

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas O. Hopper

1840 Ship Grand Turk December wind came from South East

Mon 14 A very light breeze showed down to us at 11 a fin back and a sail hauled and drew from top of mast carried sail all night. Hauled back aboard.

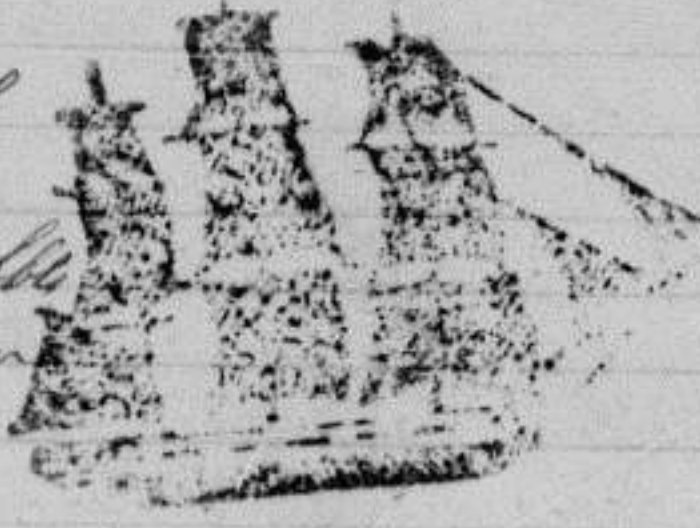
Tues 15 A strong breeze cloudy struck to the observation a porpoise and drew seen a great many fin backs carried sail all night star board tack aboard.

Wed 16 Showing heavy double tided the to the observation a thick fog and heavy rain killed a porpoise at 11 am down now moderate made all sail and tacked ship wind hauled at the same time.

Thurs 17 A light breeze in the forenoon new 37.45 6.37 In the afternoon a double tided topsail breeze seen a whale beach 5 miles off to leeward could not get any more of him.

Frid 18 A day light moderate made to us 36.38 6.47 sail seen a fin back and a boat off the ship.

Mannibal of Sagharbur 4 months out 2000 yd 80 of 100 yd bound to the coast. Hauled at 11 am down a light breeze starboard tack aboard.



Sat 19 A very light breeze saw fin and to 35.51 7.29 hump backs also porpoise at 11 am raised right whales chased without success they were going quick to the South East mild and warm.

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Ship Grand Turk December wind came from South East

Mon 20 A light breeze in the forenoon new 36.35 9.12 chased right whales without success. At 11 am blowing a very heavy gale of wind took in all sail except storm sail, huffed to the wind saw right whales in the afternoon could not trouble them they seemed to know it for they were not going as quick as they have been of late. Haul in sight.

Tues 21 A very light breeze cloudy a new 26.39 9.30 sail in sight seen a grampus but no whales in sight to day killed a porpoise.

Fues 22 A light breeze rainy with a thick fog saw porpoise in the evening a strong breeze double reefed the topsails at 11 am huffed the main yard a back huffed to the wind. Hauled back aboard.

Wed 23 At 10 am the weather became clear made the land to wind toward made sail and tacked forward at 11 am down blowing heavy close reefed the topsails, huffed up to the land, saw a fin back.

Thurs 24 A very strong breeze squally in the land. In light chased right whales several times without success. They are very cunning get so near as to stand by but that was all fin backs in sight.

Frid 25 A light breeze cloudy seen lots of fin backs but no right whales. On the wind starboard tack aboard. Killed a porpoise.