

Ship Cyrus refreshing at James's Island, Paul West 1805

Friday September 27th Very fresh S.E. trades with flights of fogg and birds laying all anchored in James Bay at 5 A.M. dispatched three boats off after Tortoises and Carpenter at cutting wood, at 5 P.M. they all returned on board, having altogether 78 Tortoises most of the Tortoises on the land were found at more than a mile distance from the landing place of the boat, so that carrying them to the boat will get the Survey out of the way, providing, however, anything towards it, we have found many fruit trees bearing a berry (which is mentioned by former visitors of this Island) in which many of the best Tortoises appeared to live, it is of an agreeable flavour and eaten by the crew whenever they find it.

Saturday September 28th Fresh trades at N.E. and S.E. with flying clouds laying still at James Bay at 5 A.M. three boats put off in pursuit of Tortoises, and Carpenter to cut wood, but the Tortoises being so very scarce, and long distance from the shore, they did not return till 5 P.M. bringing in all 60 Tortoises. Nothing to be seen afloat anywhere round the Island.

Sunday September 29th Fresh S.E. trades with flights of fogg, at times clear weather, but nothing to be seen in the offing, at 5 A.M. put off three boats after Tortoises, they being scarce, did not return till 7 P.M. having in all 50 Tortoises, took on board one load of wood. So ended, laying anchored in James Bay where there is no fish of any sort, nor turtle, or seals, to be caught or even seen.

Monday September 30th Moderate S.E. trades and fair weather throughout the 24 hours all three boats crews employed on shore all day at getting Tortoises at 7 P.M. got on board with 50 Tortoises having Ransacked all the borders of the low part of James's Island. Men constantly employed on shore at cutting wood.

Tuesday October 1st Breeze winds between E.S.E. and S.E. laying still in James Bay employed at getting Tortoises and wood took on board 52 Tortoises and four boat loads of wood. No fresh water seen by any of the crew in their rambles ashore but plenty of wild fruits which they eat of as an Antiscorbutic. Winds brisk and weather clear. Nothing seen far or near.

Ship Cyrus at the Galapagos Islands, Paul West 1805

Wednesday 2nd October Commenced gentle trades between E.S.E. and South. At 5 P.M. the boat returned on board with 15 Tortoises, and having brought them a long distance takes much time in getting them down, so that, as we have a good stock of them on board of food and upwards all good large Tortoises. I think of taking all of my wood on board immediately and be ready for sea, accordingly at 6 when the wind springing up at N.W. with a gentle breeze dispatched the boat for Wood and took of five boat loads of wood, then went aboard and took our Bower Anchor upon the Bow, at 6 P.M. the Regular S.E. trades breezing again and wood not all on board, laid by the Stream Anchor and got the rest of our wood, and lay still all the latter part with moderate winds at S.E. and fair.

Thursday 3rd October Light S.E. trades and fair weather, this morning I went on shore to the watering place myself, and instead of it being dry (as has been told me) I found a small run of water, running into the water of 50 Gallons in an hour, but the getting of water off from the shore very bad, in consequence of which I returned on board and at 8 A.M. took up our Stream Anchor made sail and stood out off the Bay to the West and finding a strong current setting to the N.W. then down to 7 P.M. N.W. for Alameda North point, at 6 P.M. it bore N.W. by S. Dist five or six miles the breeze playing away and currents running we were at 8 P.M. seven miles to the S.W. of the Island.

Friday 4th October Light variable winds light between N.W. and W.S.W. played up towards Cape Bechley all the latter part.

Saturday 5th October Light variable winds and fair at 5 A.M. saw Redondo Rock bearing N.W. 5 leagues the winds blowing mostly from the West we played up towards Cape Bechley, at 2 P.M. by keeping close along shore weathered the Cape, at which time the wind something more, I stood into Banks Bay without seeing anything alive or afloat about the Bay or its vicinity when (Bechley bore N.W. Dist two miles I had the Bay all in view, and steered up N.E. by E. (wind W.S.W.) for the passage between Narborough and Alameda but at 6 P.M. leaving me at about three hours Dist from Bechley to Papeete, where I continued with light West air all night.