“Journal by Man in Edgartown”

Original leather-bound journal is in the Martha’s Vineyard Museum
H. L. Whiting Collection   Box 4 of 4. Folder 1: Journal by Man in Edgartown, 1846-1847

Transcribed by Linda Hampson  ~2013

Note: From initials and other scrawling on the journal we have determined that the “young man”, who is unidentified in the Museum collection, was Samuel A. Gilbert. 'Iron' Samuel Gilbert ended up being brevetted Brigadier General in 1865 after a rigorous and highly successful and long stint in the Civil War. He served a long career as an Assistant in the Coastal Survey. Gilbert would have been nineteen years old during the summer of 1846 when he served as an assistant on Henry Whiting’s survey crew.

Edgartown MV
Journal
1846

Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} August

Weath. cloudy & rain
Atmos. Thick
temp. moderate
wind south light

In camp plotting compass work, Mr. McC sketched this camp. Hoster in camp in eve.

Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th}

Weath. clear
Atmos. clear
temp. moderate
wind north strong until 6 pm
south light

Started out at 9 o’clock went on board the Gallatin—then to Mattakesett and run shoreline on Chapak also Salt Meadows and Ponds on east side with plane table returned at 9 pm.

Wednesday 12\textsuperscript{th}

Weath. clear
Atmos. clear
temp. moderate
wind SSW strong in eve

Out with plane table on Sengekontacket Pond at 10 in at 6 o’clock—Called on ladies in town.

Thursday August 13\textsuperscript{th} 1846

Temp. moderate
Wind SSW very strong
Atoms. heavy
Weather cloudy and clear

In Camp plotting roads on Chappaquiddick and train road to Holmes Hole and East Chop, etc., etc.
Mr. Whiting and McCleary gunning very good luck some fine Plover, etc.

Friday, Aug 14\textsuperscript{th}
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Temp.</th>
<th>Atoms.</th>
<th>Weath.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Aug 15th</td>
<td>quite warm</td>
<td>very foggy &amp; damp</td>
<td>cloudy &amp; sultry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>light varying from NW to SE by S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out with plane table at 9 am from E. Chop to Sengekontacket inlet inclusive of Farm Pond had a fine bathe returned at 8 pm. Thunder shower about midnight.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Aug 16th</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>very foggy</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>Southerly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plotting a little compass work and in afternoon went to Tisbury Mr. Whiting &amp; Greenwell &amp; had a time.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday August 17th</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>think &amp; damp</td>
<td>Clear till noon then cloudy &amp; rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>Southwest strong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In Camp until 4 o’clock pm then finished plotting roads around Tisbury village with compass raining when we were about 1/2 done. Still raining 11 o’clock.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Aug 18th</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>clear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>Northerly very strong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out with plane table and finished Sengekontacket Pond returned at 8 clock pm. Ladies in Camp in the evening a very fine time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday August 19 1846</td>
<td>warm</td>
<td>clear</td>
<td>Wind N E strong in morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weath.</td>
<td>pleasant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out with the plane table on the East beach and Cape Poge finished all, about fourteen in miles of shoreline, commenced at 11 quit at 7 o’clock, McCleary quite sick in the ___ a chill.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday August 20th</td>
<td>warm</td>
<td>not very clear</td>
<td>Wind ESE light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weath.</td>
<td>pleasant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McCleary left for Washington in boat. Mr. Whiting & I boarded the steamer off Cape Poge and went to Nantucket to select a place for camp, found one.

Friday August 21st

Temp. cool                  Atoms. very thick
Weath. raining              Wind SE strong

Returned from Nantucket met Mr. Fauntleroy USCS at Holmes Hole en route to join Mr. Lee USA—Also on Edgartown Board Mr. Greenwell USCS en route to join this party.

Saturday August 22nd

Temp. warm                  Atoms. clear
Weath. pleasant             Wind Southerly very light

In camp setting up accounts etc. overhanding tents etc and making tracing of shore lines for hydrographical party.

Sunday August 23rd

Temp. warm                  Atoms. clear
Weath. warm                 Wind

Mr. Whiting and Mr. Greenwell went to Tisbury.

Monday August 24th

Temp. warm                  Atoms. thick
Weather pleasant            Wind NNW strong in morn

Finished tracing of Chappaquiddick and took off some flys and packed up most of the things.

Tuesday August 25 1846

Temp. moderate               Atoms. heavy
Wind ENE very strong

Took down everything and by 10 o’clock had all on board the Sloop but could not sail as the wind and tide were both ahead.

Wednesday August 26

Temp. cool                   Atoms. very thick
Wind East S E a gale hard rain all day

The Sloop could not go out wind ahead and blowing a gale – made tracing of shore line to East Chop for Davis.
Thursday, Aug 27
Temp. moderate Atoms. very thick
Wind S E very light, raining

At 8 we left the wharf and rowed the Sloop past the Light hs and drifted out with the tide at 2 pm were off Cape Poge – Boarded the steamer and arrived in Nantucket at 4.

Friday August 28th 1846
Nantucket
Temp. warm Atoms. very thick
Wind S W light

Sloop arrived in the night the air was damp we could not unload until about 2 pm. We pitched several tents before dark.

Saturday August 29th
Temp. very warm Atoms. thick
Wind S W strong

Finished pitching camp and got most of the things to rights. Lent Doty in Camp in evening.

Sunday Aug 30th
Temp. warm Atoms. foggy and clear
Wind S W by W light

Stayed at home.

Monday Aug 31st
Temp. very warm Atoms. very foggy
Wind S W strong

Out with plane table occupied Wind Mill Range and Nantucket Cliff stations.

1846 Nantucket
Tuesday September 1st
Temp. very warm Atoms. very foggy
Wind S W very strong

Out with plane table as soon as fog rose at 11 am. Ran shore from Nantucket Cliff past town including wharfs had to stop on account of fog.

Wednesday Sept 2nd
Temp. very warm Atoms. very thick
Wind S W light
Mr. Greenwell out with plane table. Occupied Clark Cove Signal and run to the eastward. Mr. Whiting plotting in camp.

Thursday, Sept 3rd

Temp. very warm  Atoms. very thick & damp
Wind S W strong

At 1 o’clock Mr. Greenwell went out on Coatue Beach with plane table.