

384th *Good Ship Paratoga Capt. Ephraim Harding New Bedford*

134 days out

Sent down main
royal yard

Tuesday April 26th 1853.

Strong N.E. trades called N.E. but they blow
from the N.E. ever since we have been favoured
with them so we can lay our course along to the N.W.
by N. Last night we took in the maintop gallant
sail for the first time for since the 16 day of march over
one month. Put it again in the morning. Colours
The watch scrubbing and cleaning a dozen muskets. Preparing
for war in time of peace. Thus carrying out the motto of
the nation Nothing in sight Latt N Long West

135

To work on
the lath

Wednesday April 27th

To day the wind the wind has been to the N.E. part of the
time more than we could carry top gallant sails too
Steering N.W. Cooper and blacksmith fitting the
lath for turning iron. Glad of the job. Saw porpoises
Latt N Long West

136

To do.

Thursday April 28th

The morning dawned as beautiful as it ever did at
home with a light breeze from the N.E. Steering
N.W. Towards noon it hauled N.W. but it soon
took its old place N.E. Bent a new spanker
Nothing to be seen Latt N Long West

137

To do.

Friday April 29th

Continued the same steering by the wind to the south
ward. The watch almost idle and the carpenter
cannot work as I need the rife and bench for my
machinery Latt N Long West

138

To do.

Saturday April 30th

Here we have the end of another month and tomorrow
we shall enter upon our 5th month and thus our lives
are wearing away and perhaps we put poorly answer
the great purpose life. We have got the wind from the
E. Let forthmost studding sail Steering N by W. The
weather pleasant bent a maintop sail and at 5 PM we heaved
off deck for Sunday Latt N Long West

Nearing Whale Ground With fair weather and wind

139 days

Sunday May 1st First A.D. 1853.

This month of May brings many pleasing recollections ⁱⁿ ~~the~~
it In this month I was married and from that time
I date my greatest happiness And May I was blessed with my
~~precious thing~~ first ~~born~~ a source of joy that can never be surpassed by any thing
wind off N.E. of an earthly nature followed ~~than~~ ^{by} that little one although
steering N by W. he has been removed from this world of sin and dwells with the
Heavenly Father spirits in heaven which speaks to us, he is also ready
and sailing I hope I have two more now living born the same month
a little girl and a boy I expect much of each and am look-
ing forward ^{expecting to see them} before the third May shall pass but we are not
certain of anything but death. But none but a father knows my
affection for them

140

Monday May 2nd 1853

Signed for
the first time
since March
15th

To work on
the lath

About 6 PM. one of the boatstewards saw something about a 1/4 of
a mile to the windward of the ship he called a dead whale. A thrill
of anxiety pervaded the whole ship company all hands rushed to
the weather rail but it was thought to be a vessel hauled out but
the wind was blowing strong and the Capt. did not think best to take
ship to examine it and it was rather rough to lower a boat
This is a little touch of Cape Horn weather After dinner we double
reefed the topsail but we let the reef out again before night In
the middle watch they took in the foretopseel and mainseel
and at daylight set them again but before noon we were obliged
to reef again. Yet we cannot complain for it is the first time
we have had ^{weather} reefed since the 15 day of March. Attempted to mend
a seal but was obliged to give it up Latt N Long West

141

Tuesday May 3rd

To work on
the lath

About 2 1/2 of the day we have had a strong breeze from the
W and pleasant Steering N.W. Air cool but in the mor-
ning the wind hauled gradually to the E. when the weather
moderated till it is very comfortable. It has been a first
rate day for my work on the lath. I am glad to say it is
almost done not but that I the job but I do not want
to work always on one a change often ^{suits} me best
birdwork under many disadvantages but I am bound
to conquer. Latt N Long West