

1842 Journal of William Thompson

Dec 2 Spinning yarns all the afternoon
Our new man has been sick ill
since he left the jagged, not very
lucky landing one sick man and
shipping another. he has some
Land Fever. The boat stews and
other travellers are getting on stoutly.
No fish of any kind yet but a flying
fish for some days. Strong trades
all day we have made 200 miles
of Latitude

Latitude 10 40 S
Longitude 29 24 W

Monday Dec 5

Strong trades all
day, set fore topmast stunsail
and main top gallant stunsail,
going at about 9 knots hour over
200 hundred miles yesterday.
The Thompson a splendid
sailing ship and no mistake,
everything going on about O.K.
The only extraordinary circumstance
that has taken place lately is
the mens appetite for junk
has decreased wonderfully. The
monkey is by far the most popular
person on board now.

Latitude 14 00 S
Longitude 30 32 W

Tuesday Dec 6

Trades not quite
so strong to day beautiful
weather, going a S.W. course,
about 7 knots. There has been a
sad occurrence indeed and
one that is to be regretted by all
that is the death of John Fye,
who we shipped at L.A. going
in the place of Shirliff. He
has only been confined to his
bed three days, but was complaining

Journal of Ship William Thompson

some time previous, we thought it
was fever and ague, and treated
him accordingly but since his
death we think it must have
been some of the Land Fever,
which are so fatal to strangers,
nothing was done for him that
could be done on board ship.
It will be some comfort to his friends
to know we consigned him to
his watery grave with the regrets
and solemnity that such an
event in man's
history required. The ships
cannon were hoisted half mast
high and everything being ready
the steward read a chapter
in the bible, for which he was
then launched overboard and
sent to his long home from
whence no traveller returns
No friend to weep at his grave
Mr. Lambstone, to tell where
he lies,

Latitude 17 18 N
Longitude 31 16 W

Wednesday December 7

Light trades all
day, fine weather, but no fish
which sinks all our spirits, but
these things must have time is
not yet come but when it does
we will hop on em like June
bugs, beaver come not fear
me for my spirits is troubled
with store news, getting all ready
to bend a fore top sail this
afternoon, and a new one at that.
The monkey is greater and larger
in the eyes of the people. Latitude 19 40 N
Longitude 31 16 W