

“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 10th 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 11th

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 12th

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 13th 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 14th

Temp. warm
Wind SSW strong

Atoms. clear
Weath. clear

In Camp plotting and sketching roads on Chappaquiddick and in the vicinity of Tisbury and Watcha Pond—Run part of Edgartown with Compass and Chains.

Saturday Aug 15th

Temp. quite warm
Wind light varying from NW to SE by S

Atoms. very foggy & damp
Weath. cloudy & sultry

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.

Sunday Aug 16th

Temp. moderate
Wind Southerly

Atoms. very foggy
Weath. variable

Plotting a little compass work and in afternoon went to Tisbury Mr. Whiting & Greenwell & had a time.

Monday August 17th

Temp. moderate
Wind Southwest strong

Atoms. thick & damp
Weath. Clear till noon then
cloudy & rain

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.

Tuesday Aug 18th

Temp. moderate
Wind Northerly very strong

Atoms. clear
Weath. Clear

Out with plane table and finished Sengekontacket Pond returned at 8 clock pm. Ladies in Camp in the evening a very fine time.

Wednesday August 19 1846

Temp. warm
Weath. pleasant

Atoms. clear
Wind N E strong in morning

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.

Thursday August 20th

Temp. warm
Weath. pleasant

Atoms. not very clear
Wind ESE light

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
Weath. raining

Atoms. very thick
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 22^d

Temp. warm
Weath. pleasant

Atoms. clear
Wind Southerly very light

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

Sunday August 23^d

Temp. warm
Weath. warm

Atoms. clear
Wind

Mr. Whiting and Mr. Greenwell went to Tisbury.

Monday August 24th

Temp. warm
Weather pleasant

Atoms. thick
Wind NNW strong in morn

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

Tuesday August 25 1846

Temp. moderate
Wind ENE very strong

Atoms. heavy

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
Wind East S E a gale hard rain all day

Atoms. very thick

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
Wind S E very light, raining

Atoms. very thick

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
Wind S W light

Atoms. very thick

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
Wind S W strong

Atoms. thick

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

Sunday Aug 30th

Temp. warm
Wind S W by W light

Atoms. foggy and clear

Stayed at home.

Monday Aug 31st

Temp. very warm
Wind S W strong

Atoms. very foggy

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

1846 Nantucket
Tuesday September 1st

Temp. very warm
Wind S W very strong

Atoms. very foggy

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 2^d

Temp. very warm
Wind S W light

Atoms. very thick

Mr. Greenwell out with plane table. Occupied Clark Cove Signal and run to the eastward.
Mr. Whiting plotting in camp.

Thursday, Sept 3^d

Temp. very warm
Wind S W strong

Atoms. very thick & damp

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