

South Sea Off Cape Horn

Dec 15th

Tuesday, winds more moderate with high sea, partially clear and wind southerly saw one square rigged vessel in the south afternoon fog again.

Lat in 58° 03' S Long 66° 45' W

Dec 16th

Wednesday wind fresh from the north and west with fog, afternoon rain, making for the Shetlands high sea running saw two square rigged vessels working westward under short sails.

Lat in 59° 00' S 70° 33' W

Dec 17th

Thursday weather more moderate and pleasant high sea running under reefed sails. Near Smiths Island bears S by E distant 100 miles wind north and clear.

Lat in 61° 00' S = 66° 00' W

Dec 18th

Friday, wind from the North East and moderate midday hours snow in squalls, made sea to day afternoon saw Smiths Island bearing south East and several small Ice Berge. Stove in of Cape James and Tacka ship of shore and here too blowing strong north East and cold.

Dec 19th

Saturday stormy and strong breezes from the North East, high sea, stove into Cape James saw large quantities of drift ice and three Berge, Tacka ship of shore under easy sail weather freezing cold.

Dec 20th

Sunday, still cold and wind fresh from the North East, laying off and on, Mount Pisgah, Smiths Island plenty Berge around the schooner.

Dec 21st

Monday landed on Cape James, weather moderate and smooth, found but one seal day continues mild throughout.

Dec 22nd

at Low Island

Tuesday wind moderate and pleasant. Stove over to Low Island and came to anchor surrounded by icebergs, went on shore with the body of Edward Wagner in two boats, and paid our last respects by burying the best we could, placing the coffin on the rock by digging away the snow, and then building a cairn around it with Shingle Stone then found and also covering it and erected a head board with name and date carved thereon. It of course made little difference same for the satisfaction of his friends. Within the body was cast into this stormy icy sea, or placed on this lonely isle its only the body, his spirit has gone to the god who gave it. This is the most southern Island of the Shetland group, yet the pleasantest and least frequented furnishes a breeding place for innumerable flocks of ocean birds, and some seals and leopard dogs. If in after times the parents should desire their sons body to rest elsewhere it can be found. I know not whether it will perish, nine decay days have we kept it on board without any symptom of decay. It lay on what I call Wagner cove on the west side of first Islet midway, well above the ocean wash North side of Low Island. From its summit I counted fifty ice Berge this morning. The same is deeply covered with snow and the shores with heavy packed ice, although a midsummer day, and warm, got underway and stove for Smiths Island, all feeling sadly and deeply sympathizing with his poor parents so far away. Day more moderate and milder occasional snow flurries from the eastward.

Dec 23rd

Wednesday morning breeze up from the Eastward ran to the North end of Smiths Island and examined it found the rocks and beaches one mass of ice no chance for seals to haul. Repts of fur Cape Horn sets in snowing heavy and continues throughout of day.