

British Arctic whaling logbooks and journals: a provisional listing

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ABSTRACT. This paper lists accounts of whaling voyages to the Arctic from British ports, dating from the early 17th to early 20th centuries, that are available as logbooks, journals or publications for study in British, Canadian or United States public institutions. Included are all original whaling logbooks and journals located by the authors, mainly but not exclusively from previous listings, plus early publications by whaling masters, mates, surgeons and others in the trade containing details of particular voyages, and later accounts based on edited versions of holograph manuscripts. Records of whaling voyages are of intrinsic historical and sociological value, and many include data on weather and sea ice conditions that are of particular relevance to current studies of climatic variation.

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Introduction: British Arctic whaling

The first comprehensive review of Arctic whaling from British ports was by William Scoresby Jr., a whaling master, scholar and scientist, who wrote shortly after the industry reached its early 19th century peak (Scoresby 1820). More recent histories by Jenkins (1921), Lubbock (1937) and, most notably, Jackson (1978), quote Scoresby substantially for details of the early period, but provide more background information and chronicle the industry through its later 19th century decline.

Scoresby (1820: 2, 19) records the first English commercial attempt to catch whales in 1594, probably in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. By 1607, British whalers were working the so-called 'Greenland ground' (the sea area between the east Greenland coast and Norway, mostly around Spitsbergen (now part of the Svalbard archipelago), in competition with Dutch and other European nations. A small, poorly-recorded British industry persisted irregularly into the early 18th century. From 1733, stimulated by a government bounty of 20 shillings (£1) per ship ton, more ship owners ventured into Arctic whaling. From 1749, when the bounty was raised to 40

shillings (£2) per ton, the industry grew and flourished, involving many hundreds of ships and tens of thousands of men afloat and ashore. Its fortunes varied from year to year with varying climate, ice conditions, and fluctuating demands for its two main products, oil and baleen.

From *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* and the *Register of the Society of Merchants, Ship-Owners and Underwriters*, Jones (1996) extracted records of over 4600 whaling voyages to the Arctic from 26 British ports between 1746 and 1850. Both figures under-represent the industry overall, as many voyages were made before and after these dates, not all ships were included in these registers, and other ports are known to have been involved. Stonehouse (2007) has calculated that, during its three centuries of existence, the British Arctic whaling industry made at least 6000 voyages from a total of 35 ports. Annual voyages were made either to the 'Greenland ground' (see above), or to 'Davis Strait', the area west of Greenland including Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay (Fig. 1). Up to the mid-19th century, whaleships left port between February and April, bound for one or the other, only very exceptionally switching destinations. They returned usually between July and November, according to their success on the whaling ground. From the mid 19th century onward the advent of auxiliary steam engines made it possible to visit both grounds in the same season. From the 1840s seals became an increasingly important part of the catch for the British fleet, the voyage starting with a visit to the harp seal grounds off Jan Mayen before proceeding north for the whale hunt.

The main target species was the 'Greenland whale', 'Greenland right whale' or 'bowhead', *Balaena mysticetus*, which was abundant in both areas, forming a

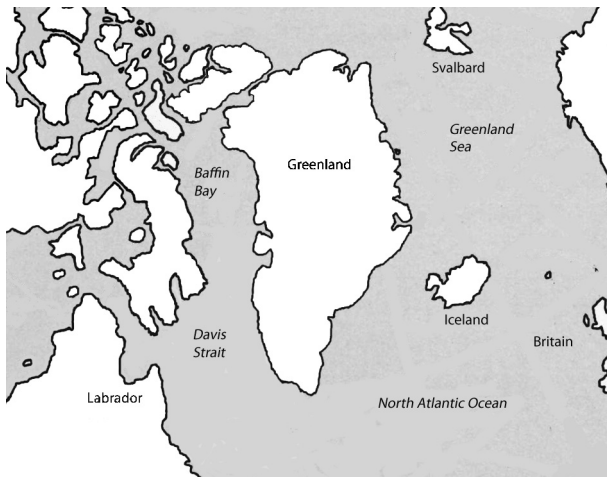


Fig. 1. The Greenland and Davis Strait whaling grounds lay respectively east and west of Greenland.

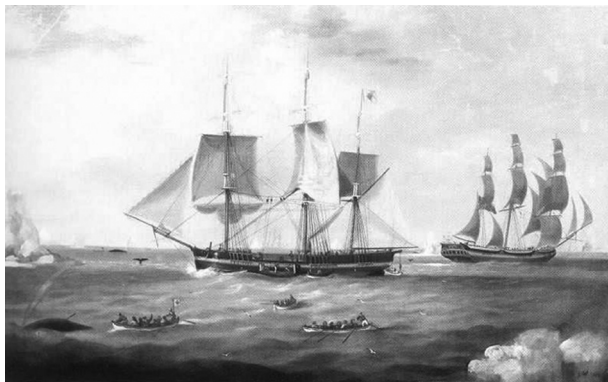


Fig. 2. The Hull whaling ship *Brunswick*, painted in two aspects by John Ward in 1823. Hull Maritime Museum (by kind permission of the Director).

stock that was conspecific with, but geographically remote from, bowheads of the Bering Strait area. Also hunted were belugas *Delphinapterus leucas*, narwhals *Monodon monoceros*, northern bottlenose whales *Hyperoodon ampullatus*, walrus *Odobenus rosmarus*, and several species of seals. During the 17th and early 18th centuries the industry was dominated by Dutch, German, Basque, French and Danish whalers. Britons began to compete successfully from the mid 18th century onward, and were the last to leave the industry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Vaughan 1986; see also annual entries in Holland 1994). Fig. 2 is a contemporary painting of a typical whaling ship in action on the whaling ground.

Whaling records

British whaling voyages may be traced from customs and port records, particularly from 1733 when the introduction of a government bounty required customs officers to scrutinise and record voyages in considerable detail. However, the spread of the industry over so many

ports ensured that, with no central authority in control, these records became widely dispersed in national and local archives. Many have been lost due to neglect, lack of interest, and enemy action in both world wars. At an International workshop on historical whaling records in Sharon, Massachusetts, USA in 1977, de Jong (1983: 83) drew attention to the lack of a central source of British whaling data, noting that detailed statistical material is available for catches by Dutch and German whalers from the 1660s to the 19th century, but not from other European countries including Britain. This situation he found remarkable in view of '... the availability of much material in local archives, the general interest shown by the public in whales and whaling, and the diligence of a host of economic historians in their research of other industries.' De Jong's comment was echoed 13 years later by Jones (1996: xxxi), who deplored particularly the absence of port studies. It is today reiterated by researchers seeking precise, statistically-valid information on the British Arctic whaling industry as a whole.

Of particular value among whaling records are the logbooks that were kept on board the ships, recording day-to-day events of each voyage. A logbook or formal record, maintained with several daily entries, usually by the master or mate, is likely to have been kept on every whaling voyage. From 1733, they were required to be kept to exacting specifications, with entries including noon positions, navigational details, weather, land features in sight, soundings, ice conditions, sightings of whales, lowerings of boats and catches, and numbers and identities of other ships seen. As few whaling ships carried meteorological instruments, atmospheric temperature and pressure records are rare. However, notes on wind direction and strength, incidence of storms, rain, snow, hail and rime formation, together with sea ice conditions, were usually recorded in detail at least once in every four-hour watch.

Journals, less formal records of voyages kept by masters, mates, surgeons and others on board, provide additional sources of information for particular voyages. Generally archived with logbooks, they are more personal, idiosyncratic and variable in quality. The most informative, for example those of William Scoresby Jr., are of particular interest in including all details to be found in logbooks, together with valuable afterthoughts on the voyages. Lesser journals, often by mates or surgeons, give interesting insights into life on board that are not included in the logbooks. Many were written expressly to describe tragic or dramatic events, particularly wintering by ships beset in the ice, some to be published as books or in newspapers or magazines.

A surviving logbook or journal thus becomes prime evidence, indeed perhaps the only first-hand evidence, that a particular voyage took place. Such details as courses followed, weather and ice conditions, both professional and social activities aboard, and notes on other vessels seen and identified, are of value in many fields of research. Following the 1977 International workshop, which concentrated on the evidence to be gained from

whaling records (Savours 1978), Sherman and others (1986) compiled and published a world inventory of over 5000 whaling logbooks and journals held in some 83 public institutions worldwide. Of these, most are from 19th century American ships on 2 to 3 year long sperm-whale hunting voyages: only 189 concern British whale-ships in Arctic waters. Since its publication, more British Arctic logbooks and journals have come to light, and it has proved possible to complete details missing from some of the Sherman entries. The tables below list over 250 logs, journals and published accounts that the authors have been able to locate: those catalogued by Sherman are identified by their Sherman serial number. Most are in the form of holographs or (more frequently) authenticated manuscript copies, in public archives where they are available for study. Many, but not all, have been microfilmed or photocopied, with copies circulated to other institutions.

Sherman's team did not attempt to distinguish logbooks from journals. In view of the important distinctions, notably in precision, between the contents of a formal logbook and a less formal journal, we have here attempted to indicate which is which. However, we have not been able to examine all listed items, and the difference is not always clear from descriptions available. We strongly advise scholars to whom this distinction matters to seek advice from the holding archivists.

The authors would be glad to be informed of any logbooks, journals or other contemporary accounts of British Arctic whaling voyages that are not listed here, or appear but are in any way misrepresented. A similar catalogue of Arctic naval and exploration logbooks, journals and publications from the same area and period is currently in preparation.

The tables

Table 1 lists logbooks, journals and published accounts of voyages to the Greenland whaling ground, in chronological order, then alphabetically by name of ship. Table 2 provides a similar listing for the Davis Strait ground. In the British Arctic whaling database website (www.hull.ac.uk/baw) these data appear reordered alphabetically by ship, master, port or repository, and numerically by year and Sherman number. Table 3 spells out the acronyms and abbreviations used in Tables 1 and 2.

Early 17th century British Arctic whaling began exclusively on the Greenland ground, mostly close to the west coast of Spitsbergen, and many whalers continued operations south and west of the archipelago throughout the whole whaling period. From the mid 18th century, when over-hunting produced a marked decline in numbers of whales on the Greenland ground, British ships followed those of the Netherlands and other European states into Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. This involved longer voyages and more difficult ice conditions, but at least in the early days the whales tended to be fatter and more plentiful. For a discussion of these alternatives see Scoresby (1820: 382–392). Overall, and particularly from

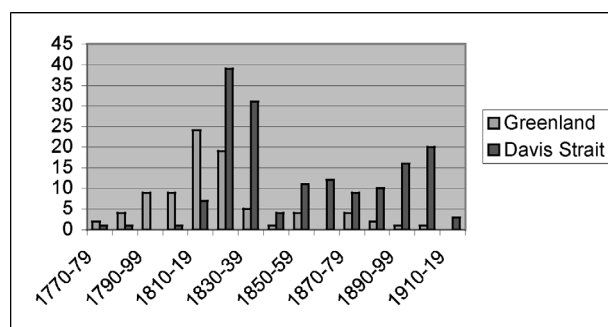


Fig. 3. Distribution by decades of documents listed in Tables 1 and 2.

the 1790s onward, more voyages were made to Davis Strait than to the Greenland ground. This is reflected in Tables 1 and 2: most early accounts are from Greenland whaling voyages, most later ones from Davis Strait. The single early (1774) whaling journal from Davis Strait is a fortuitous recent discovery in a stored family Bible (Barrigan and others 2007), providing hope that more of these rare and informative documents are still to be found.

Table 3 lists acronyms of the institutions in which originals and copies of logs and journals are held. While all are public institutions, generally concerned with providing facilities for scholarship, it is not implied that all logs and journals listed, or copies thereof, are available on demand. Researchers are advised always to make a direct enquiry to the repository indicated.

Figure 3 shows the distribution in decades of the records listed in Tables 1 and 2 and all but the earliest entry (the log of *Mathew* to Greenland in 1613) are included within the decades shown. Up to 1820 most documents derive from Greenland voyages. Thereafter records from Davis Strait voyages predominate, those from 1850 onward reflecting the dominance of Scottish whalers during the late 19th century. Almost half the records (122) derive from the three decades 1810–1839. Of these, 58 are available for the period 1820–1829, allowing many useful comparisons to be made of conditions experienced on different ships in the same seasons, during a period of both climatic and economic instability when the British industry was in marked decline.

Contemporary value of whaling logs and journals

Logbooks and unedited copies of journals are often difficult to read, and care is needed in interpreting some of the entries. For example many of the early ones use nautical time (12 hours in advance of civil or time ashore), magnetic rather than true bearings, and an unsurprising but sometimes puzzling plethora of archaic nautical terms. For an exemplary modern exposition of the skills of editing and interpreting see Jackson's (2003) edition of whaling journals of William Scoresby Jr.

Beyond the essentials of position, courses and day-to-day activities, the contents of whaling logbooks and

Table 1. Logs, journals and published accounts of voyages to the Greenland whaling ground, 1613–1907.

Greenland ground								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman. No.	Notes, publications
1613	<i>Mathew</i> T. Marmaduke	London	Log	1 May–24 Aug	AAS		4706	Fotherby 1860
1772	<i>Volunteer</i> W. Coulson	Whitby	Jou	24 Mar–11 Aug		HMM Xe		Anon. n.d.
1774	<i>Experiment</i> ? Edwards	London	Log	15 Mar–13 Jul	NBWM		1699	
1780	<i>Rising Sun</i> W. Souter	London	Jou	Mar–Aug				Bacstrom 1799
1786	<i>Henrietta</i> C. Bean	Whitby	Log	1 Apr–18 Apr	MSM			ECNY Folio 1 Incomplete
1787	<i>Henrietta</i> C. Bean	Whitby	Log	21 Mar–9 Aug	MSM		2191	ECNY Folio 1 Incomplete
1789	<i>Samuel</i> S. Hutchinson	Hull	Jou	10 Mar–24 Jul	HMM	HMM Xe		Sanderson 1790
1791	<i>Christian</i> ?	Aberdeen	Jou	10 Feb–13 Aug	AUL	SPRI Ty	1045	Savours 1959
1791	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	31 Mar–18 Aug	MSM		2192	ECNY Folio 1
1792	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	11 Mar–22 Jul	MSM		2193	ECNY Folio 1
1793	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	11 Feb–6 Jul	MSM		2194	ECNY Folio 1
1794	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	17 Feb–6 Jul	MSM		2195	ECNY Folio 1
1795	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	19 Feb–29 Jun	MSM		2196	ECNY Folio 1
1796	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	13 Mar–27 Jun	MSM		2197	ECNY Folio 2
1797	<i>Henrietta</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	11 Feb–19 Jun	MSM		2198	ECNY Folio 2
1798	<i>Dundee</i> W. Scoresby Sr	London	Log	26 Feb–3 Jul	MSM		1426	ECNY Folio 3
1801	<i>Dundee</i> W. Scoresby Sr	London	Log	27 Feb–18 Jul	MSM			ECNY Folio 4
1802	<i>Dundee</i> W. Scoresby Sr.	London	Log	2 Feb–18 Jul	MSM		1427	
1803	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	23 Mar–13 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1804	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	14 Mar–19 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1805	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	15 Mar–16 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1806	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	23 Mar–28 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1807	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	18 Mar–8 Jul	WM	NYCRO: Mf	4060	
1808	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	8 Mar–8 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf	4061	
1809	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	11 Mar–25 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf	4062	
1810	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	1 Mar–18 May	WM	NYCRO Mf	4063	Incomplete
1811	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	11 Mar–20 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		Jackson 2003
1812	<i>Margaret</i> J. Hewitt	Hull	Log	9 Mar–1 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3013	
1812	<i>Resolution</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	31 Mar–22 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		Jackson 2003
1813	<i>Margaret</i> J. Hewitt	Hull	Jou	15 Mar–10 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3014	
1813	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	20 Mar–16 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		Jackson 2003
1814	<i>Margaret</i> R. Gascoine	Hull	Jou	7 Mar–29 Nov	HCL	HCL Mf	3015	
1814	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	Feb–9 Aug	ODHS		1643	
1814	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	23 Mar–14 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1815	<i>Margaret</i> R. Gascoine	Hull	Jou	20 Mar–7 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	3016	
1815	<i>Margaret</i> R. Gascoine	Hull	Log	8 Mar–15 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	3017	
1815	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	23 Mar–3 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		Stamp 1985
1816	<i>Margaret</i> R. Gascoine	Hull	Jou	23 Mar–15 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3018	
1816	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Whitby	Log	27 Mar–27 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		Stamp 1985
1817	<i>King George</i> J. Patterson	London	Jou	14 Mar–18 Aug				A.C. 1818
1817	<i>Richard</i> W. Gilyott	Hull	Log	6 Mar–19 Aug	NMM	SPRI Mf	4066	
1817	<i>Mars</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Whitby	Log	28 May–18 Aug	MSM		3074	ECNY Folio 5
1817	<i>Esk</i> W. Scoresby Jr.	Whitby	Log	2 Apr–15 Aug	WM	NYCRO Mf		Stamp 1985
1818	<i>Richard</i> W. Gilyott	Hull	Log	14 Mar–8 Aug	NMM	SPRI Mf	4067	
1818	<i>Unity</i> E. Bell	Hull	Log	2 Apr–14 Nov	NMM	SPRI Mf	4731	
1818	<i>Fame</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Liverpool	Log	1 Apr–20 Aug	WM	NYCR Mf		
1819	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	15 Mar–16 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3488	
1819	<i>Unity</i> E. Bell	Hull	Log	15 Mar–18 Aug	NMM	SPRI Mf	4732	
1819	<i>Fame</i> W. Clark	Whitby	Log	24 Mar–31 Aug	MSM		1731	
1820	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	20 Mar–12 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3489	
1820	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	20 Mar–12 Aug	NMM	HMM Ms	3490	Abstract
1820	<i>Fame</i> W. Scoresby Sr	London	Log	24 Mar–30 Aug	MSM		1729	ECNY Folio 6
1820	<i>Baffin</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Liverpool	Log	18 Mar–23 Aug	WM	NYCR Mf		
1821	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	17 Mar–31 Aug	HCL	HCL Mf	3491	
1821	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	17 Mar–31 Aug	HMM	HCL Mf	3492	
1821	<i>Baffin</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Liverpool	Log	9 Apr–9 Sep	WM	NYCRO Mf		
1822	<i>Duncombe</i> J. Corbett	Hull	Log	12 Apr–21 Jun	HMM	HCL Mf	1425	
1822	<i>Cyrus</i> M. Welburn	Hull	Jou		NMM			
1822	<i>Fame</i> W. Scoresby Sr	Hull	Log	8 Apr–17 Sep	MSM		1730	ECNY Folio 7
1822	<i>Baffin</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Liverpool	Log	27 Mar–18 Sep	WM	NYCRO Mf		Scoresby 1823
1823	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	29 Mar–13 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	3493	
1823	<i>Baffin</i> W. Scoresby Jr.	Liverpool	Log	8 Apr–16 Jul	MSM		521	Incomplete
1823	<i>Baffin</i> W. Scoresby Jr	Liverpool	Log	8 Apr–16 Jul	WM	NYCRO Mf		Scoresby 1984
1824	<i>Exmouth</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	22 Mar–10 Sep	HCL	HCL Mf	1696	

Table 1. Continued.

Greenland ground								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman. No.	Notes, publications
1825	<i>Exmouth</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	11 Mar–18 Aug	NMM		1697	Incomplete
1825	<i>Alexander</i> T. Fairburn	Aberdeen	Log	19 Mar–13 Dec	MSM		182	
1826	<i>Jean</i> ? Minto	Peterhead	Log	15 Mar–18 Apr	HMM			Cuming 1826
1827	<i>Ariel</i> R. Rogers	Hull	Log	14 Mar–14 Sep	NBWM		420	
1831	<i>Neptune</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	7 Mar–31 Aug	HMM			
1832	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Jou	2 Apr–4 Sep	HMM	HMM Mf	4776	
1833	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Jou	13 Apr–14 Oct	HMM	HMM Mf		
1834	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Log	14 Apr–23 Nov	HMM			
1837	<i>North Pole</i> J. Lyle	Leith	Log	21 Mar–29 Jul	DL		3571	
1849	<i>Anne</i> T. Hunter	Hull	Log	7 Mar–14 Jul	Private	HMM Xe HCL Mf	355	
1852	<i>Eclipse</i> J. Gray	Peterhead	Jou	7 Mar–29 Aug	PLM		1464	
1853	<i>Active</i> D. Gray	Peterhead	Jou	8 Mar–30 Jul	PLM		102	
1856	<i>Enterprise</i> W. G. Burnet	Fraserburgh	Jou	7 Feb–8 Jul	Private			
1859	<i>Narwhal</i> ? Deuchars	Dundee	Jou	3 May–24 Sep	DM			Macleod 1979
1871	<i>Esquimaux</i> C. Yule	Dundee	Jou	?	DM			Hilliard, R. 1859 Kerr 1871
1872	<i>Esquimaux</i> C. Yule	Dundee	Log	26 Feb–28 Oct	NMM			
1873	<i>Victor</i> J. Edwards	Dundee	Log	26 Feb–23 Nov	?	SPRI Mf	4755	
1879	<i>Perseverance</i> ?	Peterhead	Log	7 Mar–4 Jun	DCL	SPRI Mf	3843	
1881	<i>Thetis</i> ?	Dundee	Log	11 Feb–6 Aug	DCL	SPRI Mf	4567	
1888	<i>Eclipse</i> D. Gray	Peterhead	Jou	16 Apr–3 Sep	NHM		1465	
1896	Unidentified ?	Dundee	Log	3 Apr–22 Aug	SPRI MS	SPRI MS	4705	
1907	<i>Scotia</i> ? Robertson	Dundee	Jou	16 Apr–6 Aug	NHM		4274	

Table 2. Logs, journals and published accounts of voyages to the Davis Strait whaling ground, 1774–1913.

Davis Strait voyages								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman No.	Notes, publications
1774	<i>Hope</i> R. Peacock	Whitby	Jou	27 Feb–6 Aug	Private	SPRI Xe: WM Xe		Barrigan et and others (in press)
1788	<i>Earl Fauconberg</i> R. Ward	Whitby	Log	18 Feb–26 Jul	HMM	HMM Ph, Ty	1451	
1809	<i>Marquis of Huntly</i> W. Mitchinson	Hull	Log	12 Mar–18 Jul	HMM	HCL Mf	3062	
1817	<i>Swan</i> J. Taylor	Hull	Log	4 Mar–14 Aug	HMM	HCL Mf	4523	
1817	<i>Swan</i> J. Taylor	Hull	Jou	4 Mar–14 Aug	HMM			
1817	<i>Thomas</i> W. Brass	Hull	Jou	8 Mar–13 Sep				O'Reilly 1818
1818	<i>Hope</i> D. Duncan	London	Jou	6 Mar–22 Aug				Anon 1830
1818	<i>Truelove</i> H. Watson	Hull	Log	13 Mar–18 Sep	Private		4667	
1819	<i>Ariel</i> W. Hurst	Hull	Log	11 Mar–21 Sep	HTH	HCL Mf		
1819	<i>Ariel</i> W. Hurst	Hull	Log	11 Mar–21 Sep	NMM		417	
1820	<i>Ariel</i> W. Hurst	Hull	Log	18 Feb–28 Sep	NMM		418	
1820	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	21 Mar–21 Sep	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1292	
1821	<i>Ariel</i> W. Hurst	Hull	Log	9 Mar–21 Oct	NMM		419	
1821	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	24 Mar–17 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1293	
1821	<i>Royal George</i> J. Peckitt	Hull	Log	4 May–11 Oct	Private	HCL Xe	4183	
1822	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	5 Mar–11 Oct	NMM		702	
1822	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	21 Mar–21 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1294	
1823	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	28 Mar–26 Sep	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1295	
1823	<i>Cumbrian</i> J. Johnson	Hull	Log			SPRI Mf	1316	
1824	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Jou	17 Mar–21 Jun	GPL	HMM Ph: SPRI Ty	703	Credland 1988
1824	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Jou	17 Mar–18 Oct	OPA			
1824	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	29 Mar–10 Nov	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1296	
1825	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	7 Mar–10 Oct	HCL	HCL Mf	704	
1825	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	18 Mar–18 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1297	
1825	<i>Exmouth</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	11 Mar–20 Oct	HCL	HCL Mf	1698	
1826	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	6 Mar–27 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	705	
1826	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	6 Mar–Oct	NMM		706	
1826	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	23 Mar–19 Sep	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1298	
1826	<i>Cumbrian</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	6 Mar–5 Nov	HCL	HCL Mf	1317	
1826	<i>Cumbrian</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	6 Mar–5 Nov	NMM	SPRI Mf	1315–16	
1826	<i>Dundee</i> D. Duncan	London	Log	3 Apr–25 Jun '27	HMM			Lauder 1830: Duncan 1827

Table 2. Continued.

Davis Strait voyages								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman No.	Notes, publications
1827	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	12 Mar–27 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	707	
1827	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	11 Apr–29 Sep	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1299	
1827	<i>Cumbrian</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	2 Apr–11 Oct	HCL	SPRI Mf	1318	
1827	<i>Cumbrian</i> M. Munroe	Hull	Log	2 Apr–11 Oct	NMM	SPRI Mf	1319–20	
1827	<i>Dordon</i> W. Linskill	Hull	Log	9 Apr–13 Oct	NBWM		1402	
1827	<i>Laurel</i> W. Manger	Hull	Log	31 Mar–30 Oct	HCL	HCL Mf	2816	
1828	<i>Andrew Marvel</i> G. Silcock	Hull	Log	7 Apr–1 Nov	HTH	HCL Mf		
1828	<i>Ariel</i> R. Rogers	Hull	Log	20 Mar–4 Nov	HTH		No	
1828	<i>Ariel</i> R. Rogers	Hull	Log	20 Mar–4 Nov	NMM		421	
1828	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	22 Mar–16 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1300	
1828	<i>Dordon</i> W. Linskill	Hull	Log	19 Mar–2 Nov	HTH	HCL Mf		
1828	<i>Laurel</i> W. Manger	Hull	Log	18 Mar–12 Oct	HCL	HCL Mf	2818	
1828	<i>Laurel</i> W. Manger	Hull	Log	18 Mar–12 Oct	NMM	HCL Mf	2817	
1828	<i>Progress</i> E. Dannatt	Hull	Log	17 Mar–29 Sep	HCL	HCL Mf	4006	
1828	<i>William</i> T. North	Hull	Log	28 Mar–31 Oct	HCL	HCL Mf	4878	
1829	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	12 Mar–31 Jul	HCL	HCL Mf	708	Incomplete
1829	<i>Brunswick</i> W. Blyth	Hull	Log	12 Mar–Oct	NMM		709	
1829	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	24 Mar–29 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1301	
1830	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	24 Mar–29 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1302	
1830	<i>Eagle</i> M. Wright	Hull	Log	15 Mar -3 Nov	HCL	HCL Mf	1444	
1830	<i>William and Ann</i> W. Smith	Leith	Log	?	SFM			
1830	<i>Zephyr</i> R. Ash	Hull	Jou	24 Mar–18 Sep	Private	HMM Xe		Credland 2003
1831	<i>Andrew Marvel</i> M. Wright	Hull	Log	14 Mar–3 Nov	HCL	HCL Mf	322	
1831	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	26 Mar–4 Nov	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1303	
1831	<i>Dordon</i> E. Willis	Hull	Log	27 Feb–5 Nov	HMM	HCL Mf	1403	
1831	<i>Eagle</i> M. Wright	Hull	Log	?	HCL	HCL Mf		
1831	<i>Hercules</i> ? Allan	Aberdeen	Jou	10 Mar–14 Oct	AUL	SPRI Xe	2258	
1831	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Jou	5 Apr–2 Oct	Private	HMM Xe, Ty		Credland 2003
1832	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	9 Apr–13 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1304	
1832	<i>Shannon</i> G. Davey	Hull	Jou	27 Mar–26 Apr	HMM			Davey 1833
1833	<i>Cove</i> G. Palmer	Newcastle	Log	10 Apr–9 Oct	Private	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	1305	
1833	<i>Thomas</i> ?	Dundee	Log	?	DM			Wanless 1833
1833	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Log	13 Apr–14 Oct	HMM	HCL Mf	4777	
1834	<i>Caledonia</i> W. Smith	Kirkwall	Log	?	SFM			
1834	<i>Dorothy</i> T. Davidson	Dundee	Log	10 Apr–23 Oct	DL		1404	
1834	<i>Isabella</i> R.W. Humphreys	Hull	Log	13 Apr–30 Oct	SPRI	HMM Xe		
1834	<i>Thomas</i> A. Cook	Dundee	Jou	26 Apr–14 Nov	DM	SPRI MS	4568	Wanless 1834
1834	<i>Volunteer</i> H. Parish	Hull	Log	14 Apr–23 Nov	HMM	HCL Mf	4778	
1835	<i>Dordon</i> E. Willis	Hull	Jou	6 Apr–20 Oct	HMM			Woodmancy 1836
1835	<i>Duncombe</i> W. Scoffin	Hull	Log	23 Mar–15 Dec	RSL			
1835	<i>Jane</i> W. Tather	Hull	Jou	27 Jul -18 Feb '36	HMM			Wilson 1836.
1835	<i>Viewforth</i> ? Oliphant	Kirkcaldy	Jou	9 Apr–7 Feb '36	SPRI	SPRI Ty	4759	Elder 1835, Bain 1836, Cooke and Ross 1969
1836	<i>Jane</i> W. Tather	Hull	Jou	?				Wilson 1836.
1836	<i>North Pole</i> J. Lyle	Leith	Log	28 Feb -23 May	DL		3570	Incomplete
1836	<i>Dee</i> J. Gamblin	Aberdeen	Jou	2 Apr–5 May '37				J.H.W. 1837, Troup 1987
1836	<i>Grenville Bay</i> T. Taylor	Newcastle	Jou	Apr–May '37				Troup 1987
1836	<i>Swan</i> R. Dring	Hull	Log	11 Apr–1 Jan '37	NMM	NMM Mf	4524	Incomplete
1836	<i>Swan</i> R. Dring	Hull	Log	11 Apr–19 Mar '37	NMM		4525	
1838	<i>Fairy</i> D. Davidson	Dundee	Log	9 Mar–9 Sep	DL		1710	
1839	<i>Abram</i> W. Couldrey	Hull	Log	11 Mar–20 Oct	MA	HMM Mf: HCL Xe		
1841	<i>Truelove</i> W. Barron	Hull	Log	2 Mar–14 Oct	HMM			
1843	<i>Commerce</i> G. Simpson	Peterhead	Log	15 Mar–1 Aug	NHA		1147	
1847	<i>Bon Accord</i> T. Lee	Hull	Jou	3 Jul–25 Sep	HMM			Lee 1847.
1849	<i>Advice</i> W. Penny	Dundee	Jou	Mar–Nov				Goodsir 1850
1852	<i>Anne</i> W. Wells	Hull	Log	23 Mar–2 Jul	HMM	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	356	Incomplete
1852	<i>Orion</i> E. Wells	Hull	Log	8 Mar–12 Nov	HCL	HCL Mf	3702	Incomplete
1853	<i>Anne</i> J. Parker	Hull	Log	9 Mar–21 Oct	HMM	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	357	Incomplete

Table 2. Continued.

Davis Strait voyages								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman No.	Notes, publications
1853	<i>Mary Frances</i> W. Couldrey	Hull	Jou	23 Mar–26 Aug	HCL	HMM Mf		In verse
1853	<i>Princess Charlotte</i> ?	Dundee	Log	29 Mar–7 Oct	DL		4005	
1853	<i>Truelove</i> J. Parker Sr	Hull	Log	9 Mar–21 Oct	Private	HMM: Ty		
1853	<i>Violet</i> W. Jackson	Hull	Log	31 Jan–18 Oct	NBWM	NMM Mf	4768/69	
1854	<i>Anne</i> J. Parker	Hull	Log	7 Mar–31 Aug	HMM	SPRI Mf: HMM Mf	358	Incomplete
1859	<i>Narwhal</i> ? Deuchars	Dundee	Log	3 May–24 Sep	NBWM		3437	
1859	<i>Truelove</i> W. Wells	Hull	Log	15 Mar–19 Oct	HMM	HMM Xe:HCL Mf	4668	
1859	<i>Emma</i> G. Simpson	Hull	Jou	28 May–4 Sep '60	HMM	HMM Ty	1585	
1860	<i>Lord Gambier</i> W. Wells	Kirkaldy	Log	10 Mar–21 Oct	Private	HMM Xe	2906	
1860	<i>Truelove</i> J. Parker	Hull	Log	15 Mar–19 Nov	HMM	HMM Mf	4669	
1861	<i>Camperdown</i> ?	Dundee	Jou	?	DL			Smith 1861 Notes only
1861	<i>Narwhal</i> R. Brown	Dundee	Jou	27 Feb–20 Apr		SPRI MS		
1861	<i>Truelove</i> W. Barron	Hull	Log	2 Apr–14 Oct	HMM	HMM Mf	4670	
1862	<i>Dublin</i> W. Macindoe	Peterhead	Jou	27 Feb–14 Jun	SPRI	SPRI Mf	1419	
1862	<i>Emma</i> W. Wells	Hull	Jou	15 Mar–12 Oct	Private	HMM Xe	1586	
1863	<i>Diana</i> W. Wells	Hull	Log	4 Mar–3 Nov	Private	HMM Xe: HCL Mf	1392/93	
1864	<i>Narwhal</i> W. Wells	Dundee	Log	25 Feb–16 Apr	Private	HMM Xe	3438	
1866	<i>Queen</i> ? Philpotts	Peterhead	Jou	11 Aug–2 Sep	HMM		4019	Abstracts only
1866	<i>Diana</i> J. Gravill	Hull	Jou	22 Mar–26 Apr '67	HMM		1394	Smith 1922
1868	<i>Polynia</i> J. Nicoll	Dundee	Log	25 Feb–6 Nov	HMM	HMM Xe		
1871	<i>Active</i> ?	Dundee	Jou	?	DM			Rae 1871
1871	<i>Erik</i> J.B. Walker	London	Log	9 Mar–16 Sep	HMM	HMM Xe		
1872	<i>Erik</i> J.B. Walker	Dundee	Jou	May–Oct		SPRI Mf		
1873	<i>Arctic</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Jou	May–Sep	NMM			Markham 1874
1874	<i>Narwhal</i> T.T. Macklin	Dundee	Log	11 May–30 Oct	DM			Macklin 1874
1874	<i>Narwhal</i> T.T. Macklin	Dundee	Log	11 May–30 Oct	DM		3439	
1876	<i>Erik</i> J.B. Walker	London	Log	2 May–29 Oct	NMM	NMM Mf	1635	
1877	<i>Perseverance</i> ?	Peterhead	Log	19 Jul–8 Aug	DCL	SPRI Mf	3842	
1879	<i>Perseverance</i> ?	Peterhead	Log	5 Aug–4 Apr '80	DCL	SPRI Mf	3844	
1883	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	1 Jun–8 Oct		SPRI Mf	1644	Extracts only
1884	<i>Nova Zembla</i> ? Kilgour	Dundee	Jou	25 Feb–31 Aug	DM			Campbell 1884
1884	<i>Nova Zembla</i> ? Kilgour	Dundee	Log	25 Feb–31 Aug	DM		3579	
1885	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	29 Jan–18 Oct		SPRI Mf	1645	
1886	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	9 Feb–26 Oct		SPRI Mf	1646	
1887	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	10 Feb–6 Nov		SPRI Mf	1647	
1888	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	22 May–1 Nov		SPRI Mf	1648	
1888	<i>Maud</i> W. Adams Sr	Dundee	Log	16 Mar–19 Sep	SPRI: Ms		3196	
1889	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	9 Feb–20 Apr		SPRI Mf		
1889	<i>Maud</i> W. Adams Sr	Dundee	Jou	18 Mar–11 Oct	NHM		3197	
1890	<i>Esquimaux</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	1 Feb–8 Nov		SPRI Mf	1649	
1890	<i>Maud</i> W. Adams Sr	Dundee	Log	20 Mar–7 Apr		SPRI Mf	3198	
1891	<i>Esquimaux</i> J. Phillips	Dundee	Log	5 Jan–24 Oct		SPRI Mf	1650	
1891	<i>Maud</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	19 Mar–1 Oct		SPRI Mf	3199	
1892	<i>Maud</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	28 Mar–7 Oct		SPRI Mf	3200	
1893	<i>Aurora</i> H. McKay	Dundee	Jou	2 Feb–12 Nov	GUL	SPRI MS	485/6	
1893	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	19 Mar–13 Oct		SPRI Mf	1452	
1894	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Jou	20 Mar -21 Nov	RSME	SPRI Ty, Mf	1453/54	Savours 1960
1895	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	25 Mar–5 Nov		SPRI Mf	1455	
1895	<i>Esquimaux</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Jou	25 Mar–14 Sep		SPRI Mf	1651	
1896	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	2 Apr–9 Nov		SPRI Mf	1456	
1897	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	15 Apr–18 Nov		SPRI Mf	1457	
1898	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	3 May–20 Nov		SPRI Mf	1381	
1899	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	24 Apr–3 Oct		SPRI Mf	1382	
1899	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	28 Apr–14 Nov		SPRI Mf	1458	

Table 2. Continued.

Davis Strait voyages								
Year	Ship, master	Port	Log/ Journal	Duration of voyage	Original held	Copies held	Sherman No.	Notes, publications
1899	<i>Esquimaux</i> H. McKay	Dundee	Jou	7 Apr–10 Jul		SPRI Mf	1652	Walker 1900
1900	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	23 Apr–12 Nov		SPRI Mf	1383	
1900	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	27 Apr–8 Nov		SPRI Mf	1384	
1900	<i>Esquimaux</i> H. McKay	Dundee	Log	5 Feb–11 Nov		SPRI Mf	1653	
1902	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	28 May–21 Jul		SPRI Mf	1386	Incomplete
1902	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	10 Apr–3 Nov		SPRI Mf	1385	
1903	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	19 Apr–5 Nov	DM	SPRI Mf	1387–88	
1903	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	9 Apr–15 Nov		SPRI Mf	1459	
1904	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	11 Apr–11 Oct	DM		1389	
1904	<i>Diana</i> W.J. Adams	Dundee	Log	15 Apr–10 Oct		SPRI Mf	1390	
1904	<i>Eclipse</i> W. F. Milne	Dundee	Log	11 Apr–9 Oct		SPRI Mf	1460	
1905	<i>Eclipse</i> W. F. Milne	Dundee	Log	13 Apr–6 Nov		SPRI Mf	1461	
1905	<i>Morning</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Log	27 Apr–2 Nov	SPRI: Ms		3377	
1906	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	9 Apr–7 Nov		SPRI Mf	1462	
1906	<i>Eclipse</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	15 Apr–7 Nov		SPRI Mf	1463	
1906	<i>Morning</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Log	9 Apr–8 Nov	DM	SPRI: Ms	3378–79	
1907	<i>Morning</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Log	19 Apr–13 Nov		SPRI Mf	3380	
1908	<i>St Hilda</i> ?	Dundee	Log	18 Apr–18 Aug	DL		4435	Incomplete
1909	<i>Morning</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Log	4 May–7 Nov		SPRI Mf	3381	
1909	<i>Morning</i> W. Adams Jr	Dundee	Log	4 May–7 Nov		SPRI Mf	3382	
1909	<i>St Hilda</i> ?	Dundee	Log	5 May–26 Oct	DL		4436/37	Incomplete
1910	<i>Diana</i> W.F. Milne	Dundee	Log	27 Apr–22 May		SPRI Mf	1391	Incomplete
1912	<i>Ernest William</i> W.C. Stephen	Dundee	Log	3 Jun–13 Oct	DL		1636	
1913	<i>Ernest William</i> W.C. Stephen	Dundee	Log	12 Jun–28 Aug	DL		1637	

Table 3. Acronyms and abbreviations used in Tables 1 and 2.

AAS = American Antiquarian Society
AUL = Aberdeen University Library
DCL = Dartmouth College Library
DL = Dundee Library
DM = Dundee Museum
ECNY = Explorers' Club, New York
GPL = Goole Public Library
GUL = Glasgow University Library
HCL = Hull Central Library
HMM = Hull Maritime Museum
HTH = Hull Trinity House
MA = Manitoba Archives
MSM = Mystic Seaport Museum
NBWM = New Bedford Whaling Museum
NHA = Nantucket Historical Association
NHM = Natural History Museum (London)
NMM = National Maritime Museum (London)
NYCRO = North Yorkshire County Record Office
ODHS = Old Dartmouth Historical Society
OPA = Ottawa Public Archive
PLM = Peterhead Library Museum
RSL = Royal Society of London
RSME = Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh
SFM = Scottish Fisheries Museum
SPRI = Scott Polar Research Institute
WM = Whitby Museum
Mf = Microfilm
Xe = Xerox
Ms = Manuscript
Ty = Typescript
Ph = Photocopy

journals vary greatly. Many have already yielded valuable information on whaling grounds, whaling practices and the responses of whale stocks to over four centuries of persistent human predation: see for example individual papers in Tillman and Donovan (1983). Of particular present-day interest are the day-to-day entries of weather and ice conditions. Very few 18th or early 19th century whaling ships carried meteorological instruments (those of William Scoresby Jr. were notable exceptions), and their weather observations have in general been ignored by climate modellers for lack of numerical precision. However, all carried masters and mates with considerable experience of polar weather, especially of the winds and ice conditions that ultimately determined their movements and ability to hunt. Research is currently in progress showing that weather and ice observations from selected logs, validated by inter-log comparisons, provide reliable data in a key geographical area from which primary information is particularly lacking. For further information, and for suggested additions and amendments to these listings, see the British Arctic whaling database website cited above.

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