

Journal of a Whaling voyage by Thomas Kieffe

1841 Ship Grand Turk November wind came East Long
North West

Nov 9. Light breeze in the forenoon S.W. 39.30 52.34
calm in the afternoon blowing North Atlantic 39.30
Ship at 9 A.M. light breeze

Wed 10 Blowing quite fresh. On the wind W.S.W. 35.35 57.30
Starboard tack aboard carried double
reefed topsails and courses

Thurs 11 Blowing heavy very squally at 10 W 36.35
breeze we were driven here all night. Saw
set at others the topsails would be W
blown up.

Frid 12 Very squally as yesterday wind S.W. 37.30 52.31
Variable a bit in light standing W
to the North East

Sat 13 A pretty heavy gale. Carried close W 38.25 53.15
reefed topsails, but the wind laid W.S.W.
card tacks aboard to night we had
very sharp lightning and heavy
thunder

Sun 14 Blowing heavy. Close reefed top W 38.50 53.20
sails at 11 A.M. we were driven
board tacks aboard. A sail in
light standing to the West

Mon 15 A light breeze. Made all sail at 10 W 38.53 52.18
A.M. was S.W. S.W. wind very
light

Tues 16 Moderate in the forenoon at 4 P.M. W.S.W. 39.15 53.26
A dreadful squall a perfect hurricane
spit it. Carried away main
topsail split fore and main topsails W
foretopmast staysail and foresail
and got damaged the fore yard
In blowing the foretopmast sheet I
got my leg foul of it and hurt pretty
bad. I never did see anything to equal
this in violence we had the sails pretty
long before it struck us

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Wed 17 Blowing a heavy gale sent down W 39.40 52.50
fore yard, and fished it. bent new W
main topsail. Sprung the rib and
foretopmast but an other foretopmast
stay sail

Thurs 18 Blowing a gale sent up fore yard W 40.18 52.47
and bent the foresail S.W. W
reefed topsails. Very cold. Altho
we are in the Gulf Stream

Frid 19 Blowing a smart gale. A sail W 40.43 52.56
in light standing to North East W
we have now got to the northward
of the Gulf Stream

Sat 20 A strong breeze on the wind W 39.43 52.41
A.M. very light. A sail in
light standing to the North
East

Sun 21 Blowing heavy wind variable N.E. W 40.12 56.10
but we could still run on
our course S.E.

Mon 22 Blowing a heavy gale took in bow W with no observation
boat turned up. Had
main topsail close reefed and
reefed foresail on her sent up
foretopmast-studding sail
was again in light stand-
ing to the Eastward

Tues 23 Blowing heavy killed a paper W 40.10 57.7
double reefed topsails on the wind
Starboard tacks aboard

Wed 24 A nice breeze cold on the wind Starboard 40.47 56.59
board tacks aboard. This is certainly
mortifying beating about and can
not gain an inch. I believe we are
still in the Gulf Stream as we have
seen some the last 24 hours