

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas C. Ruffe

1841 Ship Grand Turk December wind calm Lat Long
South West

Dec 26 A strong breeze cloudy Sun low when
up backs much a perfect and
down on the wind starboard tack South Atlantic

Dec 27 Last night equally with heavy
weather double reefed the topails
this morning made sail a light
breeze nothing to be seen

Dec 28 A light breeze Sun a sail
A. M. in strong breeze chased black
fish without success seen a large
shark

Dec 29 A strong breeze cloudy Sun
a few backs at 2 P. M. look
in topgallant sails at Sun
down from moderate. Star-
board tack aboard

Dec 30 A strong breeze in the forenoon
in the afternoon very foggy
looked for night
whales after chasing
some time starboard
and bow beat three or two
separate whales they
were the most daring
crossed whale I have
ever seen they maneuvered
all fashions and did not
fail to have any bones they
were so lumber. after a hard fight
they were both killed by the
Dexter not before we were almost
drowned by the heavy seas rolling
into the boat together with
what they have in the least
was they both got away as Mr.
Dexter cut both lines spading
them too big to catch than
again I guess they are dead now

Dec 31 A light breeze nothing to be
seen

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thos. C. Ruffe

1841 Ship Grand Turk January wind calm Lat Long
South West

Jan 1 A light breeze warm sun
up at 7 P. M. tack'd ship
stood to the northward and
standing to the southward
for the last 24 hours in hopes
to see some right whales but
we could not see any

Jan 2 A strong breeze could not see
any thing not even porpo-
ise yesterday we saw a few
poor perfectly white

Jan 3 A strong breeze in the forenoon
a thick fog with rain in the
afternoon clear Sun a great many
hump and few backs also
hills at 4 P. M. wind hauled off

Jan 4 A light breeze Sun a great
many hump and few backs
in the afternoon thick and rainy
Sun a great deal of wit at 1 P. M.
a strong breeze shortened sail

Jan 5 Blowing very heavy double reefed
topails seen hump and few
backs also right whale feed
and squid but no right wh-
ale it is wonderful where
they have all gone to

Jan 6 A strong breeze foggy with
heavy rain killed a large school
of very large right whales got close
to but they perceived us and got
clear shortly afterwards
lowered for others but
they also were too cunning for
us we got sight enough to stand
up for them but it would a
very long dart at Sun down
Sun more all round the ship
shortened sail stood quarter
watched luffed to the wind