

Henry Smith Journal

Westport January 1st 1853

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 make a mate for a small ship. From Mr. Tripps we went by way of the Head of Westport to sister Hannah's about 1/4 mile north of the Head of the river found her

quite smart[?] set up 20 minutes in 24 hours[?]. She has a fine boy 11 day old. At 3 o'clock started for home arrived home about sunset.

Westport January 1853

Wednesday 5th

At sunrise wind NE and cloudy, snow had fell about six inches and very much drifted engaged making up Solons accounts nothing transpired out of the ordinary course of things. At sunset clear and cold.

Thursday January 6th

At sunrise wind NW and fair at meridian wind west and clear got dinner harnessed my horse and started for Walter Briggs by the way of Russells Mills saw Mr Briggs at his fathers was not going whaling until spring. Would like to have a call then. His qualifications for a mate good wheelman, rough and ready officer. Called on Elwood Studley at his house about 1/2 a mile east of Macombers Corner he has steered a boat in the Nimrod with Capt. Sherman and was 3rd mate with Cpt Cornell in the Lancaster. His qualifications smart man on the land for gaining a livelihood good boat steerer and might do for a mate for a small vessel.

Friday January 7th

At sunrise fare and mild for the season. Wind WNW but little frost in the ground. I went to the Point across the river from Abner Allen's Store at the PM returned home again E. Gilman 58 cents for **taping and heel caping my thin boots.**

Saturday January 8th

At sunrise wind at westward and fair very mild for the season. the bark Barclay of Westport Tripp master sailed today on a whaling voyage in the Atlantic at 3 PM. I went eeling caught 4 doz? and returned home again in the evening.

Sunday January 9th

At sunrise wind west and fair. very mild for the season at 12PM left home for William H. Cummings at the Head of Westport got tea and at sunset started for home by the way of Fisher Road and called on Abner Sherman at 7 1/2 o'clock PM arrived home roads very muddy.

Monday January 10th

At sunrise wind at NE and pleasant. Went down to the Point in company with H. Wilcox I picked up old lumber in the afternoon **had my thick boots taped and heel taped at Varnum Macombers** and paid him 58 cents when I left my boots to be taped calm most of the day returned home in the evening across the river.

Tuesday January 11th

At sunrise wind west and cloudy myself and G. Baily? went to the wood lot and got a load of wood in the afternoon **scraped apple trees.** At sunset pleasant wind west.

Wednesday January 12th

At sunrise wind NE and snowing. I made **a stone drag?** and worked on a boat sail.

At sunset wind NE and cloudy.

Thursday January 13th

First part a snow ? and fresh gales at NE by E. At sunrise continued to snow at meridian, snowing fast at sunset continues to snow wind NE. Nothing transpired worth notice.

Friday January 14th

In the morning wind NE and cloudy snowed moderate snow drifted very much. I went Russells Mills horseback **passed through some snow drifts high as the horses back**. At sunset returned home.

Saturday January 15th

In the morning wind NW and fair. Got breakfast and went down to the Point across the river shipped James M. Lawton as first mate of the the Brig Mexico for 1/20 lay. Got a letter from the bark Rajah in the evening wind NW and pleasant. Returned home.

Sunday January 16th

At sunrise wind NNE and cloudy. Nothing transpired worth notice At sunset wind NW and very cold.

Monday January 17th

At sunrise wind NW weather clear and cold in the afternoon Capt. Job Collins from Somerset arrived and stoped all night with us.

Tuesday January 18th

In the morning wind NNE and cloudy, a few flakes of snow fell. I hired Tho Allen jr sleigh at 4 cents per mile to go to New Bedford. At 10 o'clock AM started for New Bedford with Ruth and Cpt Collins. At 1 PM arrived at New Bedford. I paid Humphrey W. Seabury 293 in dollars on account of C and E Seabury in the edge of the evening myself and Ruth started for home and arrive home at 10 o'clock PM Capt. Collins started for Somerset in the the 4 o'clock train of cars from N. Bedford.

Wednesday January 19th

At sunrise wind NNW and fair at 10 o'clock. AM I started for New Bedford with horse and sleigh stoped at Russells Mills and at George Potters 1 mile south of Smith Mills on Chace Road at 1 PM left Mr Potters sister Sarah Georges wife with me Saw John Macomber he had a sleigh to sell asked 12 dollars for his sleigh. I offered him 11 dollars did not trade. At 8 PM I returned home again. Sperm oil sold last Saturday for \$1.23 per gallon. today it is held at \$1.25 per gallon.

Thursday January 20th

At sunrise wind NNW and pleasant at 9 o'clock 30 minutes AM I started with our horse and Thos Allens sleigh to look boatsteerers for the Brig Mexico. Called at Abraham Russells Giffords Jonathan Whites got upset in turning round in my sleigh from Mr Giffords I went by the way of Hix Bridge to Mr Wates next house south of Holder Whites from thence to the Head of Westport Saw Charles H. Gifford he had been three years in the Bark Champion of Westport deserted twice on the voyage and rather insolent recommendations rather poor for a boatsteerer from the Head of

Westport river I went by the way of George H. Giffords and took the cross road by Charlotte White's to Abner Tripps at Sodom Road in pursuit of Leander Sanford for boatsteerer he was not at home. Mr Tripp promised to have ? at the Point.

Thursday January 20th continued

Saturday from A. Tripps I went by way of Abner Brownell and Adams Ville and took the road through Cold Brook woods after going 2 miles I turned south and passed a stone school house on the right and called at William Simmons on the right side of the road 2 1/2 miles from Adams Ville had an interview with ? W. Simmonds tried to ship him for a boaster, could not on account of his grandfather William Simmonds being dead in the house died this morning at 2 o'clock aged 82. Geo W. Simmonds qualifications for a boat steer should think him a fare man for the office. At twilight left W Simmonds for home. Crossed Hix Bridge and arrived home in the evening had a light fall of snow after 9 o'clock PM. L. Sanford qualifications good boat steer while at sea but very intemperate when at home and during the voyage.

Friday January 21st

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. Had a call from Stephen Howland gave him his a/c? current of his 1/8 bark Gov Carver and two outfits. Nothing transpired out of the ordinary course of things at sunset wind NW and very pleasant large drifts of snow about the walls and good sleighing at 2 o'clock in the morning Charles Howland discovered that the school house in our district??

C. Howland called Edward Aiken. They went to the school house and stove in the top of the door then went home for help but when they arrived back with help it was too late. The roof soon fell in and the house all burnt up with about all the schoolhouse books about \$50 dollars worth together with the teachers about 16 dollars worth. I paid Tho. Allen jr for the use of his sleigh 3 days \$1.33. So ends this day.

Saturday January 22nd

At sunrise wind SW and pleasant at 12 noon started for the Point horse back through the Horseneck. Paid a boy 8 cents for boating both ways to the Point and back. Leander Sanford had been at the Point and returned home again left about one hour before I arrived there at 4 PM I arrived home again at sunset wind WSW and moderate continue to thaw some.

Monday January 24th

At sunrise wind WSW and cloudy. Harnessed my horse and brought Julia Allen down to sewing after breakfast I started for Russells Mills took in James M. Lawton and started for Mr Ellis? on Baker Road. Saw Mr. Ellis and tried to ship him for a boat steer.

Monday January 24th continued

did not on account of some California engagements. I asked him if he would go boat steer in the Brig Mexico for 1/50 lay. He promised that he would but afterward declined ? Mr Ellis went by the way of the Head of the river to Padanaram to see crew for a boat steer he had shiped for California in the Eliz Thornton. From Padanaram returned home by the way of Russells Mills. At sunset fair and mild wind WSW.

Tuesday January 25th

At sunrise wind NNE and pleasant. I harnessed my horse and started off to ship boat steer went by way of Hix Bridge. Paid 12 cents toll across the bridge. Passed Adams Ville and went through Cole Brook woods to William Simmonds from W. Simmonds I went south by the way of Mullen Hill to Perry Simmonds there I found Geo. C. Simmonds took him in to my carriage and carried him to Adams Ville and shipped him for a boat steer at 1/50 lay and agreed to guarantee 45 dollars on him 6 months from the sailing of the brig providing said Simmonds goes in the Brig Mexico . From adams Ville I went to Isaac Tripps 3 1/2 mile north from Adams Ville from J. Tripps I took the road to Sodom and from Sodom to Brownells Corners to see Mr. Sowle he was not at home. From Brownells Corners I went to the Head of Westport once from there home. At sunset wind SW and cloudy.

Wednesday January 26th

At sunrise wind NW and clear. I went horse back to Isaac? about one mile north of **Pine Hill meeting house** to enquire of abner Palmer about John George Platt for a boat steer. Palmer recommended Plat as a good man for a boat steer. From Palmers I returned home got breakfast harnessed my horse and went to the Point through the Horseneck. I paid 10 cents for crossing the river. Saw Plat at the Point but did not ship him. At dark returned home. At sunset clear and extremely cold wind nw

Thursday January 27th

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant but cold in the morning. Harnessed my horse and brought Hannah Gifford to ? after breakfast took my horse to Paul Fishers had him shod and paid him ? came home at dinner and went to Westport point through the Horseneck and brought Captain Job Collins home with me. At sunset wind NW.

Friday January 28th

At sunrise wind NNW and pleasant after breakfast harnessed my horse and carried Caps Job Collins to New Bedford to clear Brig Mexico at custom house but did not clear owing to want of four? foremast hands. At the PM Capt Collins took the cars to Fall River paid for my dinner and Capt Collins 50 cents paid for hors keeping 25 cents paid Wood and Brownells bill against Bk. Solon \$10 75 cents. At 4 PM started for home. Met Jonathan Kirby by Reynolds about 1/2 a mile E of Macomers Corner. Sold him my stack of salt hay on Cedar Island for \$10 as it now stands on aforesaid Cedar Island. At 8 o'clock I arrived home. At sunset wind NW and pleasant.

Saturday January 29th

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. Went eeling off ? shore. Caught about 6? dozen and returned home. Nothing transpired worth noting. At sunset wind SW and pleasant.

Sunday January 30th

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. I went to meeting at Bald Hill had no speaking in the afternoon. Nothing transpired worth note. At sunset wind SW.

Monday January 31st

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant in the morning I went to the Point through the Horseneck carried a barrel of pickles and 2 1/2 bushels of apples to go in the Brig Mexico at 12 o'clock the Mexico got underway and went out and anchored outside the ?crew came round in a pilot boat. At 1 o'clock had the crew on board. At 2 o'clock Capt and mate arrived at the Point and took a boat for the Brig. At 4 o'clock left the brig at the two mile rock. Wind NW by W. Steering at southward at sunset we arrived back at the Point in Barney Wing's sloop. I took a boat over to the Horseneck. Harnessed my horse and started for home. At 7 PM I arrived home. At sunset some cloudy and cold wind north. I paid a boy 10 cents fetching and carrying me to and from the Point and Horseneck.

Tuesday February 1 1853

At sunrise wind WNW and pleasant. Got breakfast and went to the wood lot myself and Baily two pair of oxen and wagon hired Abner Sherman to help cut wood. Got five loads out of the woods and ? home the wood lot is NW by W from Abner Shermans about 1/2 of a mile. At sunset wind SE and some cloudy.

Wednesday February 2nd

At sunrise wind SE and ? Got breakfast and I and 6 Bailey went to the wood lot to get cut wood with the help of Abner Sherman cut and got out 5 loads of wood and on home. At sunset wind SE and fair.

Thursday February 3rd

At sunrise wind SSE and foggy in the fore noon I was employed at scraping apple trees after dinner I drove a pair of oxen to Paul Fishers and had them put on behind one ox had new shoes all round. At sunset arrived south and foggy.

Saturday February 5th

At sunrise wind SSE and foggy in the forenoon. Employed scraping apple trees in the afternoon I went to mill at Allen Howland mill. Bought 4 lbs ?of rice at 4 1/2 cents per lb? in the evening returned home. Abner Potter died ? at 10 o'clock in the evening.

Sunday February 6th

At sunrise wind SSE and pleasant strong foggy. I went to meeting at Bald Hill. Philip Dunham spoke quite lengthy. H.W. Seabury Geo. Allen and wife and Paul Fisher were at H. Wilcox and passed the afternoon. At sunset cloudy wind SSE warm for the season and but very little frost in the ground. Commenced raining in the evening and rained all night moderately.

Monday February 7th

At sunrise wind east and rainy. Employed most of the day at picking over and peeling apples. At sunset wind NNE and raining moderately. Nothing transpired worth notice. Paid Hawes? Tuesday 8th for **putting a new glass in daguerreotype.**

Tuesday February 8th

At sunrise wind NNE and pleasant at 11 o'clock AM I started for New Bedford. At 1 PM arrived carried 8 doz. and 5 eggs sold them for \$1.34 bought 1? **old hison tea**

50 cents and 1? **black tea 36 cents 2 oranges** 6 cents on account of Henry Wilcox let ? Brown have a check on Merchants Bank for \$500 and ? Brown and Co. a check on Merchants Bank for \$400 and William H. Writington? a check on Merchants Bank for \$500 and took him receipt for the above accounts. Got Henry Wilcox check on Merchant's Bank cashed for \$1500. At 8 o'clock in the evening arrived home. Wind north and pleasant.

Wednesday February 9th

At sunrise wind NNW and pleasant, nothing transpired worth notice. At sunset wind NW and cold.

Thursday February 10th

At sunrise wind NNW and cold got breakfast 6 Baily went to the woodlot and got a load of wood. I was engaged cutting wood at home Father and Mother come here and stoped until 3 o'clock. At sunset wind SE blowing fresh breeze and cloudy.

Friday February 11th

At sunrise wind SE and fair. Got breakfast I went with the team to Abner Shermans. he put? in a new **axeltree**. I paid him two dollars on a/c of chopping wood. From A Shermans I went to the wood lot and got a load of wood. At 4 PM I arrived home. At sunset very mild and pleasant.

Saturday February 12th

At sunrise wind SW and pleasant. Very mild for the season but little frost in the ground. Employed at drawing stones and chopping wood at the ? At sunset wind NNE and clear.

Sunday February 13th

At sunrise wind ENE and cloudy at meridian wind NNE and driving rain. At sunset much the same. Nothing transpired worth note.

Monday February 14th

At sunrise wind NW and cold. Got breakfast. Baily with the team got home a load of wood. Myself Ruth and Hannah went to Fathers. In the afternoon we returned home and brought Henry W. Smith with ? At sunset wind NW and cold.

Tuesday 15th February

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant after breakfast 6 Baily with the team got home a load from the wood lot. Myself employed chopping? wood at the door. At sunset wind SW and fair.

Wednesday February 16th

At sunrise wind SSE and cloudy. I went to the wood lot with the team and got a load of wood. At meridian commenced raining. At sunset wind SSE and rainy with strong breeze.

Thursday February 17th

At sunrise wind NW and fair. Employed chopping and splitting wood at home. At sunset wind NNW and fair. Nothing transpired worth notice.

Friday February 18th

At sunrise wind NW and clear. I went to gooseberry neck with the team and got a load of seaweed at 11 o'clock AM arrived home. After dinner I went to mill at russells mills. Carried **three grists** and two bushels of apples at 1 dollar for bushels. Bought one bag of ? salt? 25lbs? at 23 cents per bag, box of codfish for 30 cents. At sunset returned home. Wind WSW and cloudy. I returned home in the evening.

Saturday February 19th

At sunrise wind NNE and cloudy. I went to **gooseberry neck and got a load of seaweed.** At noon very cold. At sunset wind NNE and cloudy and cold.

Sunday February 20th

At sunrise wind NNW and pleasant. After breakfast loaded a load of hay for New Bedford hay fetches 20? per ton delivered.

February 21st

At sunrise wind NW and cold. ? Got up at 2 AM started for New Bedford with a load of hay at half past 7 AM arrived at New Bedford net weight of load of hay 3220 lbs @ \$20 per 2000? delivered my load on Merrills Wharf to Geo. Barney I paid for weighing 20? and received payment of Jonathan Kirby ?? for salt hay sold him January 1853 as per statement on page 5 ????

Tuesday February 22nd

At sunrise wind SSE and fair. After breakfast ? a load of hay at 12 o'clock started for Russells Mills with it ???at 5 PM started for home by the way of the wood lot. Got a load of wood and at half past 9 PM I arrived home with my load. At sunset wind SSE and cloudy. Recvd ? for apples.

Wednesday February 23

At sunrise wind SSE and rainy and blowing fresh gale at noon. Continues the same at night raining moderately wind SSE. Nothing transpired worth note.

Thursday February 24th

At sunrise wind NW and clear and cold. I went to New Bedford in company with Henry Wilcox. I paid the balance ac of A and EW Seabury? ?? Note and interest 630 dollars and paid for my dinner 11 c. I returned home in the evening. At sunset wind NW and cold. Paid of Henry Wilcox 630 dollars.

Friday February 25th

At sunrise wind mild and cold. After dinner I harnessed my horse and went to New Bedford by the way of Russells Mills. I bought a yard of calico paid 6c bought one pair of buckskin mittings [mittens]? and paid 62 c and paid 3 cents postage on a letter to Leonard Hammond of Mattapoisett at 8 o'clock in the evening returned home in company with H. Wilcox. At sunrise wind west and pleasant.

Saturday February 26th

At sunrise wind NW and cold after breakfast loaded a ? of hay for Humphrey W. Seabury. At 11 AM attended auction at William L Allens? his farm containing 150 acres was sold by Geo. H. Gifford at Abraham Brownell for 6000 dollars 1/2 cash in

1853 and balance in 1854 with interest. Also 11 acres of salt marsh on the Horseneck for 70 dollars to John Macomber. Also at the same time and place 1/2 of an undivided? lot of meadow for 120 dollars whole lot containing 3 acres and one wood lot of 8 acres for 245 dollars and another of eleven acres for 350 dollars to H.W. Wilcox the half of the 3 acre lot was sold to John Gifford. At 1 PM finished the sales and returned home. Got dinner and dragged stones ?? At sunset wind NNE and pleasant one? and ? sold for 27 dollars.

Sunday February 27th

At sunrise wind NNE and pleasant. Myself Ruth L? and Henry W went to meeting at Bald Hill. Had no speaking in the afternoon went to Robert Lawrences and Tho Allen jr arrived home at 4 o'clock PM all well at sunset mild and pleasant.

Monday February 28th

At sunrise wind SE and cloudy. I went with the team to the wood lot and got a load of wood. After dinner went to school meeting to NW Kirby and voted to have a school house built at sunset wind SE by E and rainy. Abraham Gifford died 23d February 1853 aged 94 years.

Tuesday March 1 1853

At sunrise wind NNE and cloudy. After breakfast I went to the Point across the river in company with Henry Willcox in the afternoon very rainy. I got a letter from the Solon 7 c postage paid 2 c postage on a shipping list from I? Islands?. At sunset we returned home. Wind NE and rainy. Paid R Macomber and Co. for Painting clot 2 ? square and varnishing 65c.

Wednesday March 2nd

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. Employed at **chopping wood at the door**. Nothing transpired worth note. At sunset wind west and mild. Paid Henry Willcox one hundred and forty dollars.

Thursday March 3rd

At sunrise wind SE and cloudy. At 11 o'clock AM commenced raining. Nothing transpired worth notice. At sunset wind WSW and pleasant.

Friday March 4

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. Employed at sundry jobs about the farm. Drewed in a load of straw and raked up stalls in the afternoon. At sunset wind south and cloudy. Commenced snowing in the fore part of the evening and snowed all night. Wind NE and blowing hard.

Saturday March 5th

At sunrise wind NE and blowing heavy with which snow storm. At meridian wind NE and ? At sunset wind NNE and clear. In the evening attended a school house meeting at Tho. Allen for to decide on the size and form to build a school house. At sunset wind NW.

Sunday March 6th

At sunrise wind NW and pleasant. Nothing transpired worth notice. At sunset wind west and pleasant.