

SHIP REGULUS

Extracts from the Journal of the ship Regulus around Cape Horn to California in 1849 are taken from the hand written account of George Williams of Amesbury Mills, Massachusetts. One of the one hundred and twenty-five members of the crew and passengers was Jarvis Jewett, trader, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Although this Journal cannot truthfully be called a Jewett item, it is of particular interest because Jarvis Jewett shared the same experiences as Mr. Williams. Jarvis Jewett as told in the Genealogy, page 562, later returned to Vermont where he married. Taking his wife back to San Francisco, he resided there until his death in 1893.

FROM BOSTON TO CALIFORNIA, MARCH 1st 1849

At 10 O clock A.M. we dropped down into the Stream and came to Anchor to receive our powder on board which was not allowed to be taken in at the wharf owing to her insurance policy, after we had received it on board, we up anchor and came to anchor the same day in the evening about 9 O clock in Nantasket Roads in Boston Harbor and lay there till the 5th. On the 4th of March we were boarded by Captain Sturgis of the Revenue Cutter Hamilton which was on Sunday. On the 5th about 9 O'clock in the morning the pilot came on board we hove anchor and set sail. The pilot left about eleven o'clock all right, with a good breeze which continued through the day, about 8 O'clock the same evening we bid farewell to Cape Cod, the last sight of the United States. On the 6th about 4 o'clock in the afternoon we entered the gulph Stream and crossed the same on the 8th about noon, running east.

It is now March 14th. I have had a tremendous Cold since we left but warm weather is bringing me too. I have had no appetite to eat nor to drink since we left Boston, neither to smoke nor chew tobacco so there is some saved, but i am getting better thank God. Saturday the 17th we had the pleasure of seeing some of old Ocean inhabitants in the shape of dolphins whales flying fish skipjacks etc. and a lively time they had of it. the sun at the same time power is down upon us so hot that we had to through of all our thick clothes being uncomformtable warm. The same day we spoke and boarded a ship from Harve Bound to St. Domingo South America, we put nearly 200 letters aboard of her to send to the United States. On the 20th about dark a ship came alongside within gun shot of us, she was going one way and we another, but it was so dark that we could not find out who she was nor where bound. It is beautiful weather and pleasant Sailing, and thus far our Sabbaths has been well Observed.

April 14th was the happiest day i have seen since we left Boston we ware about 400 miles from Rio Janiero. we fell in with a bark called the Nautulus from N York with the Albany Mining Company bound to California she was making her way for Rio, when she saw us she hove too till we came up to her. She spoke us enquired where we ware bound where from & after the proper answers ware given, our mate asked questions concerning them, that being over and the word alls well from both vessels.

On the 18th of April we made Cape Finio the distance from the Cape to Rio Janerio is about 60 Miles we were becalmed a week of the cape so that we did not arrive in port before the 24th on that day about 5 O'clock we dropped anchor in the Harbour of Rio de Jeneiro just 50 days from Boston which is reckoned a very good passage.

We stopped here over a week to get water and provisions etc such as fresh Beaf potatoes Squashes and a good supply of nesserries and left on

the 2nd of May, we was out to sea in the afternoon, clear of the land, we had a good run until 13th the wind increased to a very severe gale, we had to Lay too for about 8 days this happened on the coast of Pattagonio. a tremendous wind blowing while i am riting this. It is now about the 20th of may and very cold it is and growing colder every day, we are oblidg'd to ware our thick clothes again flannels and comforters all muffed up to keep warm for it is growing colder verry fast, it seems strang to me, that so short a time since we lift winter in the United States, and pass through such a hot summer and have to go through another tremendous cold winter in so short a time but so it is, we must prepare for it. The weather continued to grow worse and worse untill thursday the 31st of May, a day never to be forgaten by any of our company. The captain has been to sea 25 years but never saw such a gale, the officers all of them has doubled Cape Horn several time and have sailed in every Ocean but never experienced such a gale. It commenc'd about four Oclock in the morning and continued 24 hours without abating. The first thing that was done they hove the shop too under close reef Maintopsail the wind blowing tremendously from the North west, we shipped some heavy seas in the afternoon it blew a perfect Hurricane, about 5 P.M. the sea broke over the Starboard Quarter stove in all the boats. lost the Larboard Quarter boat we saw no more of that, stove Bulworks, the same parted the weather main topsail Brace, the nether main lift, and parrel of the main topsail yard jeb gise etc. All hands called to clear the deak, got the ship before the wind, so as to take in the main topsail, scuding under bare poles so as to clear up the wreck, the seas runing as high a the topsail yard, the hatches all on and barred down for the safety of the ship, and then hove the ship to under bare poles, it was a dreadfull sight the cooks and stewerts lift the galley and came down between for fear of the galley being washed over board for it was in the greatest danger, owing to the seas breaking over us, likewise those that occupied the house on deck they came down excepting the house to go every moment. Here we ware all hands barred down waiting the ishue, every countenance of the company look'd gloomy enough i hope we never shall se the like again. I am satisfied that nothing but the will of providence saved us, and i hope that heaven will smile on us the remainder of our voiage. Little did i think that i should ever witness such a sight, i made an attempt to look at the roling Seas, but my eyesight almost failed me, to look up at the sea as high as the top sail yard, i expected every moment that our good ship and all on board to be overwhelmed by the Mighty seas that ware breaking over us, we ware completely buried in water a great part of the time. There is many of our company no doubt that can boast of stouter hearts and bolder courage than myself, that trembled at the sight even some among us that have been old Whale Men and have sailed roun Cap Horn several times before thay ware shook to the very Centere. When i see such men as the Officers and Seamen look sad, it cannot be wondered much if i should tremble, but God grant that we shall never witness such a scenc again. If our good ship could be seen by any one that saw her at the Wharf in Boston would hardly know her. This memorable day was May 31st 1849 in the neighbourhood of the Falklands Islands.

It is now near the latter part of June and within about 100 miles of Cape Horn.

While i an writing these lines we are within six howers sail of the pitch of Cape Horn, in a dead calm something i never expected to se in the latitude of the cape which is about Longitude 56, but so uncertain is the weather here that the wind blows from all points of the compass in 24 hours. But we have had very bad luck since we left Rio Jeneiro, continual head winds

and gales, our heaviest weather is the wind blowing from the south west, which is a head wind and blew from that Quarter the most of the time, and that is the course we want to steer but we must trust to Providence and take the wind as it comes. When the great gale subsided the sea went down in a day or two and we had fine sailing for a few days. On the ninth of June between 9 and 10 O clock in the forenoon we saw the falkland Islands, and a pleasing sight it was, it did us good for we saw nothing but Sky and Water for nearly four weeks. Of all the Vessels that sailed out of Rio Janeiro, the same time or nearly the same time as we did we had not the pleasure of seeing one of them or larn the fate of any of them as yet, but i hope they have lived through the gales as well as we did.

The weather is growing colder every day. We have to exercise ourselves the best way we can to keep warm and comfortable our days are very short here, the Sun rises about nine o'clock and sits about a quarter past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, consequently our nights are very long and tedious. But as long as they are they pass of very well and dont seem as long as they really are, because we generally get Some subject of debate, there are several bible Classes besides several classes of Study such as Mathematics Navigation grammar Spanish and numerous other studys, besides a good Lyceun, Where we have some good talent brought out, and is very entertaining, likewise a prayer meeting that is well attended, and has a good effect.

I must not forget to mention the 22nd of June our decks were covered with snow, so that we had to Shovel it off the decks before we could walk or exercise with any comfort, It was equal to our streets at home in the dead of winter, the poor old Regulus look'd sick enough, cover'd with snow from stem to stern she look'd as though a dose of hot drops might relieve her considerable. It is a gloomy sight to se a Vessel on the mighty ocean in a snow storm, hundreds of miles from land, at the mercy of the winds with gales and Hurricans driving us about like chaff, and if i live to arrive safe at home i shall have more to say than this. In the dead of winter here it is a most gloomy sight i ever saw. we are just entering the Pacific Ocean with a fine prospect of a hard winter. The atmosphere at this time is so thick with falling snow, that we can scarce se half the length of the ship.

On Sunday the 24th the day ushered in as usual with a head wind. About half past 12 o'clock which is our dinner, hour, we had barely sat down to the table when the wind shifted all of a sudden and gave us a fair wind and continued to blow and increased until it blew almost a gale. About 2 O'clock there was a vessel seen ahead of us right under our Bough, the wind blowing very hard at the time, and our situation anything but agreeable we were gaining fast upon the Ship. In the course of an hour we came to within two ships Length of her, she was hove to, and as i never was so near a ship in a gale and right abreast of her, to se her labouring as she did, it was a grand and an awfull sight. The Seas ware breaking all over her so that it seemed to me that every pitch she made would be her last. It was a gloomy sight but she rode through it well, and she wore round and followed us, at the same time we ware running before the wind at the rate of nine knots, ploughing through beat sea. It is now Sunday evening June 24th that i am riting this article. the wind has lilled a little now so that we are running about 7 knots, and alls well.

On the 25th we had another tremodous Snow Storm which lasted nearly all day. it snowed as hard as i ever saw it at hame but still the wind was facourable for us, and before night it cleared of and we had pleasant sailing the remainder of the night. We went on deck as usual in the evening to smoke our pipes and we had a pleasant time of it for it was the first pleasant evening we experienc'd for many weeks which made us all feel quite cheerfull.

The 28th was a beautiful day the sun growing a little stronger every day. We are now begining another spring and i never longed more for warm weather in my life, for a winter around Cape Horn is the most tedious of any winter i ever experienc'd in my life. We have had hard weather from opposite the River De Le Platte to the Diego Rock of the Horn, they are the most Southern part of the Horn, these rocks lay about 40 miles from the Mainland, when the wind is favorable vessels sail between the Rocks and the Main land but not often ncither was it our luck to do so owing to the head winds but thank God we have lived through a Cape Horn winter, which i hope i never shall experience again. But Fare Well old Horn, we found and left thee in thy Stormy Solitude.

Spring is begining to dawn upon us again and our poor old shattered Ship, Our days are begining to lenghen and i hope in a few days to se another summer which has long been look'd for by us all. We are now opposite the Magellan Straits on the west side of the cape with as smooth and pleasant sailing i ever saw in my life.

I mentioned in a previous article of speaking the Barge Nautulus when of Cape Frio this day at sun set we had the pleasure of speaking to her again and it was gratifying to hear (alls well) pronounced by both speakers after the usual questions and answers from each vessel, we gave each other nine hearty cheers, and as we parted company with our best wishes. the band struck up Life on the Ocean Wave and kept playing it until the sound died away in the distance, Night coming on we lost sight of her and i hope we shall meet again in the gold diggins in good health and for the rest of Californians and i hope they will conduct them selves like men, worthy the name of Americans.

It is now the 17th of July, that i am riting this, in a dead calm and the Sun is again begining to pour down upon us prety warmm so that thick clothes has to be thrown on one side again, and i am glad of it, We are repairing our ship and boats of which there was a great need, for she look'd very bad, We have a blacksmith at work besides any quantity of carpenters. shoemakers, gunsmiths tailors, Tin Braziers, coopers. Shipwrights etc, all buissy to work so i expect that in a few days we shall begin to look up again of which there was a great need. When she is repaired and painted she will look much better than when she left Boston.

On tuesday the 24th of July our Election came for the choice of officers. On the evening before we held a Caucus and such a time i never want to se again. The whole Company seemed Jcalous of one another and esspecially the Officers. I actually dreaded the result. and there is still Jeasousy of the worst kind, there are a great number in favour of dissolving the company, and i feel anything but comfortable. Our Election came of and we Elected all the old board except one and that was ——— one of our Directors but not without a struggle, and the worst of feeling, But i dont mean to say that this was caused by ——— or his friends, for i dont think he had any, but the spirit of dissatisfaction uneasiness and Jealousy commenced very soon after we Left Boston. The principle cause of all the trouble is this, the Company Expected to have the privilege of examining the Books and papers of the Company and knowing how we stood etc., but instead of that we ware flatly refused that prevelage by the President, and we have not to this day known no more about the concern than the man in the Moon. If the bussiness and transactions of the Company was honorably done, why not the company have the privilege to se them, but i have come to the conclusion that there is something wrong, or the books and papers of the Company would have been thrown open for thire Inspection. I believe that there is a decp game played by the founders of this Association with a determination to make

money out of it. I must not say much more on this subject for it creates bad feeling but such is the case and i cannot help it, if i had have known as much before i left as i do now, i would not have come this way but here i am i must make the best of it.

July 25th has brought us to the Tropic of Capricorn again, and we have fine weather again, the latitude is 23 - 06, we are oppisite Rio Janeiro the other side the continent of south america on the coast of Bolivia, but there is not much of this coast, but nearly a few harbors, in comparison to Chili and Peru, it does not extend but little along the Pacific, those dominions lay mostly inland.

I am riting this in the evening of the 28th of July with a noble breese, our good Old Ship running about ten Knots an hour, and all hands Anxious to go into port, for since we left Rio Jeneino to this Evening, we have been to Sea 88 days, and we all of us feel as though a little land breese would be very refreshing which i hope will occur in two or three days.

On the 29th about the midle of the forenoon, land was discovered to the Joy of all on Board, and a happy sight it was, for we had not seen land for 89 days, except the Islands i have mentioned before, which was the Falkland the diego rocks that lay at the Southern Extremety of Cape Horn and the Islands of Juan Fernandez. It was a long voiage and a very tedious one, we hailed the sight with joy and past a very pleasant Sabbath in sailing along the Coast of Peru. The land we made is called Careta, it is an Island close to the main land, of which there is a harbour called Pisco, which is in Lattitud 13-46 and Longitude 76-12. This day not being very Clear, or we should have had a fine view of the Coast. Our company is very anxious to go ashore, to get fresh provisions for it comes hard for us to be confined so long to Salt Junk, but it is very remarkable to think that we are as healthy as we are, for up to this day every man in the company enjoys as good health as ever he did.

On Monday the 30th we had Beautiful sailing all day and in sight of land, the coast as a general thing is very Mountanious. it is now about seven oclock in the evening, distance from Callao about ten miles. I staid on deck the whole of the Evening and at a little past 12 Oclock we came to Anchor in the Harbour of Calleo, it being to dark to se any perticulars about the Harbour though we had a good Moon, the fogg was so dense that it was very disagreeable to be on deck, but as i always had a wish to se everything that is going on, especially on this Voiage i mean, to se all that is to be seen. We had a regular built shave down this Evening, for we felt regoic'd about going into Harbour once more. This marks our passage from Rio Janiero to Calleo exactly ninty days, On Tuesday the 7th of August 1849, we hove anchor and set sail for Francisco, with a fine Breese, and prospects being good for a fine run, for here we have the Trades Winds all the way to the Equator. I was glad when we sailed from here, for i longed to se the end of journey.

On the 19th of August at noon we crossed the Equator, with a fine breese, which was quite cheering to us, for it is not often the case the Vessels cross the line without a calm, as a general thing vessels are becalmed from one week to four under a burning sun without scarcely a breath of air, which makes it very disagreeable, for when we crossed it before we were becalmed about a week which was said at the time, that ware very lucky, in crossing so soon, but we have had an exelent run from Callao thus far. for we have actually run rite before the wind ever since, but notwithstanding all this, the days drags very slow by. This is August 29th and alls well. As a general thing the atmosphere of the Pacific Ocean is not so clear as that of the Atlantic, for i have taken particular note of that, there is a great deal

more rain and cloudy weather, and it is well it is so, for i verily believe if atmosphere was as clear as in the Atlantic, even in the same lattitude it would be insupportable. But it appears that divine providence has order'd all things rite for all nations climates, and canditions of men.

We have a fine Breese and wafting us along finely towards our journeys end. Sep. 21 at noon, the distance we had to sail was a trifle over 300 miles. The weather is getting much cooler. and more comfortable our latitude is 38-06. Longitude 129 with a fine breese from the N.N.W., our prospects is good and favorable for us to reach our port of destination in a few days at farthest for a day seems longer now, than a week did four months ago, the reason is, that we want to se the result of our expedition. Our patience is nearly exhosed, but there is no help for it one thing that makes us feel a little unpleasant is that the most essential article of our existance on the ocean is getting very bad indeed, and that is fresh water. Sep. 22nd we had had quite a rarity in the shape of stewed veal for dinner. that relished very well and seem a good deal like home. this was a part of the fresh provisions we had on board. We had some strange and welcome visitors that came on board. Natives of California in the shape of land birds, the poor little fellows been blown of shore so far, and not been able to return. Ware glad no doubt to find a resting place, and we ware as glad to se them and gave them all the welcome we could. They ware very tame, so that we catch'd several of them, and let them go again, they staid on and around the ship day and night, they ware very like our yellow Birds in winter in Massachusetts. Sunday morning 23'd i turned out about day light, and the little fellows ware chirping from one end of the ship to the other, which seems like a spring morning in old Salisbury, Mass. In the evening about 7 o'clock we hove the land, and found we ware in 60 fathoms of water and in the course of half an hour we heard the breakers and saw land. Although the weather being very foggy indeed, as it is usually the case on this coast, it is reconed a very dangerous coast on that account, we came very near runing ashore, and should have done, but for an old sailor accustom to such scenes, and it was fortunate for us, that we did not run ashore. our ship was put about as quick as possible to wait for daylight. the shock came upon us somewhat sudden and sooner than was calculated by a number of miles, but it is very difficult in landing on this coast, owing to the dence fog, which is always the case here. and makes it very difficult for those unacquainted here to find the Harbour, As dangerous as our position was we felt rejoiced to thing that we ware so near our journeys end, the land was hove again, and we found but 38 fathoms but when the ship was put about we ware all safe again, and our prospects now is, that we have but a short time longer to be tossed about by old ocean surge. Especially for the presant, for now while i am riting this we have been seven months at sea, all but one week, and i think that is long enough at one time, and i do think a little labour will do me good, i have loafed long enough, Sept. 26th we are now prety much in the same predicament as we ware on the 23'd within a few miles to this land of promise, i must say that we have had the pleasure of seing it, but dare not approach it, owing to the dence fogg, which prevails here — especially at this season of the year. When we first made land, and found out our exact position as we supposed we ware nearly sixty miles to the Northward of the Harbour of San Francisco, and neither light House nor land mark to guide the weary mariner into port. This day we are in a dead calm, and standing outward, and the fog as thick as ever it was, on the coast of Novascotia, and watching every chance, and the change of wind, but the prospects are as gloomy as the atmosphere, no sun or moon to take an observation of our exact position which makes us feel very uncomfortable.

After so long a voiage and in sight to, of California, it seems very hard indeed. But one thing that comforts us is, we are not alone, there are others in the same predicament and some in right no doubt as anxious as we are to go into thire Haven of rest, or at any rate, to the Haven of the gold diggins. This day about 9 o clock in the forenoon we saw one vessel very near to us. we lower'd our Quarter Boat, with four men. they rowed to her and boarded her, and found her to be the Brig Cameo from New York, with 25 passengers for the diggins, among the number was several ladies and children. They sailed from New York on the 8th of February, nearly a month before we did, which makes it an exceeding long voyage, for thought ourselves behind every body, bur finding to the contrary, we began to revive up and not so bad of as we imagined, but i must say, it is very trying to the patience to be as long at sea, as we have been, for this day will number 210 days from Boston.

On the 28th we put about again for land, and on the 29th of September about nine o clock in the forenoon we made land again, and it was the long wished for land, that made toward the entrance of the Bay of San Francisco, it is very mountainous and rough looking and thare seems to be a great plenty of timber on the mountains, but not very large, but the greater portion of the mountains is very barren, with no vegetation whatever. All along this entrance on both sides the rocks are nearly perpendicular, with here and thare a sand beach, all hands on tip toe and bustle and straining thire eyes to view the long sought for land of promise. There is nothing very peculiar about the entrance, more than any other, But it seems to me, by casting my eyes over the deck and seeing what an exitement there is, that our men could not contain themselves long enough to come to anchor but we had a noble breese and a fine day, which presented to our view all the scenery that was to be seen which was no more nor less, than high rocky mountains. There is a Fort within 5 miles of Francisco, it stood on a high projecting Bluff, there was a small flag flying on the top. The fort had seen its best days. At half past three o clock in the afternoon, we came to anchor in the Harbour of San Francisco, and it looked very much like Boston Harbour as far as shipping is concerned. There was between two and three Hundred ships at anchor abreast of the city. We went ashore the next day after we came to anchor, which was Sunday Sep 30, 1849, but of all places i ever saw this is the most novel. The streets if such they might be called are all humps and hollows, some of them have to be climed up as steep and as high as Po Hill. In rainy weather they are knee deep in mud, and in dry weather so dusty that is made it quite suffocating to travail them, nine tenths of the dwellings are tents, buildings are going up as if by Magic, and it is destin'd to be a great city. Of all the gambling i ever saw or heard of this beats all, for nearly a third of the houses are gambling Houses on the largest scale possible, and i have no doubt but thare are Hundreds of thousands of dollers won and lost every day, no one can realize anything about it by reading. It beats all, they are kept up by the fellows that come down from the mines, every day they are coming and going down the Sacramento. It is a sight i never expected to se but there is very good order here, and it is maintained by lynch law, the best law, and the most effective of all laws i ever saw. I shall have more to say if i shall be permitted to return home which i will leave all my concerns in the hands of divine Providence. This i hope will arive safe home. I present this little Journal to my wife.

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