

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO. 50:
REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL
SURVEY FOR THE YEAR 1898**

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VARIOUS

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PUBLIC DOCUMENT No. 50.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

ON THE

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

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REPORT.

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 31, 1898.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, Commonwealth
of Massachusetts.*

The Commissioners on the Topographical Survey and Map of the State present the following report of the work executed under their direction during the year 1898.

Owing to the large amount of extra work which has devolved upon the department in the defining and establishing of two State boundary lines and investigating a third, the regular town boundary survey has been somewhat interrupted. A force has, however, been kept steadily employed during the year in town boundary surveys and preparing the results for publication. The delay in issuing the atlases has allowed us to improve the form for publication previously adopted.

Early in the year new quarters were assigned to the commission in the State House, Rooms 137 and 138, and on July 1 the employees were moved from the old offices at 11 Mount Vernon Street to the State House. This change

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has resulted in furnishing facilities for doing the work of the department in an efficient and economical manner, especially in connection with the draughting division. The old rooms at the top of the Commonwealth building were poorly adapted to the requirements of the survey, and a large amount of valuable material was exposed to destruction by fire.

An important undertaking has been begun during the past year by the United States Geological Survey. There has been for some time a wide demand for a good map of the metropolitan district, and our suggestion to the director of the United States Geological Survey that the old topographical sheets surrounding Boston should be revised met with a prompt response. Mr. Frank Sutton, one of the experts on topography connected with the United States Geological Survey, was assigned to the work with a party of assistants, and we hope that before the end of another year the map will be completed. A large amount of excellent material was collected from surveys which have been made in the metropolitan area during the past ten years by different State and municipal departments. The old offices of the commission at 11 Mount Vernon Street were assigned to this work.

We have been enabled during the past year to keep the field parties at work until the middle of November, which is about a month longer than usual, which has resulted in greater economy in the execution of the surveys.

The report of the chief engineer, Mr. Henry B. Wood, will be found in the Appendix.

RHODE ISLAND BOUNDARY.

In the last annual report a brief history of the Rhode Island line was given, together with a description of the work accomplished on the new marking to Jan. 1, 1898. Soon after the above date a number of consultations were held between this Board and the commissioners representing the State of Rhode Island, and in the early part of March a definite agreement was arrived at as to the line and its marking.

Both the Massachusetts and the Rhode Island laws required us to follow "as near as may be" the line established by the decree of the United States Supreme Court in 1861. After careful determinations of the old line by triangulation and of the topography, it was thought best to change the old line slightly at a few points, and it was to these changes that the greater part of the studies were directed.

The old boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island from the "Burnt Swamp Corner" to the sea was not marked at several important points, but no difficulty was found in ascertaining the position of these points, and on March 30, at a joint meeting held at this office, the following conclusions were reached:—

1. That the monuments between Pawtucket and Attleborough, along the northerly line of Pawtucket, be set on the straight line as run from the bound at Blackstone river to "Bound 1" on the Ten Mile river.

2. That for the old boundary line following the Seven and Ten Mile rivers there be substituted a series of six straight lines, as shown on plan.

3. That from the bolt at Runnin's river, southerly, the middle of the river shall remain as the boundary line as far as the point where it intersects the straight line from "Birch Swamp Corner" to the Barrington-Seekonk Corner, produced northwesterly to the middle of the river.

4. That the intermediate monuments in the straight lines from the Barrington-East Providence-Seekonk Corner to "Birch Swamp Corner," and from "Birch Swamp Corner" to the bolt in bowlder at Mount Hope Bay, be set so as to be in line between the corner monuments.

5. That the line from "Birch Swamp Corner" to the "bolt in bowlder" be produced until it intersects the high-water line on the west shore of Mount Hope Bay. Also that the Fall River-Tiverton line be produced until it intersects the high-water line on the east shore of Mount Hope Bay, and that the boundary line across Mount Hope Bay shall be a line joining these two points of intersection, and that monuments be set at each end of said line.

6. That the line between Fall River and Tiverton from Mount Hope Bay to South Watuppa Pond remain as now marked, except that intermediate monuments on the straight lines be set so as to be in line between the corner monuments.

7. That the line from "Bound A," southerly on the South Watuppa section to "Bound F," at the southern extremity of Sawdy Pond, consist of six straight lines.

8. From "Bound F" to "Joe Sanford's" bound, and thence to Peaked Rock at the Atlantic Ocean, the line be surveyed by triangulation, as marked by the bounds at the points described by the decree of 1861, and reported upon before deciding as to what shall be done with the line.

In carrying out the second conclusion in the above agreement, as authorized by the statute,

something over 100 acres were taken from Massachusetts and given to Rhode Island, but an equivalent amount of territory was taken from Rhode Island and added to Massachusetts on the South Watuppa section.

At the southerly end of the Runnin's river line a portion of the line was cut off by extending the straight line from Monroe's Corner to "Birch Swamp Corner," to an intersection with the Runnin's river section, and a new corner was by this means established in the Runnin's river, thus simplifying the line.

From Bound 124, corresponding with "Bound F" of the old line, to Bound 127 at "Joe Sanford's" bound, and thence to the Atlantic Ocean, the remainder of the boundary line was retained exactly as established in 1861.

After the commissions had established the line, it was determined to mark the corners with bounds $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length and 12 by 12 inches in section, with faces dressed 3 feet down from the top; it was also determined that these bounds should be set $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the ground, and that (Mass.) should be cut on one face, (R. I.) on another, and (1898) on a third face, — the letters to be 5 inches high and the figures 4 inches high, all to read from the top of the monument downward.