

Henry Smith Journal Information for transcribers

Thank you for your interest in this project!

This information packet includes:

- Background information about Henry Smith
- Guidelines for transcribing the journal
- Sample page that has been transcribed

Please pick up your print outs of pages to transcribe from Robin Winters at Westport Library. You will start with 5 pages. You can collect more pages from Robin Winters at the Westport Library. She is at the library on Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays but call ahead to make sure!

When you have completed your pages please email them to Jenny at westporthistory@westporthistory.net

You are encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss questions and discoveries. If you cannot attend, don't worry! Information will be shared on our website and via email to the transcribers.

10 AM Tuesday November 12 at the Westport Library
10 AM Wednesday December 11 at the Westport Library
10 AM Saturday January 18 at the Westport Library
10 AM Saturday February 15 at the Westport Library

The following resources are available on our website:

<https://wpthistory.org/henry-smith-journal-information-for-transcribers/>

- Original handwritten journal pages
- A map of Westport/Dartmouth, 1856
- Henry Smith Genealogy

If you have any questions please contact:

Jenny O'Neill, Westport Historical Society 508 636 6011
Robin Winters, Westport Library 508 636 1100

Thank you!

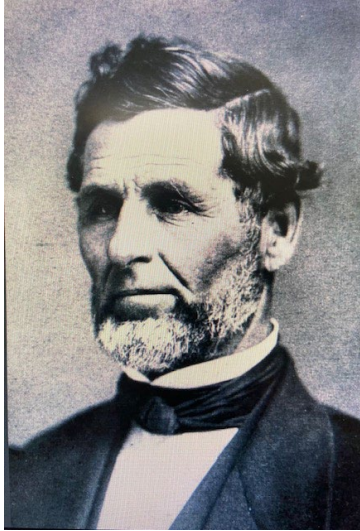
**Background information about Henry Smith
(research by Richard Gifford)**

Henry Smith (1815-1873) b. Dartmouth d. Westport married Ruth Wilcox (1821-1907) b. Westport d. New Bedford. They are buried at Rural Cemetery, New Bedford. They apparently lived on the farm owned by Ruth's father, Henry Wilcox. Census records indicate that the two families shared one house, which is the one located at 775 Horseneck Road. The other house on the Henry Wilcox farm, located northeast of the house at 775 Horseneck, closer to the road and directly opposite the Cross Road intersection, may have been a farmhand house.



Henry Smith also owned 1998 Main Road at Westport Point. It is unclear if he ever lived at this house.





This image may be of Henry Smith, to be confirmed, source is Ancestry.com

His parents, George Smith (1790-1870) married Sarah Estes (1791-1887). George was a farmer who lived, judging from mid-1800s maps, on Potomska Road in the general area of the Lloyd Center. Sarah's father Joseph Estes was a cordwainer, tanner and currier at Russell's Mills, and had a one-third interest in a woolen mill there.



His father George Smith, mother Sarah Estes Smith and in laws Hannah Bailey Wilcox and Henry Wilcox.

Henry's son was Abbott Smith who purchased the Handy House.

Henry Smith was the agent for the following whaling ships:
Janet, Governor Carver, Greyhound, Mattapoissett, Mexico, Solon and other ships.

For more information visit:

<https://wpthistory.org/2024/07/help-us-transcribe-the-journal-of-henry-smith/>

The basic guidelines for our transcription project are:

- transcribe what you see, don't get too hung up on formatting,
- do not replicate line breaks
- use square brackets [] to indicate supplied information.
- **Do not transcribe the accounting figures on the edge of the page.**
- Above each daily entry, transcribe the date and **add** the month
"Tuesday, April 16th"

Capitalization:

- Modernize capitalization for readability (e.g., proper nouns, first word of a sentence).
- Capitalize directions when abbreviated (NNW) or when they are part of a proper noun.

Illegible text:

- If totally unintelligible, type [?] where the word would be in the text.
- If you are able to make a guess, add a question mark in square brackets at the end of it.

Example: 2 P.M. hauled the ship for the[?] stream & anchored.

Punctuation:

- Add periods where appropriate if none are used, **but do not add any other punctuation.**
- Preserve the use of symbols/special characters such as & and +.

Spelling:

- Preserve original spelling.
- If you are able to do so, provide the correct/modern/standardized spelling for things of research value, such as names of people, places, in single square brackets right after the original spelling in the text.
- Example: ... Sommerset [SOMERSET] Village

If you find yourself stuck, try the following:

- Try googling the word, it can often provide suggestions that will help.
- Consider context and try reading "around" difficult words or passages — think about what a likely word would be.

- Read the word letter by letter.
- Compare individual letters to those elsewhere in the document.
- Approach the word from a different perspective by zooming in or out on the document.
- Skip it! Come back to it at a later time with fresh eyes and maybe a better handle on the

Glossary/ points of interest (to be further developed)

Axeltree – A beam of wood or iron, connecting the opposite wheels of a carriage, on the ends of which the wheels revolve.

Bald Hill Meeting House – Allens Neck Meeting House

Bark Rajah

Bk. Bark

Brig Mexico

Bbls - barrels

Cold Brook Woods

Pine Hill Meeting House

Scraping apple trees

Stone drag

Solon

SAMPLE PAGE

Saturday January 1st

At sunrise wind NE and thick middle and latter part rainy and warm for this season cut up a salted four quarters of beef. Beef sells for \$6.50 and pork at \$8.50 to [?] per cut. At sunset raining wind NE.

Sunday January 2nd

At sunrise wind NE and pleasant. Myself wife and Henry W attended friends meeting at Bald Hill had no preaching. Humphrey W. Seabury and son Charles P and Aunt Sally were here in the afternoon at 3 PM. I left home for Westport Point crossed the river and landed at Stephen Allen's shore. Got a letter from the Bark Rajah reported her 15 months out and 350 bbls whale oil and 5400[?] lbs bone. Got a bill of laden for 400 bbls sperm oil shipped on board the Schooner Adelaide. Capt. Briggs oil sold to D & A Kingsland and Sutton[?] of New York @\$1.20 per gallon. I arrived home in the evening, wind NE and dark cloudy weather.

Monday January 3rd

At sunrise wind NE and cloudy at 9 o'clock AM in company with H. Wilcox. Started off to look a mate for the Brig Mexico went by way of Hix Bridge and Adams Ville called on John Le Munion at his home about 1 1/2 miles from Adams Ville north. He does not feel disposed to go mate owing to poor health and other excuses his qualifications as an officer middling fair officer[?] and fair whaleman rather easy and lack of ambition. Proceeded on north to Gideon Manchesters [?] to ship him for a mate but owing to other engagements would not ship? his qualifications steered a boat two voyages and part of another [?] good boat steerer would make a good watch man or for a mate for a small ship. From thence proceeded on by the way of Bliss Corner through Stafford Road to Fall River stopped at Mr Sissons on Main Street. He is a merchant tailor and sailor outfitter gained but little information from him. From Fall River we went by the way of Slades Ferry to Capt Job Collins about one mile south of Sommerset Village stayed at night with Captain Collins. He has a wife and three children two boys and a girl. At sunset winds NE and cloudy.

Tuesday January 4th

At sunrise wind at NNE and cloudy, blowing a gale got breakfast and at 10 oclock AM harnessed our horse and started for home. Crossed Slades Ferry to Fall River stopped in the village about one hour at meridian commenced snowing moderately and blowing a heavy gale from NE by N. Left Fall River and went by the way of the narrows the watter flying across the road. Passed Davis Corner and turned down the factory road stopped at Peleg Tripp at the Factory. Tried to ship him for a mate but he chose not to go until spring, His qualifications fare. Was last 1st mate of the William and Eliza of New Bedford has good recommendations from her [?] would