

DOCUMENTS

DIARY OF WILKES IN THE NORTHWEST

[Continued from Volume XVII., Page 65]

[June, 1841.]

It proved a hard rainy day, & having little to do, I laid down leaving my chro^r. (pocket) as is my custom on the table. After a long nap I awoke with the consciousness of having slept long and jumping up to look at my chro^r. I was greatly surprised to see by it a small silver watch but what surprised me still more was that they agreed as to time, and talking to myself I said I must be mistaken when Mr. Forrest entered and said that having found my watch was wrong he had set it for me. I could not but exclaim 'good God is it possible,' and we both stood looking at each other in some astonishment & his [feelings] incensed when I told him he had changed my Greenwich time for that of Cowlitz, which latter he thought much beter I then to his great surprise & mortification told him how he had interrupted my series of observations for Meridian distances &c. &c. but he thought it passing strange—why I should prefer Greenwich to that of Cowlitz time. That he was sure his watch was right for it was exactly with the *Sun* I got a little over my [Ms. P. 102] vexation by reading a few papers in Salmagundi among them my Aunt Charity — and had afterwards a hearty laugh at this incident particularly after reflection. I had enough data to fix my positions that I had already observed nothing could persuade my honest host that anything could be preferable to Cowlitz time nor could I persuade him that his watch could not keep time with the *Sun*. I determined in my own mind not to leave my chronometer to any such contingencies hereafter & think this lesson may prove a salutary one at least to me.

My host was as kind as he could be gave every attention to supply all my wants and at 8 o'clock on the 21st after a nice breakfast I took leave of him to cross to Nisqually—having Plu-mondon,¹³⁷ his wife child 2 servants & another settler for my guides—

I was induced to avoid the mountain or hilly road & wished to pass it by the river in a canoe sending the horse around with

¹³⁷ Simon Plomondon, former employe of the Hudson's Bay Company. See note 56 above.

our loads; but the Indians were to be employed, and I at once said it would be useless to attempt a bargain, until one has fully experienced the delays & difficulty of bargaining with an Indian one has no idea of it, such perfect non chance—time, haste, money, clothes, is nothing to them no importunities will effect any thing patience is soon worn out & our time quite lost, so after a few minutes & seeing how little they were disposed to move I rode off and passed the bad road quickly & with ease, not a little satisfied with the independence I had shown at the same time hoping it would prove some sort of lesson to them if I had Rum many would have gone days & submitted to great fatigue but any thing short of that will not move as in the Salmon & Cammass Season this is their harvest. [Ms. P. 102a] at 7 PM. we encamped in a Small Prairie—and on 22nd [June] started again at 7 o'clock after a hard ride we reached the opposite banks of the Shutes River¹³⁸ where we again encamped—As I passed over the same road returning as going I refer to my return by time—the grasses trees & flowers were every variety of bloom and the weather being much warmer made it more agreeable although I found a good fire not amiss at night.

23rd. [June]

I started early & having my servants & baggage we galloped on at a brisk rate through the beautiful park scenery as we approached Nisqually getting now & then beautiful peeps at lakes & the snow capped Mt. Rainier.—at noon I reached the Ships and was delighted to find all well & the news from the Boats & from the Porpoise of recent date and at once (having my houses erected during my absence, put up the Pendulum apparatus and began a series which lasted until the 4th July getting observations for the Longe. by more culminating Stars & other details connected with the plotting, & surveys &c. with Latitude, Dip variations & Intensity.

25th. [June]

Sent Lt. Budd to supersede Lt. Case who was ordered to proceed to Hoods Canal to recover the lost eye piece¹³⁹ of the Telescope grave carelessness in using it. I cannot feel that the party under Lt. Case have been well employed much time lost in the *head* not being able to work so large a force.

138. Deschutes River, flowing into Puget Sound at Tumwater near the present Olympia, named by the Hudson's Bay Company men from the French word meaning falls.

139 A piece of apparatus quite essential to the explorers. A report resulting from sign-language inquiries led to a long search when the suspected Indian was found to possess only a "cologne bottle."

26. 27. 28 [June]

Employed at Experiments weather tolerably fine obtained observations for Lat^o with Meridian circle also of eleven culminating Stars¹⁴⁰. Mr. Case to observe his last location darkness continues but a short time. day breaks at 2½ A.M. & darkness at 9 P.M. [Ms. P. 111]¹⁴¹ gives little opportunity for a variety of Stars. The weather is delightful.

Busily employed building an oven for the Baking of bread in order to economize our Sea Stock. The oven was formed on a stage with good plastic clay found in the neighborhood over the twigs of the hazel bushes and proved serviceable making excellent bread—the dough trough made by hollowing out a large tree that was found near by.

29th [June]

I rode with Mr. Anderson to the Nisqually Dairy the country is beautiful Park Scenery to perfection the grouping of the clumps &c. &c. all give one an idea of art, more than a natural formation one is fairly lost in viewing everything upon the large scale that is presented of lawns, clumps, lakes, woods trees of gigantic size—the scene is much varied by crossing at times fine running brooks, and coming upon lakes of some miles in extent with the deer browsing quietly near them all the back grounds made up of the bold distant outline of snowy peaks, of the Cascade range in which Mt. Rainier is ever prominent rising as it were from our very feet by a gradual slope to the height of 12,330 feet¹⁴² The interest and grandeur of this scenery never can be lost in ones memory and the lover of the picturesque would be amply repaid by a visit to this part of the country. There would be no difficulty in driving a wheeled carriage in almost any part of it.

In my ride I discovered another snowy Peak visible from this plain very much resembling that of Mt. Rainier. it appears to the Eastw^d. of the Range. Not being represented on my chart or Map I called it Mt. Hudson¹⁴³ after the Comd^r. of the Peacock. [Ms. P. 111a]

The top of Mt. St. Helens is just in sight also from this Plain. The Dairy is situated on part of this plain and has about

140 Aid is acknowledged from Dean James E. Gould, University of Washington, in deciphering a number of astronomical and nautical references.

141 The diarist jumped to different pages in his note book increasing the difficulty of keeping the narrative consecutive.

142 A later reference to the altitude will be found more nearly correct.

143 This name for a peak was not charted nor was it mentioned in the published *Narrative* or its index.

[blank] cows with about 100 cattle these are regularly put into Pens at nights not only for the purpose of protection from the wolves but also to save the manure They use from $\frac{1}{2}$ to an acre in extent, and are made after the Virginia fence rails of pine and are moved every week so that in the course of a year a large portion is even manured, and those parts that are defective the soil is much enriched. This Dairy yields a large supply of butter which is sent under the Contract to the Russians.¹⁴⁴ I regret to say the filth about the Dairy, Dairy maid her children & house exceeded anything I had ever witnessed in my life.

The farming operations are not large They have probably some 200 acres which was said would yield about 15 bushels to the acre. It is the Intention to put up a mill for grinding wheat & sawing lumber but this farm is chiefly intended for a grazing farm, the last supply of cattle being intended for this place were received from California about 3000 sheep & 1500 cattle & some 400 horses.

Mr. Anderson one of the Clerks of the H. B. Co. on a salary of £100 has charge of this farm under him are several persons who have charge of the diff. departments.

30th [June]

Engaged with Pendulum and also observing for Latitude—find the House answers well, temperature equable particularly at night.

Lt. Case returned after a fruitless search for the Eye Piece—got Mr. Anderson to send a War Mess^r [Ms. P. 112] to demand its being given up.

July 1st, 1841

Fair weather and beautiful nights for observing Myself and Mr. May¹⁴⁵ employed on the Fiji chart.

2nd [July]

Lt. Case & myself measuring a base line & taking the Alt^o. of Mt. Rainier the measured height was 14,850 feet¹⁴⁶ in a S. 88° 15' E. direction—1st alt 3. 09. 13.5 which gives the alt. of Mt.

2nd " 3. 23. 11.

Rainier [blank] and distant from Nisqually [blank]

3rd [July]

Boats returned agreeably to orders to spend the 4th of July which I intended they should spend or celebrate in a suitable man-

¹⁴⁴ In what is now known as Alaska. See note 66 above.

¹⁴⁵ Passed Midshipman William May.

¹⁴⁶ The real altitude is now known to be 14,408 feet. He evidently intended to do some more calculating but left the spaces for the results blank.

ner—the 4th falling on a Sunday it was therefore kept on the 5th preparations were made for roasting an ox whole on one of the prairies whither they were to go to spend the day.

On the morning of the 4th I finished my Pendulum observation & invited all the officers present to dine with me. Sunday passed quickly each busily engaged making his preparations for the morrow balls, clubs &c. &c. The ox was killed & spitted and a party of the most adept among the crew appointed to cook him. He was spitted ingeniously on a young sapling supported on 2 Notches and revolved on the spit without difficulty. The roasting was begun on the night of the 4th.

5th [July.]

Crew were mustered on board & came on shore in their nice clean white frocks & trousers with the marines in uniform and music & after forming at the Observatory they marched off under M^r. B.¹⁴⁷ & Colv.¹⁴⁸ to the Prairie where the preparations had been making. It was truly a gratifying sight to see them all in good health not a man sick and as white as the driven snow with happy & con- [Ms. P. 112a] tented faces. on their arrival partners were chosen and the games began including horse racing &c. &c. At noon on firing the 2nd salute with the Brass Howitzer a Q. G. by the name of Whitehorn¹⁴⁹ had his arm dreadfully lacerated by the accidental discharge of the gun. The D^r. thought amputation necessary but to this I objected as it could as safely be performed in a few days as now and might [not] be necessary. he was sent off on a Barrow to the ship with his ship mates. This accident put a momentary stop to the Hilarity but as Jack is somewhat familiar to such scenes it was soon forgotten and they resumed enjoying their sports until near sunset when they again formed & returned on board with their music all in good order. Few casual observers but would have noticed the appearance of Vendovi¹⁵⁰ the Fiji Chief dressed partly in European & Fiji costumes & bringing up the rear with the Master at Arms who had the care of him. it was the 1st time he had been on shore since his capture & enjoyed himself exceedingly. These frolics and exercise tend to do the crew good and after so long a cruize I feel it great recreation to my own mind to see all those enjoying them-

147 Passed Midshipman and Acting Master Thomas A. Budd, for whom Budd Inlet (now Olympia Harbor) was named.

148 Passed Midshipman George W. Colvocoressis, whose name was often thus abbreviated as, for example, when honored by the naming of Colvos Passage west of Vashon Island. See also note 38 above.

149 Quarter Gunner Daniel Whitehorn.

150 For whom Vendovi Island was named in what is now the northwestern corner of Skagit County, Washington.

selves who have passed with me through so many dangers, and by their exertions achieved for the Country no small reputation.¹⁵¹

All the officers present dined with me Mr. Anderson Capn. McNeil & Dr. Richmond Missionary all seemed to enjoy themselves and I gave them as good chow as the Oregon territory afforded.

On the morning of the 6th Dr. McLaughlin arrived he had missed his way and he was as [Ms. P. 113] much disappointed as we were at his non arrival at dinner of the day before. I paid him all the attention in my power, took him on board the ship, manned the yards and cheered him on his leaving. he appeared to be highly gratified, with the order and condition of a Man of War. He dined with me and on the next day went back to the Cowlitz. I cannot say too much for his kindness and attention to our wants and desire of assisting us, his personal attentions to me I shall long entertain a grateful remembrance of.

6th July.

4 boats started with Lt. Carr to continue the Survey up the Sound; send off the apparatus & other Instruments.

7th & 8th [July.]

Preparing to join the surveying party with 3 Boats

on the 9th left with Lt. Budd & Pass. Mid. Eld for the falls on the *Shutes* River. Mr. Anderson accompanied me intending to visit the Bute Prairies¹⁵² for the purpose of examining them Sent the Horses round to meet us. By the stupidity of the guide (an Indian Boy) we took the wrong arm¹⁵³ and after a long and fatiguing pull to its head returned & encamped.

An early start on the 10th brought us to falls by 11 o'clock the weather had become disagreeable with rain showers We found the horses had been waiting for us all the morning. This Arm is of about 9 miles deep and the Shutes River (or more properly creek) falls with its head down a fall¹⁵⁴ of some 65 feet in height it is here about 10 feet wide and 2 feet deep it forms a basin of 50 feet diameter at its foot from which the land rises and makes a cool pleasant retreat in summer the bubbling of

151 The "no small reputation" achieved by the Wilkes Expedition has been slow in developing. The scope of the undertaking was world-wide. Its work in Northwestern America has attracted increased attention during the last few years. On July 5, 1906, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the celebration recorded here was observed with appropriate ceremonies. Governor Albert E. Mead and other representative citizens participated, also Chief Slugamus Kookilton who declared that he as a small boy attended the celebration in 1841.

152 Now known as Mound Prairie.

153 Evidently the arm afterwards named Eld Inlet after Passed Midshipman Henry Eld. Locally it is often called "Mud Bay."

154 The waterfall which suggested the name for the Descutes River. Four years later (1845) the Michael T. Simmons party settled there calling it "New Market," afterwards Tumwater, the first permanent American settlement on the shores of Puget Sound.

the cascade is agreeable. After forming our encampment & discharging the Boats I dispatched Lt. B. & Md. Eld to begin [Ms. P. 113a] the Survey, the head of this Inlet or arm is very shoal for some distance ($\frac{1}{2}$ miles) from its head & has an extensive mud flat with a channel of 20 to 30 feet in width with water enough for a boat at low water.

Mr. Anderson & myself took our horses and several of the men with shovels & pickaxes & started for the prairie which we reached about 5 o'clock having had a thorough drenching from the rain more by coming in contact with the wet bushes than the falling rain. The path is an Indian trail & everywhere overgrown with alders &c. from 12 to 15 feet high. — Pitched our tents & made fires & then chose the Butes that we desired to open 3 of which were dug into. They are composed of alluvial soil apparently by the soil being brought together, and are remarkably rich of a mellow black mould. Their dimensions are generally 15 feet in diameter, and six feet above the gravelly soil — about one might be placed between every four thus [drawing]¹⁵⁵ the whole prairie is covered with them almost all perfect in their form, the subsoil is a hard reddish gravel. The hole was dug directly in the centre about 4 feet in diameter and continued until the subsoil was reached on which we found in all a pavement laid of paving stones such as on streets. No kind of articles, bones or anything was found in them — This is the case in many parts of the country, the Indians have no tradition respecting them whatever.¹⁵⁶ On the many inquiries made I could get no surmises even respecting them. In their absence will attempt a suggestion myself. They are not tumuli¹⁵⁷ nor are they held in any regard by the Indians. I did [Ms. P. 114] learn however that the Medicine men were in the habit of gathering some herbs from them, and it may be the continuance of a practice that has been handed down to them to do. They seem fit places for the growth of various herbs & might have been the custom for each tribe or family to cut its own — it is well known that to this day the medicine men have the full power to bring such a custom into use, and still may practice it without being aware of its being traditional. Some have suggested their being formed by the water but I view this as impossible. They

¹⁵⁵ A symmetrical group of five mounds which drawing is reproduced in the published *Narrative*, Volume IV., page 415.

¹⁵⁶ In 1905 the present editor obtained from Old Seseenah on the Chehalis Reservation an Indian legend explaining in a mystical way the aboriginal idea of the origin of those mounds. Geologists offer eighteen theories, the most satisfying of which relates to glacial drift as the probable origin of the mounds. See also note 76 above.

¹⁵⁷ Meaning burial mounds.

lie in a flat Prairie and are thousand in number with great regularity in their rows liking them to familiar object to everyone I would say they are prodigious *corn hills* with quite their regularity, and from the great numbers of them must have been an herculean labour — Having finished our examination, I determined to return to my party at the falls, and accordingly parted with my friend Mr. A. who intended to return to Nisqually. It was my intention of getting some angles on Mt. Rainier from this position but the weather only enabled me to get my Lat^d. & Long^e. —the Horizon being obscured with clouds & my time was too precious to wait a day for the opportunity — never had a more disagreeable & wet ride and was heartily glad to get before a large camp fire, with my party around me, few can imagine the pleasure that one experiences on hard service the hour or two one gets after the labours of the day before a good large fire tending to restore one to cheerfulness and overcome the days fatigues.

12th. [July.]

Started at 7 o'clock with the boats, some hurry scurry many not being prepared when the hour came, but punctuality is everything in this service, did a good days work notwithstanding we had some rain. At Sunset joined Lt. Case Party when I took charge of all [Ms. P. 114a] Boats, pitched tents and took observations for Latitude & Long^e. (time)

13th. July.

Off at 7 o'clock precisely all the boats in company some for triangulating others for sounding Started with a general measurement of bases—sent Mr. Totten¹⁵⁸ to connect with work of Lt. Carr through a passage, and on his rejoining me, despatched Lt. Budd & Mr. D.¹⁵⁹ up over Inlet—& proceeded on with Lt. Case Mr. Eld & others up the main arm — We made Camp at Sunset after a heavy days work — Lt. B. did not return at sunset as he ought to have done in consequence his & Mr. Totten's services were lost the next day I gave him in consequence a reprimand pointing out to him the error he had fallen into of which he seemed well aware. Sent Mr. Hamersly¹⁶⁰ to the ship with Limont¹⁶¹ who had been burnt with powder.

¹⁵⁸ Midshipman George M. Totten for whom Totten Inlet (locally known as "Oyster Bay") was named.

¹⁵⁹ Joseph Drayton, artist, for whom Drayton Harbor, inner portion of Semiahoo Bay, and Drayton Passage, west of Anderson Island, were named.

¹⁶⁰ Midshipman George W. Hammersly, so spelled in the official muster-roll, though variously changed in the diary, charts and published *Narrative*. Hammersley Inlet, the southwestern arm of Puget Sound was named in his honor, but local usage calls the inlet "Big Skookum."

¹⁶¹ Joseph Limont, seaman.

14th. [July.]

At 7 o'clock we were again in our boats in consequence of Mr. Totten having the rough draft we could not bring up the work last Evg — this ought always to be done —

Lt. Case & myself triangulating with M^r. Eld¹⁶² & Williamson¹⁶³ sounding — reached the head of the Bay at 3 o'clock at foot of the 3 Butes (western) (seen from Nisqually observatory) at which time I was joined by Lt. Budd & Totten. Went down the Branch & encamped at the mouth of another preparatory to its survey on the morrow —

15th. [July]

Started an hour earlier this morning in hopes of reaching the Ship by tomorrow evg. reached the extreme limits of the arm by 11 o'clock left Mr. Totten to get the Meridian alt^e. & sights for chronometer. Sent Lt. Budd to put up signal [Ms. P. 115] and survey the 1st Inlet we encamped in when I proceeded to join him with the other boats. We had not advanced far before it became time to encamp —

16th. [July.]

Off at 7 o'clock. Mr. Hammersly joined [illegible] me yesterday morning finished the survey of the arm & proceeded towards the ship bringing the survey down to him and reached at sunset, in consequence of Mr. Totten not obeying orders despatched him to M^r. Eld with a fresh boats crew at 9 o'clock P.M. & to execute those left with that officer for him besides giving him a good reprimand for his proceeding detaining the work from progressing, and causing fatigue and exposure to his men, think he will not be apt to do it again & hope it may serve to impress with the necessity of obeying strictly their orders.

Found all well on board & ready for Sea Mr. Johnson's party¹⁶⁴ having returned all well — The Cadborough H. B. C^o. sch.—Scarborough¹⁶⁵ master arrived today — from Frazers River.

These arms of Puget Sound bear very much the same character The soil is light on a subsoil of sand stone & gravel The banks in some places about 100 feet covered with spruce, pines, oaks, alders & arbutus great quantities of seringas in full blossom

162 Passed Midshipman Henry Eld.

163 John G. Williamson, gunner.

164 Lieutenant Robert E. Johnson's party which had crossed the Cascade Range to explore what is now eastern Washington. In this diary, Commander Wilkes shows that Lieutenant Johnson misbehaved soon after his return to the ships. This did not deter Wilkes from giving an enthusiastic account of the work done on the journey over the mountains. See *Narrative* Volume IV., pages 418-474.

165 Captain James Scarborough whose name was afterwards given to what is now known as Neah Bay. The schooner's name was *Cadboro*.

reminded us of home, and although not partial to its smell heretofore it was found by us all delicious — it savoured of civilisation. [Ms. P. 115a]

Nisqually. as a scite for trade is badly located and I should also think even so for the purposes of the Company. indeed they intend to remove it and have in fact selected another scite about a mile distant back near a stream from which all their waters for this establishment has to be brought —

The anchorage is small & the toil of taking things up the hill great although they have comparatively a good road for that purpose. My observatory occupied the brow of this hill & by leveling I found it to be 190 feet above $\frac{1}{2}$ tide and the bob of my Pendulum clock 174 feet 3 inches above the same.

Tide rises 18 feet spring tides and about 12. ordinary or neap tides H. Water full & change 6.10 P.M. During all the time of our stay at Nisqually there was found to be a great discrepancy between the night and days tide the former not being so high by 2 feet. This was also the case in the Columbia.

Much better places than Nisqually could be found for the location of town or for the purposes of trade just below it between it & Kitron's Island¹⁶⁶ the shores make a small indentation & this small harbour although the water is deep is well sheltered by Kitron's Island from all those which blow with any violence. The S.E., S.W. & N.W. and would be free from any sea, the way might be made quite easy to the summit of the hill here more sloping than further up. There are several fine runs of water near here.

The Farm of the Company extends back towards [Ms. P. 116] the plain on which their Dairy is situated.

The country is thought to be remarkably healthy around these Salt Water Inlets, which afford abundance of fine fish &c. &c. The winter is represented to be mild snow seldom falling and of but short duration.

The Mean temperature as found by our experiments at the observatory was 58°.5 Farh^t. and that at Astoria was but 54.

4.5 in favor of the more northern station — they were both underground about the same time and full 6 feet below the surface. One however was in June & July

¹⁶⁶ The chart accompanying the monograph on *Hydrography* by the Expedition shows the spelling Ketron. The original honor was for William Kittson of the Hudson's Bay Company service. The incorrect spelling by Wilkes persists on present day maps.

& the other in August and Sept. These Experiments would lead one to doubt the accuracy of the mode of testing the fact as respects the Mean annual temperature.

The Latitude of Nisqually by many circummeridian observations of [symbol for sun] & stars was found to be 47. 07. 12 N.¹⁶⁷ Longitude by eleven culminating Stars. [blank] & [blank] Variation [blank] Dip [blank] Intensity [blank.]

The mean temperature during the month was [blank]

the greatest range of ther. [blank]

the minimum [blank]

Barometer [blank]

The Indians around Nisqually are few in numbers & a lazy vicious set and exceedingly dirty. They for the most part sleep all day & sit up all night gambling with visitors or among them and in this way like all the tribes of this coast they will after parting with all their useful articles dispose of their wife & children & finally of themselves to years of Slavery.

Their clothing seldom consists of more than a blanket or coat made of one and a pair of leather breeches & moccasins. little or no distinction seems to exist among them. [Ms. P. 116a] The chiefs have little or no authority Everyone seems left to take care of himself.

They are addicted to Stealing and will run some risk to effect their object several blankets were reported to have been stolen from the men while asleep although one was on guard at the observatory with loaded arms but a few paces from the spot — They are not inclined to work — & their general food consists of fish, particularly the clams &c. &c. which are obtained here in great abundance, deer & wild fowl in their seasons. They carry on a good deal of bartering for the Cammas root with those who are more in the Interior. but all these Indians may be termed Nomadic for they seldom occupy the same spot over a few months together but change their residence in order to approximate the places where they are supplied with food.

This renders it very difficult to obtain a correct knowledge of their numbers & persons visiting the different parts of the country at different periods of the year would be inclined to over estimate its population.

¹⁶⁷ The diarist occasionally writes marginal phrases to catch his eye. On this occasion he wrote "Leo sets," which information would have value in the astronomical work he was doing.

The Nisqually tribe are few and harmless & diseases are rapidly thinning them off.

Mr. Anderson informed me he had or was making an experiment with some of them to till the land but he found them disinclined to work altho they were more apt than he had given them credit for.

Under Mr. Anderson's care all the vegetables, fruits &c. thrive well. The soil is light & shingly generally but in places it well adapted to all the wants of the Settlers. Neat cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. thrive uncommonly well. [Ms. P. 103]¹⁶⁸

17th July.

I returned yesterday from a surveying excursion with the boats and agreeably to orders found everything ready for sailing. embarked the remainder of the Instruments &c. &c. and prepared for departure. A 2 P.M. the wind sprang up from the westward hove up the anchor and made sail. Lt. Johnstone had been prepared with Pas^d. Mid. Eld to cross over to the Chikeles River for the purpose of proceeding down it, to its mouth in Gray's Harbour, and making a survey of it, and the Coast as far as the Columbia River including Shoalwater Bay. on the receipt of his written orders, he came to me to expostulate on them in apparent temper. I refused to have anything to say to him. This was on the Quarter Deck whilst heaving up. I told him not to come and speak to me in that mood & told him to go below, and think over what he was about, and to be ready to leave the ship in 5 minutes, that I was anxious to save the tide, & wished him to take his departure immediately, in about 10 minutes he came to me again, & I would not listen to him. He was dressed as I considered very unofficerlike, having on one of the caps, or hat worn by the Indians, and showed marked disrespect in his manner, & dress to the rules of the ship & navy. On his going below in 5 minutes I ordered Lt. Carr 1st Lt. to send a message for Lt. J. to leave the ship immediately finding the time had expired. I again sent Mr. Colvocoressis to tell M^r. J. that he must positively leave the Ship in five minutes and after the expiration of this time Lt. J. came on deck, came to me in some temper & in this dress before described with my written [Ms. P. 103a] orders in his hand, and on my telling him he must positively leave the ship under those orders, he said he would not obey the orders or words to that effect, and thereupon I took the orders from his hand, he

¹⁶⁸ The manuscript again turns back in page numbers.

at the time said he wished to keep them, but this I refused and immediately suspended him from duty — I then called Mr. Howison¹⁶⁹ & told him to substitute the name of Pas^d. Mid. Eld in lieu of Lt. Johnstone and ordered Pas^d. Mid. Colvocoressis to join Mr. Eld whereupon they immediately left the ship & I filled away bidding adieu to our kind friends Mr. Anderson & Capⁿ. McNeil, and thanking them for their kindness, and hospitality to myself and officers during our stay at the Place (Nisqually) (for remarks concerning it see the foregoing pages). We had a light wind, which enabled us to get through the Narrows before dark and at dark I anchored off the Sth. End of Vashons Island in 27 fathoms water, about one cable length from the shore. Weather fine.

18th [July]

Underweigh at 8 A.M. when the tide served with a light breeze from the westw^d. employed beating down the Strait anchored at 1 P.M. the tide coming in strong, got underweigh again at 6 P.M. & continued beating & drifting down until midnight when I again dropped near its junction with Admiralty Inlet.

19th [July]

Underweigh at 9 A.M. beating down & continued undeweigh until about 2½ A.M. when it falling calm I again anchored off Apple Cove in 25 fathoms water. [Ms. P. 104]

20th July.

Again underweigh continuing down at 9 A.M. towards sunset it fell calm and I was obliged to anchor off a sand spit in 10 fathoms. water exposed to all the violence of the tide in about ½ hour we began to drag with 35 fathoms veered to 80 & although it was not [illegible] during the night yet I found we must have dragged afterwards.

21st July

Discovered the Sch^r. Cadboro. Capt. Scarborough to N^d of us, he having passed us at night got underweigh at 5 A.M. with a high breeze from the S^d. & Ed. At 8 made the Brig & Launch out to the N^d. ran out of Admiralty Inlet & stood to the westward for New Dungeness Harbour where we anchored in 11 fath^s. about 2 P.M. having passed over an extensive shore extending from Protection Island to the N^d. least water had 4½ fathoms. Brig joined company, at 3 P.M. despatched Lt. Case with 3 Boats to bring up the survey of Whitbey's Island¹⁷⁰ & that of Port

169. James R. Howison, captain's clerk.

170 Named for Joseph Whidbey of the Vancouver expedition, 1792. His name was frequently misspelled.

Townsend also to correct that of Hoods Canal with work of Porpoise. Sent the Boats to take stations, also put up Signals, also ordered the Brig on Shore off Protection Isld. & find for Base &c. &c. Lt. Comdr. Ringgold came on board with his chart & report.¹⁷¹ The launch had reached him with no accident except the wetting of 70 lbs of bread.

22nd July

23rd

Ordered Lt. Johnstone & Mr. Waldron to rejoin the P.¹⁷² & my officers to Ship except Lt. Alden employed the boats on survey of Dungeness Harbour & myself making observations on the Points for Lat^o. & Long^o. Dip, Intensity &c. &c. &c. fine weather & pleasant breezes. [Ms. P. 104a]

24th July

Again employed part of the day trying the dip & intensity belonging to Porpoise in the afternoon surveying, 6 Boats employed surveying; preparing orders for Brig. At night Boats returned from Townshend harbour having completed the survey up to that place & joined the work of Brig & Boats (Hoods canal Survey with that of Whidbeys Island).

25th [July]

Brig parted company for the further prosecution of duties.

Started this afternoon at 4 o'clock with 7 Boats 4 days provisions for the survey of the Labarynth of Islands through which the Canal de Arro¹⁷³ passes, rough time crossing the straits, heavy sea and all got a wetting such as I have not had for many a day—Boats behaved well & we soon got dry & comfortable over large fires at our Encampment in one of the branches of the Labarynth

26th [July]

Began the Survey at 7 o'clock A.M. we continued hard at work until dark when we had reached the Main Channel all exerted themselves well today & we made great work of it.

27th [July]

Continued our survey off at 7 o'clock and another hard days work in order to join the Brig signals to the north in which we succeeded & in consequence of not finding water were obliged to

¹⁷¹ The Brig *Porpoise* had been on a survey from May 15, 1841. See entry of that date and note 43. A brief record of the extensive surveys, evidently from the report here mentioned, appears in the *Narrative*, Volume IV., pages 478-483 and also in the Atlas accompanying the Expedition's volume on *Hydrography*. Many geographical names still in use are there charted for the first time.

¹⁷² The Brig *Porpoise*.

¹⁷³ The Spaniard Quimper in 1790 named it Canal de Lopez de Harro after his sailing master. Vancouver changed it in 1792 to Canal de Arro. The British Captain Henry Kellett in 1847 charted it as Haro Strait which name has continued.

return to our old encampment of last night which we did not reach until near [Ms. P. 105] 10 o'clock having a strong wind & head tide to pull against — This day I was joined by Pasd. Mid. May from the Ship with despatches informing of the loss of the Peacock on the North Spit of Columbia River Bar, all hands saved — this news though bad was a relief to me as I had long been under apprehension of her wreck on some unknown shoal & had made up my mind as soon as I could to go in search of her, it appears she had been at Oahu why and wherefore remains to be seen. I can scarcely believe it, but presume Cap^{tn}. Hudson must have some very urgent reason to have thus departed from my orders and her delay in reaching the River is now accounted for and if he should have departed from his Instructions without due reason he has met the fate of all those who run counter to written Instructions. The only reason assigned for his going there by the letters received is a supply of provisions and water this he had full knowledge had been provided for at the Columbia or would be prior to his leaving Oahu in Dec^{er}. last and with the knowledge he ought to have possessed of the winds [illegible] was much nearer to him than Oahu could be. I however reserve myself from an expression until I shall have his communications on the subject. It is one satisfaction however to know that both are at last come to light notwithstanding the disaster met with by the Peacock.

28th [July]

Started at 7½ on our duties & by 3 P.M. finished the survey of Canal de Arro and reached the ships at sunset The boats all followed in about an hour — found all well — Despatched P. Mid. Sandford to intercept the Brig & countermanded all orders in consequence of the news received — [Ms. P. 105a]

29th July

Blowing all day half a gale of wind from the Westward sent 3 Boats under Lt. Budd to complete the survey of an Inlet which he succeeded in doing by sunset — Mr. Totten went to New Dungeness Pt. to get sights for [illegible] Lt. Case & myself plotting the work of survey of Canal de Arro.

A thick fog bank to the West & N.W. all day this is a sure sign of wind from that Quarter. sent down our Topgallant & Royal Yards and moved to 80 fathoms.

Despatched a messenger to the Townsend H. to the Brig.

This morning the Brig hove in sight from Port Townshend

& came to anchor at 11 o'clock received from her a supply of Bread 200 lbs and a bbl of flour part of that supplied her a week since — preparing to get underweigh strong gale from the westward with thick fog which continued through the day —¹⁷⁴ countermanded the Brig orders & retained her with me.

31st [July]

More moderate employed securing the boats hove in to 30 fathoms waited for the tide until 1.30 when I got underweigh with a moderate westerly breeze and made nothing for the 1st 24 hours when we took the ebb & made some progress, fine moon light & fresh breeze from W by N to W by S — pleasant weather. [Ms. P. 106]

August 1841

1st August

This day we have light winds inclining to calms making little progress down the Straits of Juan de Fuca, the Porpoise in company In order not to lose sight of our operations I got 2 bases with Porpoise and mustered drafters to ascertain positions &c. &c. on both sides of the Straits They are as far as we have examined free from dangers the tides are [illegible] and generally during the summer months winds light altho there are days of exception to this on which the winds blow heavy from the N.W. We lately whilst lying in New Dungeness experienced three days in which it blew very strong. We have fine weather and moon light which makes it safer to navigate here than it otherwise would be so hemmed in on all sides by the land. I had no muster today giving the men a day of rest of which their late arduous duties rendered necessary and it has been apparently much enjoyed by them.

¹⁷⁴ On the margin Captain Wilkes wrote: "Despatched Mr. T. W. Waldron to the Columbia by way of Nisqually and the Cowlitz with despatches for Capt. Hudson, 4 days he will arrive there [illegible] from 31st."