Monday July 9th 1855

The weather more pleasant. We are still trying to get into the bay but the ice prevents. A canoe of 6 or 8 Natives have been on board and just left for the other ship. They have a very strange appearance in their bear skin dresses and look quite as disagreeable as they look. We bought all the walrus teeth they had perhaps 20 in number with a small piece of tobacco a piece on an average. They signify there were a plenty of whales in the bay. The Captains are on board of the Montauk to dine here in exchange to us are alone.

Tuesday July 10th

Started in the morning the Captain returned from his gam. Soon after dinner we finished through a strip of ice about a mile wide and found ourselves in a lake surrounded all round with an icy shore. As soon as we got through the ice we saw two bowheads and lowered for them with the General Williams but they were not for us. They soon disappeared. At 6 anchored with the Rudy but the current from the westward set the ice down upon us so we was obliged to take anchor at 5 and have for sea again. Break one fluke of the anchor 12 off. It is now 6 O'clock and a canoe has just gone on board of the Montauk. Our bay is within about 20 miles of water in question.

Wednesday July 11

Stood in shore till within about 10 miles and at 3 in the afternoon the Harbour quotes from the General and the good Ship Saratoga took provision and utensils for cooking with guns and fishing tackle &c. The object is to enter the bay of the "Holy Cross" and ascertain the prospects for whaling. They are to stop over night. Four canoes have been off to trade. Four or 5 females accompanied the tribes with as many babies muffled in skins and as quiet as could be wished. One girl had a wholesome look and attracted much notice. Some of the women were stripped to the waist in consequence of the heat so they paddled to the ship though it is what we call cool. The Capt. bought 3 or 4 hundred weight of chamois and 20 or 30 lbs of seal skin belts with about one pint of gin and 3 heads of tobacco!! There were from the ill fated ship Superior of N. B. which went ashore here about 6 years ago with 6 whales in her blubber.

The Captains are on board this morn 11th in the morning

Thursday July 12th 1855

The last returned at 1 O'clock P.M. but know no whales. They did not go to the Gulf as Mr Williams thought the General was not well. The vessel is to stand in shore & lay off & on while the settlement but they put an anchor in & have not to be seen excepting a part of the mast of the ship Superior and that they have to buy. After the first returned Capt. Ricketson to go on the next the Captain and report dare dated arrived from the Gulf. Concluded to go with them and we was then joined by Capt Hill. Had a good time though they did not get many but we acted up to what we had done "we must go home till morning". Returned at 2 in the morning, took breakfast and a boat from each ship started with for the Gulf of the Holy Cross with provisions for 5 or 6 days. We are in a hurry to hear their report. A plenty of ice but it appears to be broken and it will appear at least nearly calm. There are 4 canoes in sight in each day women come in each of them. The idea of their being some Indians is suspicious but they paddle the character though a few are fair looking. Lewis amused this evening to see one of them eat a piece of raw walrus. He took it in his mouth and then sawed off a piece with a dull knife the proper time for a mouthful. Game no doubt.

Saturday July 14th

Calm and the weather remarkably pleasant the most of the day. The ice drifts about some but keeps the shore pretty close. Our Captain went on board of the Montauk last evening at a grand stagger a couple of hours. Today Capt. Francis called here to dine and after which both Captains went on board of General Williams and are there yet. Today I finished painting a sketch of my house and lot and Matt is framing frame for it. I think it looks natural I can tell better when I get home.

Monday July 16th

The weather has been beautiful but we have not enjoyed it as we ought. The Capt returned from his gam at 11 in the evening after being out nearly two days. Saw 2 whales but killed none. They proceed to the Kolpakovsky grounds after dinner towards again for water and tribes. Lewis [illegible] The wind has been light & variable. The inside boat lost a spade, boat hatchet and thwart on one of the boats. Lewis and Dave [illegible] to pay for the craft to say nothing about the labor of 15 men a day and Sunday at that. Lewis [illegible] a meeting with [illegible] and Hard Oak has not felt very good natured since his return. Reports of the natives has been hard to get at today but they bring the nothing of any account.