by West from 7 is a rock 20 feet across and 2 feet high - on which grow shrubs -

9. 125 feet Southeast of No. 8 is a cay - 250 feet long and about 30 feet wide - 60 feet in the middle and a mound at the South end are sandy - the remainder is rocky - There are a few stunted trees -

A sand bank runs out westwardly from this Cay.

## 67

10. 20 feet South of No. 9 is a rock 20' across and 3' high - with a few trees -

11. 100 feet South of No. 10 lies a rock 60 feet long by 30 feet wide and 3 feet high -

Trees 3 feet high grow thereon -

12. 70 feet South by East of No. 11 is another rock 250 feet long - and 50 feet wide - 3 feet high -

There is some buttonwood trees 4 feet tall growing on it.

13. 10 feet South of No. 12 is another rock 70 feet long 50 feet wide and 4 feet above H.W.M. - Buttonwood grows here also.

14. 70 feet South of No. 13 - a rock 100 feet by 40 feet - 6 feet high - stunted trees, 4 feet high, grow on it.

15. About 100 feet South of No. 14 is a cay over 3000' long and averaging 600' wide - with an area of about 45 acres.

The North end is a beach, behind which rise high rocky cliffs -

There are 5 other separate hills to the South -

15 (contd.)

These hills are rocky but the valleys between contain good soil -

There are approximately 20 acres of good soil.

The Eastern shore is nearly all sandy beach -

Along the east side water is 12 feet deep - Along the West side from 3 to 6 feet deep at high tide with sand banks at low tide.

This would be a good home site -

16. 50 feet North of No. 15 is a rock 150 feet long and 70 feet wide and 8 feet high - approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre -

It has a few stunted trees -

17. 30 feet N.N.E. of No. 16 - a rock 15 feet across

18. 70 feet N.N.E. of No. 17 - a rock 30 feet long and 2 feet high -

19. 100 feet Northeast of No. 18 is a rock 30" high 70 feet long North to South and 30 feet wide - and 30" high - on which grows buttonwood 1 foot high -

20. 75 feet North of No. 19 a rock 40 feet across and 3 feet high.

Between this Cay and No. 21 - there is a channel with 12 feet water -



**69** CAYS AND ROCKS BETWEEN NORMANS CAY AND WAX CAY (CONTI

21. 150 feet Northwest of No. 19 is an L shaped cay about 500 feet long and averaging 70 feet wide - with about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land -

It has a small beach on the West side and is from 6 to 20 feet high -

Trees growing on it are not over 6 feet high, but some are 10 inches in diameter -

Water 4 feet deep at low tide surrounds this Cay.

Between this cay and No. 5 to the West are sand banks with a 12 feet deep channel flowing between them.

22. A rock 100 feet across and 12 feet high - shrubs grow on it -

23. 200 feet Northeast of No. 22 - a barren rock 130' long and 60' wide - say  $\frac{1}{5}$  of an acre - 7' above H.W.M.

24. A low lying rock and sand cay about 3' above H.W.M. and bordered by mangroves -

It is 700 feet long and averages 100 feet wide -

The middle and East and West ends of the Cay are rocky with 2 sandy sections - together 150 feet long -

Stunted trees grow on the rocky portion with trees 10 feet high on the sandy part.

This Cay is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Southwardly from the houses and it is bordered by mangroves -

**70** 25. 50 feet North of 24 - a mangrove surrounded rock 50' across -

26. 150 feet west of No. 24 is a rock 2' above H.W.M and 120 feet across on which grow stunted trees -

27. 800 feet W.N.W. of 24 is a rock 150 feet across, and 12 feet high in the middle with thin soil in small patches. -

This cay is 300 feet East of Normans Cay - and is separated from it by water 6 to 7 feet deep at high tide.

28. 20 feet to the East of No. 24 is a rock 20 feet across and 1 foot high.

29. 100 feet East of No. 28 is a rock 50 feet long and 2 feet high - with a few buttonwood trees -

30. Over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile North of No. 24 and Westwardly from No. 1 is a rock 300 feet long - 3 feet high and 75 feet wide - Area  $\frac{3}{8}$  acre - Bushes grow on it -

Between this and No. 1 are many scattered mangrove clumps -

31. Eastwardly of No. 5 is a rock 75 feet across and 2 feet high - with a few trees growing thereon.

32. A small rock lying Eastwardly of the East arm of Normans Cay -

33. A rock -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S of the Southeast part of Normans Cay -

It is 300 feet long - 6 feet high - and barren -

34. Southwardly from No. 33 and its North end bearing E by S  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile distant from the North end of Cay No. 5 is a cay  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long and averaging 400 feet wide with an area of 12 acres -

It is 12 feet high -

There is very little soil and it is covered with a stunted forest growth - not over 5' high but the trees have thick trunks and wide spreading branches -

The ocean borders the cay on the East and on the West water is 15 feet deep -

35. About  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile South by West of No. 34 is a rock, 200 feet long from North to South and 100 feet wide and 3 feet high -

36. 100 feet South by West of 35 is a rock  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long and averaging 125 feet wide with an area of nearly 4 acres -

At the South end a sand spit 60 feet long along the shore runs out Westwardly for 100 feet - This rock rises from 6 to 12 feet above H.W.M.



CAYS AND ROCKS BETWEEN NORMANS CAY AND WAX CAY (CONTD.)

72

72

37. To the South of and separated from No. 36 by a narrow cut and at low tide joined by an isthmus 15 feet long and 10 feet wide is another rock 600 feet long, and averaging 100 feet wide and of similar formation -

At the North end, on the West side a beach runs out some distance from the shore and joins the spit of rock No. 36 - and with it encloses a pool about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre in area and with 12 feet water.

Further South there is another beach and between the two at low tide there are several acres of sand bank -

Water on the West of this rock is 6 feet deep at low tide -

38. Separated by a cut only 3 feet wide is another rock 60 feet long and 30 feet wide and a foot high -

From this rock a reef runs South by West for over 600 feet - and from the North end of No. 39 another reef runs North by East for over 700 feet to a pond opposite the first reef and there is a gap between the two about 300 feet from East to West -

39. A cay, situate about 600 feet East of No. 15 and approximately 2000 feet S.W. by S. of No. 38, is about 600 feet long from N.W. to S.E. and averaging 350 feet wide, with an area of 5 acres.

The greater portion of the surface is rocky and there is some black and some white soil -

CAYS AND ROCKS BETWEEN NORMANS CAY AND WAX CAY (CONTD.)

**73**

73

No. 39 (Contd.)

Large second growth button wood - 10 feet high - and stunted trees cover the middle of the cay - an area of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

A portion of this cay was so torn up by the hurricanes of 1926 that it appears to have been dynamited - and to one side are trees trunks and roots that were torn up and cast aside.

The ocean flows by on the East -

South of this cay is a Cut or Channel with 12 feet of water -

40. A rock 40 feet long 3 feet high - lying 500 feet Southeast of No. 39.

41. A rock 20 feet long and 1 foot high lying 350 feet Southwest by South of No. 40.

42. A rock 700 feet long and averaging 200 feet wide and from 3 to 6 feet high lies about 500 feet Southeast of No. 41 - honeycombed surface with several small patches of shrubs.

Near the middle of the West side there is a small sand beach.

Water on West side is 3 feet deep -

The rock is not over 600 feet N.E. by N. of Wax Cay proper.

43. About 150 feet South of this rock is another about 450 feet long which is divided from Wax Cay by a cut 30 feet wide with 2 feet water at high tide - This is referred to in the description of Wax Cay -

It is about 60 feet wide and 4 feet high - and is barren -

44. 400 feet Northwest of No. 42 is a rock 250 feet long and averaging 120 feet wide and a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in area.

The highest point is 7 feet high and is crowned with a buttonwood tree 6 inches tall.

A bar runs out Northwardly over 300 feet from this cay and at low tide is exposed -

It connects it to Rock No. 45 which is about 200 feet to the West.

45. A rock, the main portion of which is 150 feet long and 100 feet wide rising in the middle to 15 feet above H.W.M. - On this hill grow a few shrubs -

From the North end of this main portion a rock 300 feet long and a few inches above H.W.M. extends North-eastwardly and joins the bar mentioned in rock No. 44.

North and West of this rock is deep water and the channel between it and Cay No. 39 is a Cut that has about 12 feet of water.



46. A cay 400 feet long North to South and about 270 feet average width - with an area of approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

The North end is a white sand hill 12 feet high - other parts are much lower -

There is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of soil and trees grow 10 feet high -

It lies about South of No. 15 - N. West of the Northeast Point of Wax Cay and N. 17 E. from the Northwest Point of Wax Cay -

To the North is a channel from the Ocean to the Banks -

47. A rock 100 feet long averaging 75 feet wide and 2 feet high lies 300 feet North by East of No. 46 -

48. A rock 150 feet long 60 feet average width and 3 feet high - lies 800 feet West by North of No. 46.

49. At the South end of Southwest Point of Normans Cay there is a barren rock 75 feet long which is separated by a narrow cut from the main Cay -

South of this rock and North of No. 50 is a cut which is the entrance to Normans Cay Harbour - and also leads to the Ocean - This cut has 12 feet of water.

50. This Cay shown in charts as being in Latitude 24 35' North and Longitude 76 49' West is about 1000 feet Southeast of the Southwest Point of Normans Cay - and West of the North end of Wax Cay - It has a total area of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

The Cay is really 3 rocks - the 2 Northern ones being joined by a sand isthmus 500 feet long and averaging 40 feet wide at high tide, but from 100-250 feet wide at low tide.

The Eastern rock is 300 feet long and has an average width of about 60 feet and is low lying -

From this rock the isthmus extends Southwardly to the main portion of the Cay -

This main portion is 600 feet long from North to South and averages 250 feet wide - The extreme South part is about 400 feet wide -

In this section land is from 3 to 8 feet high with some trees 10 feet tall

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  the area is covered with thin soil -

South of this and separated by a cut 100 feet wide is another cay 200 feet long and 150 feet wide - Rocky with very little soil -

This cut has water several feet deep at low tide and on the East side there is a narrow line of boulders, about 1 foot above water at low tide, and close enough together to permit jumping from one to the other and reaching the opposite cay -

North of this Cay is a Cut with 12 feet of water leading to the Ocean and also the entrance, from the Banks. to Normans Cay Harbour -

**77** WAX CAY AND ADJACENT ROCKS.

77

WAX CAY is situate in Latitude 24 35' North and Longitude 76 48' West - Chart No. 1495 - shows it and adjacent rocks and cays and from this chart the following measurements are taken -

Length 4200 feet across widest part 2200 feet - average width 1040 feet gross area 100 acres -

About 25 to 30 acres of this area is a salina or creek in the Northeast section of the Cay -

On the East side there is a long stretch of rocky shore at the North end, and a rocky peninsula about 1/8 mile from the South end, and the remainder about 1/2 the length is a beach.

The Western shore is a beach, with 5 or 6 small projecting rocky points -

Nearly all of the Northern shore is a beach with a sand bluff ridge a few yards inland - the Northwest point is rocky -

The Rocky peninsula is not shown on the charts, but it is about 400 feet long, and 100 feet wide and about 12' high -

Nearer to the East side than to the West, there is an elevated range with several high peaks, extending from the Salina to the South end of the Cay - one of these peaks being over 90 feet -

A hill to the North is about 60 feet high, and there are 2 others to the South - the 1st 70 feet and about 400 feet distant - the 2nd 50 feet and 300 feet further South -

The East portion of the Cay is nearly all black land -

The West side along the shore is white land, with an inner ridge of rocky land then ordinary Bahamian black soil -



Southwest of the highest hill and 100 feet East of the shore, there is a well which I am told, had good drinking water, but is now filled in.

This well is about 12 feet West of a shallow long narrow cave hole.

West of the high hill are many cave holes -

Due South from the highest hill, and W.S.W. from the 2nd hill South of this high one is a flat rocky almost barren section 50 feet long East to West and 30 feet wide North to South, with 10 large natural water holes, with good water and which are reputed to be inexhaustable.

There are 2 rocks lying offshore on the Western side and a winding road about 500 feet North of the Southern rock leads in to these holes - the holes are about 400 feet Northeast by North of the road entrance.

The Southern rock is about 100 feet from the shore and is about 60 feet long and 1 foot high.

The Northern rock is not charted and is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the North of the Southern rock. It is 30 feet long and 1 foot high, and is about 200 feet from the shore.

A little to the North of the wells an irregular wall 4 feet high starts at the shore and goes over the hills nearly to the East side of the Island, in a Northeast by East direction.

There are a few acres of cultivatable soil on this Cay, but as a whole it has little agricultural value.

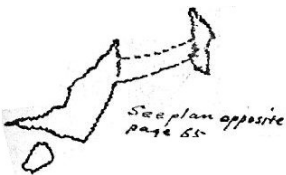
It would make a fine domain for a wealthy tourist -

Some one has been recently squatting on this Cay as I found a lime kiln on the West side of the high hill, that was not very old -

To the East is the Exuma Sound, but shoals are plentiful close in to shore, and to the West the water is shallow - not over 6 or 7 feet deep -

Some years ago one Charles Stevens (vide Exuma Sales Book fol 1) applied for 20 acres of land on this cay, but never completed the purchase and in 1888 the Crown resumed possession of the tract -

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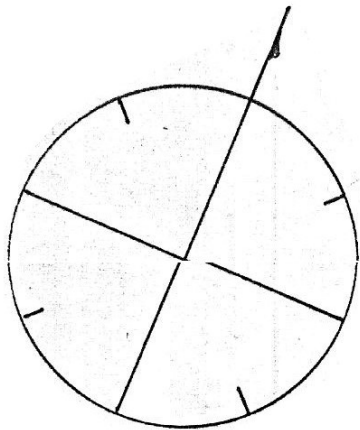


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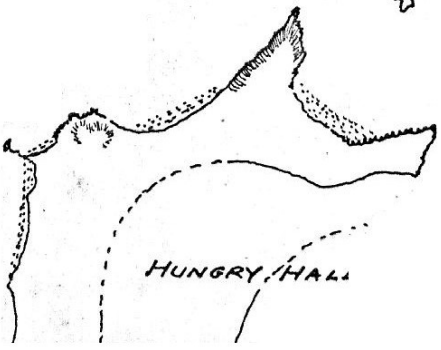
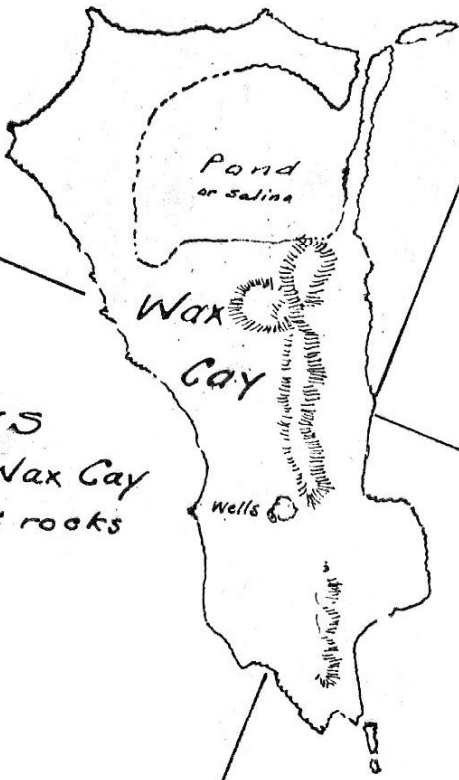
Lat.  $24^{\circ} 35'$  North

Long  $76^{\circ} 45'$  West

EXUMA CAYS  
Sketch Map showing Wax Cay  
and adjacent cays & rocks



Approximate position of channel





See Chart 1495 - and copy of same on opposite page -

These cays are situate in Latitude 24 35' North and Longitude 76 48' West.

1. A rock a stones throw from the Southeast Point of Wax Cay - It is 250 feet long and averages about 90 feet wide - say  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in area - and is 3 feet high.

The surface is a crinkly rock - At the North end only are found a few shrubs -

2. 30 feet South of No. 1 with water 15 feet deep separating them is another rock 3 feet high and 60 feet across - also has a crinkly rock surface and is barren. This rock is well undermined and is not over 30 feet wide underwater.

3. HORN CAY -

Southeast and separated from No. 2 by a cut 300 feet wide and with 20 feet water is a cay called on the charts HORN CAY, but which has no local name.

It is 600 feet long and averages 100 feet wide with an approximate area of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

The North end is 6 feet high - the West point 18' high and the South end is 2 feet high -

The surface is a honeycombed rock with a few stunted bushes growing on the West side.

It is deeply undermined by the Sea.

CAYS AND ROCKS ADJACENT TO WAX CAY (CONTD.)

4. SNUFF CAY - is a low lying rock - 4 feet high - the surface is crinkly and barren - it is about 200 feet long and nearly 100 feet wide - It has no local name - and is 1600 feet North by West of Little Wax Cay.

North of this cay is a deep water channel with a strong current called Wax Cay Cut.

5. HAWKSNEST CAY - about 200 feet South of Snuff Cay -

It has no local name -

It is about 350 feet long and averages 150 feet wide - near the South end it is 200 feet wide and 30 feet high - tapering to slightly above H.W.M. at the North end -

On the hill there are a few shrubs -

6. Almost adjoining and North of Hawksnest Cay is a low lying bare, small rock -

7. 100 feet Northeast of the larger cay to the South (No. 12) - and about 200 feet South of Hawksnest Cay is a rock 20 feet across and 2' high - Between this rock and Hawksnest Cay the water is 15 feet deep.

8. CHANNEL ROCK - no local name - is 60 feet across and 2' high - it is 1000 feet W.S.W. of Hawksnest Cay.

North of this rock is Wax Cay Cut - a channel with deep water and a strong tide.

9. 300 feet E.S.E. of Channel Rock is an X shaped rock 75' across and about 1 foot high.

10. About 700 feet West by South of Channel Rock there is a rock 150 feet long North to South, 100 feet wide and 4 feet high on which grow a few weeds.

11. 300 feet E.S.E. from No. 10 is another X shaped rock 60 feet long and 1 foot high -

12. A Cay with no name, about 300 feet Northwest of Little Wax Cay -

This Cay is about 1000 feet long and averages over 200 feet wide with an area of 5 acres.

A hill ridge with a rocky shore surrounds the Cay - On this ridge there is no soil, and a few Brittle top and trees only grow on it in a few spots.

On the West shore, there is a very steep hill 60 feet high called in the Charts BUSH HILL, and between this and the South end there is an embankment of rocks and conch shells over 200 feet long - thrown up by the recent gales.

Inside the East of this embankment(of rocks and conch shells) there is a pond about 1/8 acre in area.

From the hill to the North point is a steep and narrow rocky ridge, with little soil if any -



12. (contd.)

This ridge slopes down to a few feet high at the point - and on it are found numerous loose boulders from 12 - 24 inches thick and some of them measuring over 60 cubic feet.

A strip 60 feet wide along the Northeast side of the Cay is rocky - Inside of this is a narrow strip of black soil and in the valley between this and the West side is grey sandy soil - commonly called White Land -

There are about 2 acres of this soil which, with heavy rainfall is the most productive in the Bahamas.

In this valley there is an old sisal field made by squatters from Shroud Cay -

Deep water surrounds this cay - there is no harbour, though in ordinary rough weather, boats can make a lee -

There are quite a few sandflies - but they bite only during calm weather -

Between 12 and 13 and 13 and 14 there is a strong current -

13. A rock 2 feet high and 50 feet across - it is nearly midway between No. 12 and Little Wax Cay (No. 14).

14. LITTLE WAX CAY - is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and over a quarter mile across the widest part - and has an area of approximately 36 acres - and an average width of 600 feet -

It lies in Latitude  $24^{\circ} 34\frac{1}{2}'$  North and  $76^{\circ} 48'$  West -

The Western portion of the North shore and 300 feet along the Northern part of the West shore is a bluff range from 12 to 20 feet high and is formed of layers of soft stone 3 to 12" thick - which have the appearance of well placed unplastered masonry.

The extreme Northeast part of the cay is a narrow crinkly rock peninsula 800 feet long butting into a narrow sandy ridge at its Western end -

During the 1926 storms this peninsula was cut off and on the West there was formed a narrow passage through which water flowed - but the passage has since closed up.

South of the peninsula the land is sandy and the charts show a beach -

Since the charts were prepared 4 or 5 acres of this land have been washed away - and the 1926 storms carried away their share.

Since 1926 however a sand ridge of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres has formed that is above H.W.M. and encloses about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre yet below H.W.M. but is gradually building up -

At the South end of this sandy section which is about 500 feet long - there are two low lying rocks which are about 30 feet out beyond L.W.M. - Before 1926, they were buried beneath the sandy beach -

Behind the present beach there is a sand hill ridge 12 feet high and 50 feet wide -



14. LITTLE WAX CAY (contd.)

The remainder of the Eastern shore is a white cliff from 15 to 50 feet high formed of layers similar to those of the Northern shore -

Along the West shore there are 2 good beaches - separated by rocky hills.

These hills are from 25 to 60 feet high - and have a sheer drop of 10 feet - then slope to H.W.M. and the beaches -

The apex of the highest hill is not over 60 feet inland -

There are several ponds - a large one about 500 feet across either way is not over 100 feet from the East shore and 200 feet from the North side - Some Buttonwood in this pond was over 30 inches in circumference -

West of this are 2 smaller ponds -

The Western pond has fresh water and Ducks are found in it -

Southeast of the high hill is another pond about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre - bordered by large buttonwood trees and 200 feet South there is another about the same size.

West and South of these ponds the land is rocky with black soil -

All other portions of the cay have white soil -

The soil on this cay seems good -

There is a heavy coppice growth where it has not been cut down and worked - Lignumvitae is plentiful -

There are several sisal fields and old fields on the Cay - which were recently worked by several squatters who lived at Shroud Cay -



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CAYS AND ROCKS ADJACENT TO WAX CAY (CONTD.) 86

14. LITTLE WAX CAY (contd.)

These people also did a good buttonwood business cutting it from the Northern pond and hauling it out over a road and causeway to the West side of Cay, whence it was shipped -

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CAYS AND ROCKS ADJACENT TO WAX CAY (CONTD.)

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15. A Cay about 400 feet long and 100 feet wide lies 300 feet Southeast of the Southeast Point of Little Wax Cay.

It is 8 feet high at the South end and 15 to 18 feet high at the North end - and has a rocky surface with a few stunted trees -

16. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile East S. E. of the Southeast Point of Little Wax Cay, and bearing East from the Northeast Point of Hungry Hall and Southeast from Northeast Point of Little Wax Cay, lies a barren rock about 700 feet long and from 4 to 6 feet high -

About midway of the cay, on the West side there is a long narrow beach -

17. Extending out for over  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile West by South from the Southwest Point of Little Wax Cay are eight or 13 rocks - according to tide -

They vary in size from 6 feet long and 6 inches high to 200 feet long and 3 feet high -

18. Westwardly from the North end of Hungry Hall are two rocks - one close in to shore - the other about several hundred feet W.N.W. -

Both are about 75 feet long and 2 feet high -

HUNGRY HALL situate between Latitudes 24 31' and 24 34' North and Longitude 76 46' to 76 48' West is actually a group of cays or rocks between which there is an extensive marl and mangrove salina -

Through this salina run several narrow creeks -

In this group there are the following cays and rocks:-

1. A Cay about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long lying Northwest by North or Southeast by South and averaging over 300 feet wide - with an area of 20 acres.

There are 4 high hills separated by white land -

These hills are very steep along the West shore and beaches border the white land.

There is some black soil on the rocky land.

Trees are large and soil seems good -

Shallow water borders the West side of this Cay.

Between 1 and 2 is a creek with 4 to 6 feet water in the channel but at high tide only -

2. A rock bears N.N.W. from the South end of No. 1 It is 200 feet long and 60 feet wide - at each end and 30 feet wide in the middle.

200 feet Northeast of No. 2 is a sunken rock -

3. 150 feet Southwardly of No. 2 are 2 rocks a few feet apart - one is 50 feet long the other 150 feet -

4. Near by these are 2 others - one 50 feet long, the other 150 feet long -

The larger rock is 250 feet N.W. by N. of Cay No. 8 the smaller rock is 250 feet North of the same Cay No. 8 -

5. This Cay is 300 feet South of No. 1 - It is nearly  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile long but averaging 100 feet wide - with say 4 or 5 acres.

At the North end it is 1000 feet wide and about 300 feet wide at the South end.

There might be an acre of good soil -

About 300 feet South of the North end, there is a small beach -

200 feet West from the Northwest Point of this Cay is a sunken rock 20 feet long and 2 feet high at low tide.

6. This Cay is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile East of Nos. 1 and 2 and is bordered by the Ocean on the East -

It is nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long and averages 125 feet wide - with an area of 12 acres and consists of a hill ridge with a very high peak about 600 feet from the South end.

The Northern half is white land - the Southern is black land -

Directly South of this Cay and separating it from Cay No. 30 - 70 feet distant are 2 deep blue holes - forming the mouth of a creek, but 200 feet out to sea,

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No. 6. (contd.)

a bank which is exposed at low tide, blocks the entrance.

A beach runs the entire length of the Eastern shore, broken towards the Southern end, by several bluffs.

7. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile East of the South end of No. 3 is a rock or cay, 500 feet long - averaging 2 feet high - with patches of sandy soil and a few bushes -

8. This Cay lies about 1000 feet W.S.E. of the South end of No. 5 and is Southwest by North from the North end of the same cay and is Northeast by North from ELBOW CAY -

It is 300 feet long, and averages 220 feet wide and is 10 feet high -

20 feet to the East is a rock 200 feet long and 75 feet wide - from the East end of this rock the North end of No. 5 bears N.E. by North -

A sand beach borders the Northern shores of both of these cays and makes them one -

9. PIGEON CAY -

100 feet East of No. 8 lies Pigeon Cay -

It is also 250 feet South of No. 5 and separated from it by a creek whose mouth is 600 feet wide -

It is  $5/8$  of a mile long and approximately 40 acres in area -

The shore is irregular, both on the East and West sides.

The Cay is from 6 to 20 feet high along the West side -

There is but little soil and trees grow from 5 to 8 feet tall -

The North shore is nearly all beach -

About 600 feet from the Northwest point and South of a 20' high hill there is a beach 50 feet long - with rocks 6 or more feet high in the back of it - Over these rocks a road leads in Northeastwardly 400 feet - to a rocky flat in which are found several large natural springs - one of which has been decked and curbed in by the Government - In this hole there are 12 feet of good water - the others are nearly as deep -

300 feet East of this flat is an ocean hole 20 feet across in which, I am informed, turtles are sometimes placed -

Around the fresh water springs are several salt water holes also -

The surface of the water is, in none, over 3 or 4 feet below the ground -

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9. PIGEON CAY (contd.)

Surrounding these water holes are several deep cave holes -

A few goats would thrive on this Cay -

They can obtain plenty of fresh air and water which seems to be their standard diet around these islands.

10 & 11. East of Pigeon Cay 250 - 800 feet distant are 2 Cays each 500 feet long and 150 feet wide about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in area.

They are rocky, with little soil and surrounded by mangroves -

Land is about 6 feet high -

12. The apparent Southwest Point of No. 5 is a double rock 400 feet long and separated from 5 by a shallow straight 40 feet wide.

The Western portion of this rock is 250 feet long and 4 feet high the Eastern portion is 150 feet long and 2 feet high, and between them is a 5 feet gap.



13. From the South end of Pigeon Cay (No. 9) Southeast 100 feet distant is a rock 100 feet long and 3 feet high.

14. E.N.E. from the South end of Pigeon Cay - is a rock 1000 feet distant - 100 feet long -

15. E.N.E. from 14 - 1000 feet distant is a rock similar to No. 14.

16. 200 feet South of No. 9 is a cay lying Southeast by South - It is 400 feet long - and 200 feet wide. The South end is 20 feet high -

The East side has a fringe of soil - but the greater portion is rocky with a few stunted trees -

17. 20 feet to the East of 16 with a narrow creek separating them is a cay in some places 800 feet wide, in others only 125 feet wide -

It is over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long and contains about 15 acres nearly all of which is sand -

The Southern point is rocky and sand hills rise along the Northwest side -

18. 200 feet South by East of No. 17 is a rock 12 feet high and about 400 feet across in either direction. It has a few stunted trees -
19. 1500 feet East by South of No. 17 is a rock with a few stunted trees - It is 600 feet long and 12' high in the middle -
20.  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile East of 17 - is another rock 15' high -
21. 1500 feet E.N.E. of 17 is another rock - 1000 feet long and 12 feet high - with stunted trees -
22. 200 feet E.N.E. of 17 is yet another rock also with stunted trees - It is 800 feet long and 8' high.
23. From the South end of 17 a rock bears S.S.W. 100 feet distant - It lies W.N.W. and is 100 feet long and 30 inches high -
24. 100 feet Southeast by South from No. 18 is a rock 100 feet across and 3 feet high -

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25. Southeast by South from No. 24 to the Northwest Point of this irregular U shaped Cay - which has a total length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile -

The longest and Southern side lies approximately W.N.W. and is nearly  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile long, along here land is 15 feet high -

It averages 50 feet wide and the area is about 4 acres.

The Southeast Point bears North by East from the East end of Little Pigeon Cay (No. 29) about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant - and Westwardly from the high hill near the South end of No. 6 nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile distant -

Inside of the bight of this cay is a small rock surrounded by marl -

In the Southwest inner corner there is  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of white land, and between this white land and the South side there is a small pond -

Agricultural value nil -

26. A cay 600 feet long and 100 feet wide - lying Southeast by East - It is rocky and has stunted trees.

This Cay is 200 feet E.S.E. of the Southeast Point of No. 25 and separated by a 6 feet deep channel which runs in about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and connects with all the other channels running through the salina -

At high tide a power boat of 3 or 4 feet draft can navigate all of these creeks -

This creek should be an ideal harbour for small craft - and I am informed that 2 vessels in this harbour safely weathered out the 1926 storm that caused such havoc along these shores -



A creek 300 feet wide separates No. 26 from No. 27. A rock 6 feet long and 4 feet high lies in this creek 70 feet from the East side -

27. 800 feet East by North of the Southeast part of No. 25 is a rock with stunted trees - It is 500 feet long, 60 feet wide 6 feet high - and is surrounded by mangroves -

28. This Cay lies Southeast by East of No. 26 - It is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and averages 200 feet wide - containing approximately 12 acres of crinkly rock land -

The shore is irregular, with several bights -

About 1000 feet from East end there is a small buttonwood swamp - and on the edge of this swamp there is a rocky flat with several natural water springs - one is fresh though needing a good cleaning -

The spring is about 15 feet long and 10' wide.

To the South of this spring is a hill 16 feet high, with bush 6 feet tall -

On the South side, a little West of the wells there is a short beach -

Shallow water borders this cay on the Southwest and a marl salina on the Northeast.

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29. LITTLE PIGEON CAY

The East end of this cay bears South by West from the Southeast Point of No. 25 -

It is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long from North to South and averages 300 feet wide and has an area of approximately 9 acres

The West side and middle and ends of the East side are rocky black land from 5 to 18 feet high -

There are 2 patches of white land along the East side - totalling about 4 acres -

About 6 acres are cultivatable and have been recently worked by squatters from Shroud Cay -

Along the North side water is 6 feet deep - along the east side it is dry at low tide and one can walk nearly to Shroud Cay -

30. 500 feet East of No. 28 and lying Southeastwardly is a Cay nearly  $5/8$  mile long - with white land along the North side -

It contains about 35 acres -

At the West end it is nearly 1000 feet wide - and is about 300 feet wide at the East end.

There is a deep Cove at the West end -

The Southwest side is a rocky ridge 12 feet wide, with very little soil - The remainder of the Cay is low lying white land with some good soil.

In the middle of the cay is a swash -

This Cay is only about 75 feet South of Cay No. 6 -

At the mouth of the deep cove there is a rock 200 feet long -

Near the Southeast end there are several small rocks -



32. A Cay whose North point bears South  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile distant from the high hill of No. 6, and West by South from the East end No. 30 - and is about 1000 feet Southeast of the Southwest Point of No. 30 -

It is about 900 feet across and about 12 acres in area - and rises to 15 feet above H.W.M.

The shore is mixed beach and rock - and the soil is mixed black and white -

Near the North end there is a pond about 1 acre in area -

There are several small patches of good soil -

Shallow water and banks surround the cay -

At high tide there is a 3 feet depth and at low tide marl banks with a few pools of water a foot deep -

The West end of this Cay bears  $140^{\circ}$  from the hill near the well on Cay No. 28

33. A rocky cay 600 feet long from Northwest to Southeast and bearing East  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the West end of No. 32. It is 6 feet high with a few bushes -

34. A barren rock cay bearing East by South  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the West end of No. 32. It is 500 feet long from Northwest to Southeast and 6 feet high -

35.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Eastwardly of the West end of No. 32 and near No. 33 is another cay with a few bushes -

36. A cay about 850 feet long and 220 feet wide and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres in area - and with a hill 15 feet high in the middle -

The soil is mixed black soil and white soil nearly all of which is good -

The cay has been worked over by Shroud Cay squatters and is now an old field -

There is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre sisal field also -

Shallow water surrounds the cay - In the channels there is not over 6 feet at high tide -

This Cay lies 1000 feet Southwest by South of No. 32 - and E.S.E. from Pigeon Cay and East of the Elbows -