

Journal of a Whaler voyage in the Briggs, Matahama

Thursday August 8th

Lat 34-20 N Long 41-14 W
 All of this day calm, cut up and hoiled out the
 heads, all hands busy, one sail in sight.
 Saw killers, the carcasses in sight and all together,

Friday August 9th

Lat 34-20 N Long 41-14 W
 All of this day fine breezes from the S.W.
 steering to the northward and westward, at
 9 A.M. sent on board of the ship William
 age of 19. Nineteen days from New York
 bound to San Francisco, at 1 P.M. finished trying
 out, saw a number of schools of porpoises,
 quarter watched through the night,

Saturday August 10th

Lat 34-20 N Long 41-14 W
 All of this day blowing fresh from the
 W.S.W. standing on the wind heading to
 the N.W. finished stowing down the bil
 and cleaned the vessel, three sails in sight

Sunday August 11th

Lat 34-08 N Long 41-25 W
 All of this day light breezes from the W.S.W.
 standing on the wind heading to the N.W.
 at 3 P.M. covered for blackfish but did not
 get but a large school and large fish

Monday August 12th

Lat 33-50 N Long 41-00 W
 All of this day fresh breezes from the westward
 standing on the wind heading S.W. on one
 tack and N.W. on the other, saw one
 vessel steering S.E. saw one gump,

Tuesday August 13th

Lat 33-50 N Long 41-00 W
 All of this day fresh breezes from the westward
 standing on the wind heading N.W. on
 one tack and S.W. on the other, saw a great
 many flying fish, at 9 P.M. the wind
 hauled to the northward.

Benjamin B. Handy Master July 1861

Wednesday August 14th

Lat 34-20 N Long 41-14 W
 All of this day light breezes from the S.E. steering
 to the N.W. until 4 P.M. luffed to the wind
 heading to the S.W. repaired the mainmast
 stay sail and set up the mainmast stay.
 Saw Eram passed so ends this day

Thursday August 15th

Lat 33-37 N Long 41-44 W
 All of this day fine breezes from the S.E. steering
 S.W. until 10 A.M. luffed to the wind heading
 S.W. gammed with the S. Bonching of Provincetown
 two schooners from some 120 bbls of sperm. took the
 boat of it in longitude 47. they saw the Blake
 this morning with 20 bbls. employed in ship duty
 set up the starboard fore rigging,

Friday August 16th

Lat 33-15 N Long 42-22 W
 All of this day fine breezes from the S.E. steering
 to the northward and westward, one sail in sight

Saturday August 17th

Lat 33-12 N Long 42-10 W
 All of this day light breezes from the southward
 and westward heading to the westward
 saw killers two sails in sight, so ends this day

Sunday August 18th

Lat 33-14 N Long 42-28 W
 All of this day fine breezes from the S.W.
 first part heading to the eastward, at 4 A.M.
 tack ship heading W.N.W. by the wind until
 12 A.M. steered N until 7 P.M. took in sail and
 luffed to the wind heading W.N.W. four sails
 in sight three merchantmen steering N.E.
 one whaler a barque at 7 A.M. shot west of to
 the N.E. saw one school of frampoles,

Monday August 19th

Lat 33-21 N Long 42-54 W
 All of this day light baffling, and from the S.W.
 employed in ship duty, repaired the foremast and
 merchant vessel steering N.E. saw Eram passed