

Retreat from Boothia: The Original Diary of James Clark Ross, May to October 1832

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ABSTRACT. Following the abandonment of John Ross's expedition ship *Victory* in Lord Mayor Bay in 1832, Ross's nephew and second-in-command, James Clark Ross, led a separate forward sledging group for much of the retreat to Somerset Island. While John Ross described the events of his own sledging group in his published narrative, he provided essentially no information on James Clark Ross's group. Recently, the journal kept by James Clark Ross during the retreat was located, and it forms the subject of this article. The journal covers the period from 4 May to 14 October 1832, during which the *Victory* was abandoned, an attempt (eventually aborted) made to escape using sledges and boats via Port Leopold, and preparations made to spend the winter of 1832-33 at Fury Beach.

Key words: James Clark Ross, Boothia Peninsula and Somerset Island, 1832, unpublished diary, arctic exploration

RÉSUMÉ. À la suite de l'abandon dans la baie Lord Mayor du navire *Victory* transportant l'expédition de John Ross en 1832, le neveu et commandant adjoint de Ross, James Clark Ross, dirigea un groupe séparé, équipé de traîneaux pendant la plus grande partie de sa retraite vers l'île Somerset. Si, dans le récit publié, John Ross relate ce qui est arrivé à son propre groupe voyageant aussi en traîneau, il n'a pratiquement pas fait mention du groupe de James Clark Ross. Le journal tenu par ce dernier au cours de la retraite a été découvert récemment et il constitue le sujet de cet article. Le journal couvre la période allant du 4 mai au 14 octobre 1832, durant laquelle le *Victory* fut abandonné, une tentative (qui finalement échoua) fut entreprise en vue d'atteindre Port Leopold en traîneau et en bateau, et des préparatifs furent menés pour passer l'hiver de 1832-1833 à Fury Beach.

Mots clés: James Clark Ross, péninsule de Boothia et île Somerset, 1832, journal inédit, exploration arctique

Traduit pour le journal par Nésida Loyer.

INTRODUCTION

Captain John Ross's voyage of 1829-33 in search of a north-west passage, although failing in its intended purpose, nevertheless constitutes one of the most remarkable 19th-century arctic expeditions. Among the noteworthy contributions were the establishment of the location of the north magnetic pole, the exploration of a considerable portion of Boothia Peninsula and King William Island, and significant ethnographic descriptions and sketches of the Netsilik Inuit.

The most outstanding achievement, however, was undoubtedly the survival and eventual rescue of 20 of the original 23 crew members following the abandonment of the expedition ship *Victory* after an enforced three-year detention in Lord Mayor Bay. The *Victory* was abandoned in May 1832, but it was not until August 1833 that the expedition members were rescued. The rescue followed an unprecedented series of grueling sledge and open boat journeys that eventually covered well over 1100 km, as well as a fourth overwintering, this time in a makeshift dwelling of wood, canvas and snow. In recognition of the achievements of the expedition, and especially for his extraordinary courage during the retreat and rescue phase, John Ross was knighted and made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1834 and was further honoured by many foreign countries and various geographical societies.

Despite the obvious importance and interest of the retreat and rescue, Ross provided relatively few details in his voluminous published narrative of the expedition (Ross, 1835). Of the 726-page narrative and 328-page appendix, only 34 pages are specifically devoted to it. In particular, there is essentially no information on the role played by Ross's nephew and second-in-command, Commander James Clark Ross, who led a separate forward sledging group for much of the journey. It is generally acknowledged (e.g., Dodge, 1973; Holland and Savelle, 1987; Savelle and Holland, 1987) that without James Clark Ross's leadership and competence the expedition would

have fared far worse, if not perished entirely. Recently, however, the diary kept by James Clark Ross during the retreat was located, and it forms the subject of this article.

The diary is of significant interest in that it is the only available first-hand account of the activities of the forward party during the retreat from Boothia and as such represents a primary historical document. In addition, although generally guarded in tone, it nevertheless provides, on occasion, insight into the interpersonal relationships that obtained during the expedition, as, for example, when James Clark Ross notes that "Capt. R. forbade him [Chimham Thomas] to rise on her, according to my own wishes; when will this system of persecution end? God be praised it cannot last much longer" (entry for 11 July).

EXPEDITION SUMMARY

The primary source of the expedition is John Ross's own narrative (Ross, 1835). In addition, a long, expanded letter he wrote to Francis Beaufort during the expedition has recently been published (Holland and Savelle, 1987), as has James Clark Ross's diary of the survey of Lord Mayor Bay (Ross and Savelle, 1990). An account based on information supplied by William Light, the steward (Huish, 1835), is a scurrilous work, critical of John Ross to an absurd degree. However, it does contain passages that, with due caution, can be taken into account. The most recent expedition summary and a reference list of prior summaries are given in Ross and Savelle (1990). The following will concentrate primarily on those aspects of the expedition that figure in the retreat itself.

After having entered Prince Regent Inlet from the east on 11 August 1829, the expedition ship *Victory*, a paddle steamer with a crew of 4 officers and 19 men, and with a small launch *Krusenstern* in tow, proceeded to Fury Beach on eastern Somerset Island (see Fig. 1 for this and other localities referred to in the summary). At Fury Beach they took on board provisions

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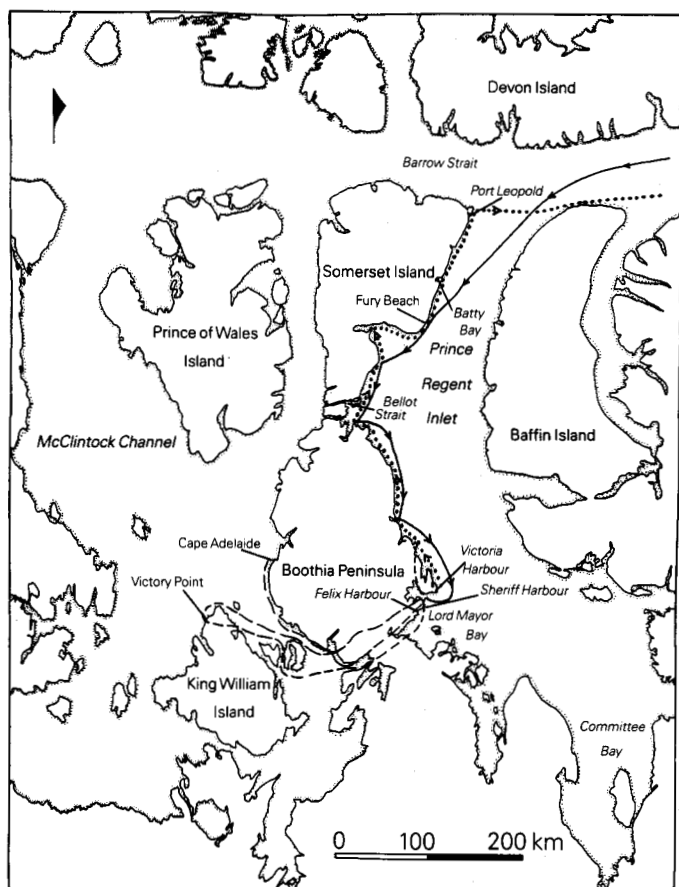


FIG. 1. The route of Ross's expedition of 1829-33 in the central Canadian Arctic. Solid line = track of *Victory*, 1829-32; dashed line = sledge trips 1830-31; dotted line = track of the retreating crew on sledges/boats, 1832-33.

and stores left there when H.M.S. *Fury* was wrecked and abandoned in 1825 by William E. Parry. The expedition then proceeded to the southeastern corner of Somerset Island, where formal possession was taken in the name of the king of England at Possession Point. Believing Somerset Island to be joined to Boothia Peninsula, they then continued to sail south down Prince Regent Inlet, tracing the east coast as far as Lord Mayor Bay. At this point the expedition was stopped by ice, and Ross accordingly anchored in Felix Harbour, where the *Victory* became frozen in on 30 September.

The following summer the ship was able to move only 5 km, and the expedition spent the second winter (1830-31) frozen in at Sheriff Harbour. Attempts to escape during the summer of 1831 were again unsuccessful, and the *Victory* was forced into Victoria Harbour, approximately 20 km to the northeast of Sheriff Harbour. After overwintering at Victoria Harbour 1831-32, *Victory* was abandoned, and the crew sledged to Fury Beach, eastern Somerset Island. After an unsuccessful attempt to cross Prince Regent Inlet from Port Leopold, they returned to Fury Beach, where they spent the winter of 1832-33. The 20 surviving expedition members were finally rescued by a whaler at the eastern entrance to Lancaster Sound in August 1833 and returned to England in October of that year.

THE RETREAT FROM BOOTHIA

Although the *Victory* was abandoned on 29 May 1832, considerable preparation took place prior to this event — in fact,

the decision to abandon her was made immediately after Ross settled in at winter quarters in Victoria Harbour. After the experience of the previous two winters (1829-30, 1830-31), and now beset in ice for yet a third winter (1831-32), it was evident that the expedition could not risk being frozen in for a fourth winter. Accordingly, in spring 1832, they had to abandon the *Victory* and retreat north. The intention was to travel on foot to Fury Beach to acquire the remaining provisions and boats (which they hoped would be still serviceable) from Parry's cache of 1825. From there, they would travel to the northeast tip of Somerset Island, cross the mouth of Prince Regent Inlet, and proceed to the eastern entrance of Lancaster Sound. Here they felt they might, with luck, be rescued by a whaler. It was admittedly an ambitious, but under the circumstances necessary, enterprise, with the distance from Victoria Harbour to Fury Beach along the proposed route being approximately 350 km and to the eastern entrance to Lancaster Sound another 500 km.

Since there was no certainty that the provisions at Fury Beach would be intact or that the boats would be serviceable, John Ross planned to take two of the *Victory's* boats and a store of provisions approximately 65 km north from Victoria Harbour to fall back on in an emergency. On 23 April 1832 he set out with George McDiarmid, the expedition surgeon, and 12 men and in the course of a week succeeded in dragging the boats (on two sledges) approximately 30 km to the north; they returned to the *Victory* on 1 May. On 3 May "... two sledges were taken to the sea ice four miles off, the men returning at seven o'clock" (Ross, 1835:638). The following day, John and James Ross set out again, and James Ross's journal begins at this point.

THE JOURNAL

The journal was written in ink on unused pages of a diary for 1827. In that year, James Ross accompanied Parry on his attempt to reach the north pole from Spitsbergen. The Spitsbergen diary, however, is written up only for the periods before they sailed in April and after their return in October. Unused pages were first used by James Ross for a rough journal written in pencil in 1831. While some of the 1831 entries are still legible, much had been partly or wholly erased when the journal for the 1832 retreat was entered. It is very likely that the 1832 entries, which cover the period 4 May to 14 October, were written during the winter of 1832-33 at Somerset House, Fury Beach.

The diary was found in the possession of a member of the family by Rear Admiral James Ross, great grandson of Sir James Clark Ross. It is, at present, held by him, as also is the notebook from which the article "Round Lord Mayor Bay with James Clark Ross," published in *Arctic* 43(1) (March 1990), was prepared. These will, in due course, be deposited in the archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.

The text (including spelling and punctuation) is reproduced here in its entirety. Format (i.e., paragraphs and spacing) has been changed slightly to facilitate comprehension. All temperatures given are in Fahrenheit and directions in cardinal points. The division into parts ("chapter headings") are those of the editors, for ease in reading. Round brackets in the journal text are original, while citations from John Ross (1835) and Huish (1835) relating published materials with the diary have been inserted where appropriate in square brackets. The latter either

provide a useful background to or, on the other hand, contradict statements by James Ross. Question marks within parentheses indicate queries by the editors and are explained in the square brackets immediately following; question marks without parentheses indicate that the word(s) or symbol is not decipherable.

The route as located on modern topographic maps, together with several views of points along the route, are shown in Figures 2-10. Finally, the note left by the expedition at Fury Beach on 1 August 1832 and retrieved by the whaler *Traveller* during a voyage to Prince Regent Inlet in 1843 is reproduced in Figure 11.

* * * * *

THE JOURNAL

1. Laying the Depot

[4 May] Left the ship at 3 P.M. provisioned for 14 days, with 2 sledges. Capt Ross, myself and 10 men ["being the whole of our effective crew" (Ross, 1835:638)] to carry out 2000 lbs. of provisions and stores and if possible to take them and the boats forward to good harbour. Our weight (?) was stowed on 3 sledges. 2 of these we carried across the hummocks to the opposite land when, one breaking down, the other was left and we took the broken one on to the first tents that were pitched on a point $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the ship, where we

arrived at 3 A.M. [5 May] A fine but hazy morning and a light S.Ely breeze.

Set out again at 0.30 P.M. got to sledge in bay at 4.50 and got her and the other up to tent at 1.30 A.M. 6th May. A hard day's work of 13 hours. 2nd sledge broke down — the carpenter employed repairing it.

Set off 0.30 P.M. again and got 2 sledges to the boats. Light [the steward] and Thomas [the carpenter] taken ill prevented our bringing up the tents and bedding. Slept therefore again in the same huts. [The party evidently camped partly in tents and partly in snow huts. Huish (1835:613) describes the huts: "the walls were made of square pieces of snow, cut with a cutlass and spade, so that some of the slabs were as large as three feet by two; some larger, some smaller, accordingly as they could be cut . . . the walls were built about five or six feet high, on which were laid two boat oars, and a sail was spread over the top. Lumps of snow were put on the sail to keep it from being blown away. The bedding of the men was made of deer skins, the lower part of which was like a bag, coming a little above the hip. The other part covering the head."] Temp. zero.

[7 May] Set out again with sleeping things at 11.30 A.M. and got to the boats at "detention" harbour [the place 18 miles from the ship where the two boats had been left on 29 April] at 3.30 P.M. ["having succeeded at last in bringing hither two boats and five weeks' provisions, besides a present supply for two days more" (Ross, 1835:639).] Set carpenter to work to repair broken sledge belonging to boat, and went forward with a heavy laden sledge and 8 hands to look for the best road for the boats to go. Arrived at Knob Island [not identified] in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and returned to boats at 10 P.M.

It came on to blow hard during the night from the North with much drift, and continued to blow so hard as to prevent our setting out at the normal time the next morning [8 May]. A.M. Ther +24°, heavy snow and drift. 11 P.M. Ther +18°, more moderate and less snow.

[9 May] 8 A.M. blowing a hard N.E. gale with heavy drift. Temp. +13°. Noon, unable to start. 10 P.M. +16°; Midt. strong gale N.E. and heavy drift.

[10 May] 8 A.M. wind still blowing strong but had veered round to S.E., heavy drift flying. Noon, snow melting through roof of house. 5.15, +17°, SSE 6, sky opening. Midnight, light airs and fine, Ther. +4°.

[11 May] Wind North 3. At 1 A.M., -2°. 6 A.M. set off (without breakfast) with one of the boats and left her at R.H. of an island at 1 P.M. and back to the tents at 6 P.M. having overtaken N 72 2/3 [The identity of "N" and the meaning of this apparent cipher are not known.] A lovely evening.

[12 May] Northerly 5. A cold morning. At 8 set off with 2nd boat, arrived at island at 1 by a better road than yesterday, which I had found in returning. Walked very slowly back and arrived at 8 P.M. at sleeping huts. A fine night. Ther +4°.

[13 May] Northerly 4. Got all the provisions up to the island and returned at 6.30 P.M. to huts to sleep. North 2, snow. Some hands with sore eyes.

[14 May] S.Wly 4. At 4 A.M. +10°, at 7.30 +13°, at 9 +18°. Set off at 9 A.M. with all our baggage, wind freshening up to a strong breeze by the time we got to the boats and built our huts at 4 P.M. with much drift.

[15 May] Blowing hard all night. At 6 A.M. +18°, at 9.30 +20°. Row about smoking. 7 or 8 of party having sore eyes from travelling in the day time instead of the night, we were obliged to wait till the evening (Temp. 15°) and begin night travelling. Set off at 8.30 P.M. with the heavy boat and had

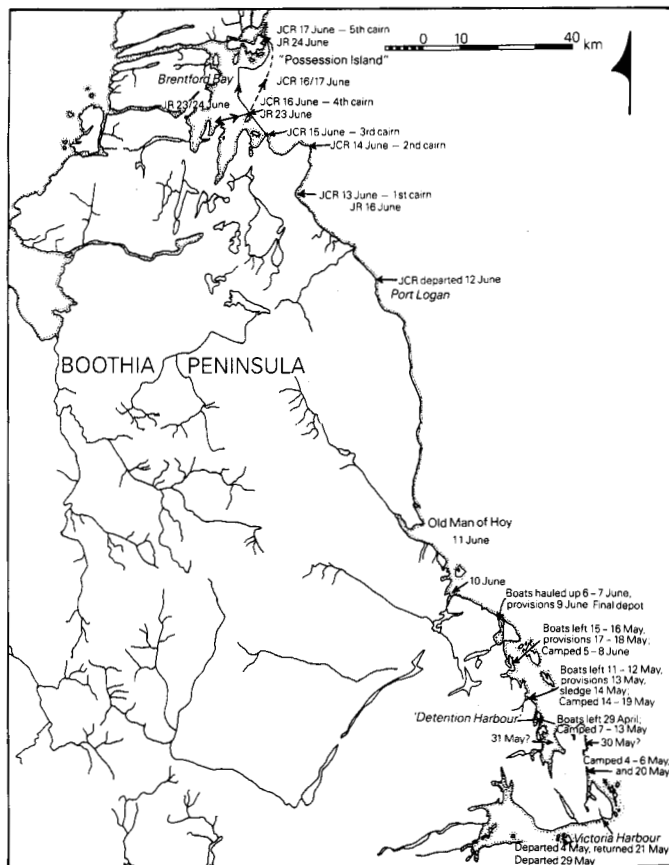


FIG. 2. Track of the retreating crew members between Victoria Harbour and Bellot Strait.

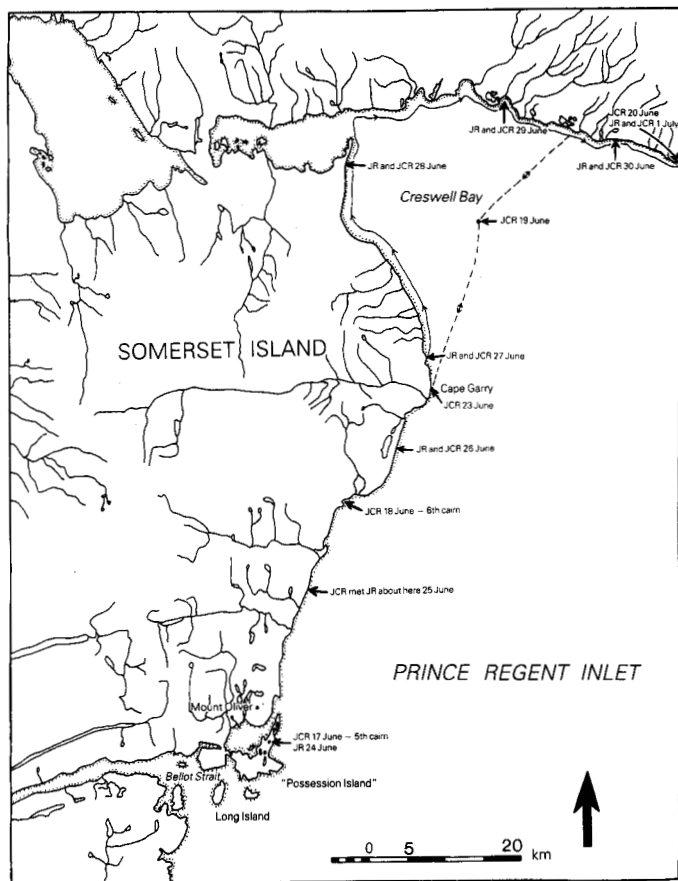


FIG. 3. Track of the retreating crew members between Bellot Strait and Fury Beach.

some very hard work against the hummocks, but avoided much bad road by crossing 2 narrow peninsulas. Left boat at the West shore of the harbour about 3 miles south of the peninsula of Port E [Elizabeth Harbour] at 3 A.M. 16th.

[16 May] At 1 A.M., -3° . At 3 A.M. left boat at Port Ha.m [name not shown on any map or published text]. Temp $+1^{\circ}$. Got back to hut at 7 A.M. N. One of our men returning alone to the boats saw a glutton — their tracks very numerous about this place.

Start again at 8.30 P.M. ($+17^{\circ}$) with the other boat. N. returned at 10.30. Got to P. Hans at 4 A.M. 17th and back again to huts at 7 A.M. [17 May] much snow falling, and thawing on top of tents about noon.

Set off at 8.15 P.M. with provisions (N. returned at 11) got to boats at 2 A.M. and back at 6.30 A.M.

[18 May] At 9 P.M. set out with the rest of the provisions and stores which we got to the boats at 2.15 A.M. (N. having left us about an hour after starting) and back to the tents at 6 A.M. [19 May] The season had now advanced so far that it was not considered advisable to attempt to take the boats further on, as that could delay the final departure from the ship to too late in the period. At 7 P.M. we therefore set off on our return to the ship. (Track of a bear). Wind North 2 with snow. Arrived at huts at Detention Harbour at 11 P.M., lunched and got to hill top at 1.30 and next huts at 3 A.M. 20th.

[20 May] At 5 A.M. Ther. $+28^{\circ}$. Set off again at 8 P.M. John Wood [an able seaman] very unwell, took him on our sledge and arrived on board the ship at 2.30 A.M. 21st May.

[21 May] [Ross (1835:642): "We ascertained that it would require a week to repair the sledges and put the men in a con-

dition to draw them. We had time therefore to review what we had lately done; and the result was that we had travelled three hundred and twenty miles to gain about thirty in a direct line; carrying the two boats with full allowance of provisions for five weeks; and expending, in this labour, a month. It was, however, the worst part of the road."]

[24 May] In the evening, Mr. Blanky [the First Mate] was sent with a party and a sledge load of provisions ["a month's provisions at half allowance" (Ross, 1835:642)] which they took to the first huts, slept there the following day, and returned on board at 3 A.M. 26th. They saw the tracks of a bear.

[28 May] In the afternoon, Mr. Blanky and a party sent away with a loaded sledge, which they took over the isthmus and returned at 7 P.M. to the ship.

2. Victoria Harbour to Fury Beach

[29 May] Left ship at 10 P.M. all hands drawing a sledge. Halted on the south end of the lake and gave her three cheers at parting. At midnight arrived at the other sledges and proceeded in 3 parties of 7 each. The evening fine for the purpose and the snow better than was expected.

[30 May] We found much difficulty in passing through the hummocks and the labour was severely felt by the invalids. D. Wood had a nervous fit as we came along and several were still suffering from recent illness, and this day's work of nearly $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours tried all hands. The party sent back to bring up one of the sledges had not arrived at huts [John Ross's "twelve mile huts" (Ross, 1835:643)] till 1 P.M. giving them therefore 15 hours hard work. 2 grouse, a raven and an ermine in its summer dress were seen. At 10 P.M. we roused out.

[31 May] At 1 A.M. set out with 3 sledges, but this lazy work and deep snow did not get us to the next huts (only $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles) until past 10 A.M. At 6 P.M. a large bird like a crane, or perhaps the larger diver, flew past the hut. Doctor and I went back with 11 hands to bring up the provisions etc. left behind at huts yesterday. In an hour and five minutes got to the top of hill (more than half way). At huts at 11.40 = 2 hours 10 mins.

["I may now explain the plan of the journey we had thus undertaken. This was, to carry the boats on to Elizabeth harbour, with provisions for six weeks at full allowance, there to deposit the boats and half the provisions and to proceed with the sledges and the other half till we reached the latitude of 71° , whence we should send a light party of five to ascertain the state of things at Fury beach" (Ross, 1835:644).]

[1 June] Arrived at the huts at 3.50 A.M. having in 6 hours and 20 mins. gone twice over the distance that had taken us 19 hours yesterday to accomplish. 2 grouse seen. A cold night, wind N.W.4 with drift. At 6 A.M., $+22^{\circ}$. Put all hands on half allowance of provisions. Roused at 6 P.M. and set off at 9, a fresh breeze from the N.W. and very cold.

[2 June] A plover or a pintail duck seen (? which). Arrived at Island tents at 6 A.M. Returned at 10 P.M. and arrived at former huts at 1 A.M.

[3 June] Set off again at 1.30 and passing Knob Island [not identified] at 3.30 arrived at Island tents with all our provisions at 6.5 A.M. (Capt R. having come to meet us on our return). On our arrival, Blanky [the First Mate] spoke to Capt. Ross in the name of the crew about leaving the boats and putting them again on full allowance. ["The men seemed much fatigued and the mate Blanky, deputed by them, intimated their desire to abandon the boats and spare provisions at this

place, and proceed direct to Fury Point. I had already suspected something of this nature; but as we should thus leave our resources in a place to which it was impossible to return, I not only expressed my refusal, but ordered the party to proceed, in a manner not easily misunderstood, and by an argument too peremptory to be disputed, after reprimanding the ambassador for the extreme impropriety of his conduct. It was the first symptom approaching to mutiny that had yet occurred" (Ross, 1835:645.) Recommended our work at 9 P.M., taking with us 3 sledges.

[4 June] Arrived at the boats at 5 A.M. 5 hares seen close to the boats and one shot by Abernethy [Second Mate]. Having hurt my back at a difficult hummocky passage, I felt giddy and sick and was unable to go after them. North 3 cloudy — a curious *water* sky to the North for the last 4 days deserves notice. Full allowance issued for this day, the day's work being of unusual difficulty. Set off at 9.30 to bring up the rest of our provisions we left at Island huts, which we reached in 3 hours.

[5 June] Got back to the boats with stores etc. at 6 A.M. Down to +16° during the night. At 7 A.M. +20°, a fine day. 4 swans or some heavy flying large kind of bird flew down the harbour [Eclipse Harbour], some terns heard and several plovers seen.

Set forward again at 8.30 P.M. taking the Endeavour [boat] and one sledge leading ahead to look for the road. Passed through about half a mile of hummocky ice and got to the isthmus, where we crossed it at 11.30 just at the same place I had crossed last year [during a sledge journey]. Continued our

course direct for the entrance of the harbour [Elizabeth Harbour], crossing over to the west shore and continuing close along the land we had very good travelling.

[6 June] At 3 A.M. hauled the boat up on the west shore near the entrance of the harbour, not far from abreast the spot we anchored in in 1829. Here we saw a number of hares, one was shot by the Doc. I returned over land tracing the shore of this remarkable harbour for the purpose of determining its figure more accurately than we had been able formerly to do. The tracks of gluttons very numerous and the recent footmarks of 2 reindeer were seen by me. A warm overcast morning with little wind. The party arrived at tents about 6 A.M. and I about an hour after. Abernethy shot a hare which came to our lot.

Set out again at 10 P.M. with mahogany boat, reached the isthmus at midnight (temp. +27°) and the neck of it where we cross at 1 A.M., continued our course and

[7 June] Got to 5 fathom point at 2.30 and at dépôt at 4 A.M., lunched, saw a hare, and returned to the tents at 8.30 a.m. (+28°). 3 deer were seen by me as we passed up the harbour, the first this season. Blowing hard towards noon, northerly with drift. It blew a violent gale all this day which prevented our travelling. 3 grouse seen, one of which I shot.

[8 June] The gale continued till near noon when, of course, we could not start on account of the powerful rays of the sun. At 9 P.M. we set out with all our provisions and baggage. A wolf see during the day.

[9 June] On arrival at the boats we found George [George Taylor, the third Mate, had had half a foot amputated as a result of frostbite and, throughout this journey, made his own pace on crutches] stowed away in one of them from a wolf that had been prowling about them. Dr. shot 1 or 4 grouse. Party sent back for ? did not return till 10 A.M. During their absence Capt. R. consulted with me and it was determined to leave the boats at this depot and, taking with us 3 weeks provisions, set out for the Fury. That after gaining the lowland, a party should be sent in advance to ascertain whether the provisions were there or not.

Rose at 8 P.M. to prepare for leaving the boats, taking 21 days provisions on full allowance, and party to begin on $\frac{2}{3}$ rds.

[10 June] Set out at 1 A.M. and halted after 5 hours on the West point of Aw-wuk-too-te-ak bay [mouth of Agnew River]. Sax op. fol. [purple saxifrage] in flower. A gull seen. A view from the hill showed me a large extent of flat ice along the land, but about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of hummocks that lay between us and it occupied us nearly 3 hours before we reached the level ice. (I shot a hare, hares very numerous along this coast, saw several). A thick foggy morning succeeded, but we continued to travel on at a good pace, guided by occasional glimpses of the sun and the direction of a light northerly breeze.

[11 June] We halted to lunch at A.M. 11th of June and encamped at [blank] directly under the remarkable rock called the Old Man of Hoy [named after a well-known feature in Orkney]. Esquimaux huts, bones of young whale, also of salmon which probably are taken in the bay just to the southward of the Old Man of Hoy, where a river probably runs into it. Some water in holes in the rock. Hares' tracks numerous, also foxes.

Set out at our usual time in the evening and continued travelling along shore on high water mark. Snow deep in places, but this road altogether better than we could have expected. To seaward the ice appeared hummocky, but extensive flats of newly formed ice appeared between the ridge of hummocks, many of which were also formed by the ice of last winter's

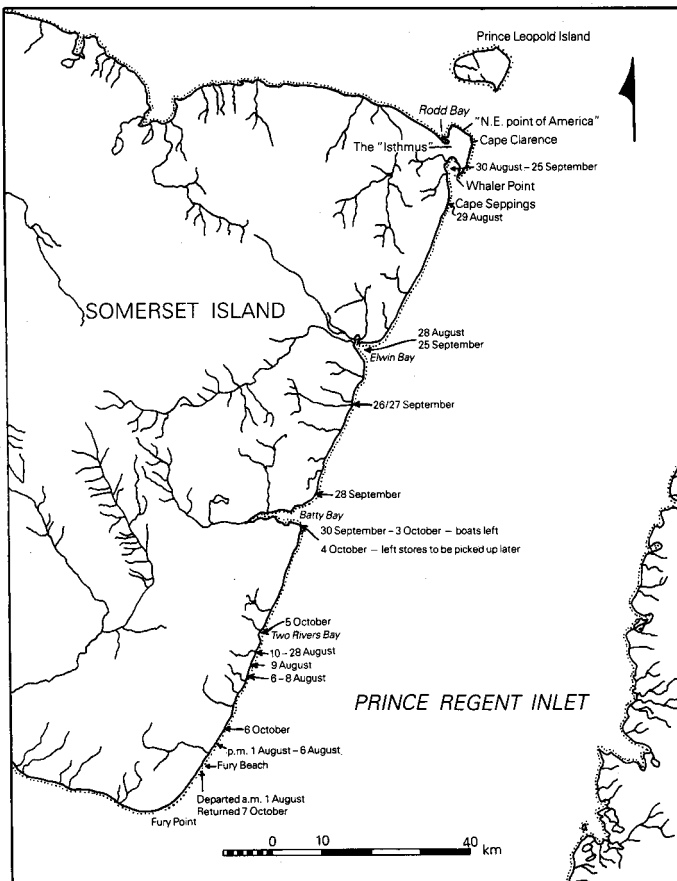


FIG. 4. Track of the retreating crew members between Fury Beach and Port Leopold.

formation: so that it appears that the sea has remained open until a very late period of the year. Travelling across the bay that we had steamed across [Port Logan] we had a fine view of it and could trace its shore all round. We landed and encamped on the low land, and immediately began to make preparations for my intended excursion. ["Their directions were to leave a note at every place where they slept, which we calculated on reaching in double the time, with our loads, so as to be advanced about seventy miles when they should have reached to their journey's end, now a hundred and fifty miles away. This was to allow them fifteen in the day, and ourselves seven, which was as much as we could execute after losing three of our best men" (Ross, 1835:647).]

At 11.30 P.M. I left the party accompanied by Abernethy and Park [an able seaman] with 15 days provisions on a light hand sledge, and was soon out of sight of our more heavily laden and less able shipmates. We had good travelling and made a straight course, sometimes from point to point, at others crossing on land to save the circuit of points where any hummocks appeared. We thus passed several small bays, but our progress was interrupted by the power of the sun's rays which at length compelled us to halt at 9.30 A.M. having made about 16 miles.

[13 June] We got into our blankets and, drawing a piece of canvas over us that served as a tent, we slept soundly on the hard frozen ground; but the suffering we endured from not being able to procure water to allay our burning thirst, I shall never forget. Set out again at 8.30 P.M. our eyes very sore, the land still trending to the East of North. Saw 7 gulls, 2 grouse and some golden plovers.

[14 June] At 4 A.M. halted for lunch. From this point the coast trends more to the West — a considerable bay to the North of it. Foggy, which hindered us much. Several foxes in change seen. Sore eyes and sprained ankles. Halted at 9.30 A.M.

Set out again at 9.30 P.M., then foggy weather compelled us to traverse the shore of all the bays we passed along, but anything was better than laying idle and, although much time and labour was thus lost, we still found ourselves making tolerable progress as the sun now and then guided us on our course. The wind on our faces and fog freezing on our clothes made the travelling very uncomfortable, and the hazy glare of light so extremely painful to the eyes that I could hardly see some of the large hummocks until we were actually ascending

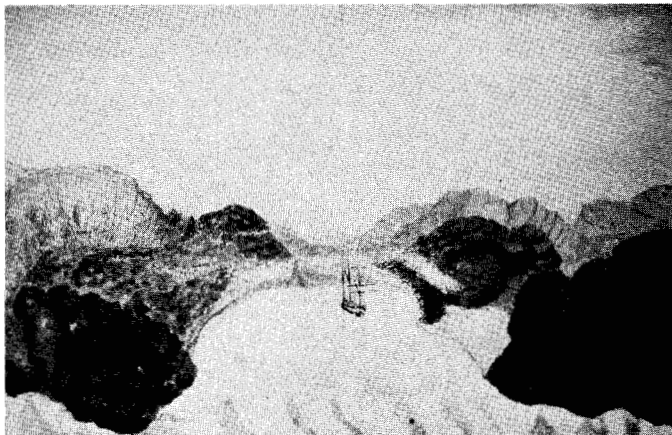


FIG. 5. Watercolour by John Ross depicting *Victory* in Victoria Harbour 1832. Reproduced with the kind permission of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

its side. I had therefore frequent falls from the edges of the ridges and this rendered our travelling very much slower, as both my companions were also quite blind and could afford me no assistance or relaxation.

[15 June] Halted at point of a deep bay at 5.20 A.M. to lunch. A flock of ducks flew over us — a diver seen. The weather more clear, we crossed to the opposite point of this bay in 3 hours, when we pitched our tent in a thick fog.

Weather more clear when we started at 9 P.M. and got across Highland Bay [probably Wilson Bay] in 3½ hours. 5 or 6 halfmoon reefs off each point, land then trends more to the West. A flock of ducks seen, also 2 willow grouse and some foxes. Heard some gulls. Track of bears very numerous and recent.

[16 June] At 4.30 we got to the low point that forms South extreme of this lowland and, having built a cairn and left a note for Capt. Ross, we steered directly for the North point of an island which we reached at 11 A.M. having had some very heavy work amongst hummocky ice for several miles and deep snow. We were quite knocked up with 13½ hours travelling [an observation in the margin gives latitude 71°50'].

Started again at 10.30 P.M., built cairn on point of island and stood directly over for Possession Island [claimed and so named by them in 1829]. At 2½ hours passed 2 low islets, at 3 hours end of reef and at 4½ or 5 hours abreast of the clump of rock — travelling very good.

[17 June] We got to Possession Island 5 A.M. 17th. Here we lunched after visiting the monument made by us in 1829. Thick fog came on and we had bad travelling along the shore about 3 or 4 miles of the East side of Possession Island, where we encamped about 1 mile South of its North point.

Set out again at 9 P.M., a fine evening. At midnight observed a number of Esquimaux huts which I landed to examine. They appeared to be very old, 12 or 13 in all, built of the bones of small whales and had all been winter residences (15 feet by 11). In one, 6 crown bones formed the chief part of it. Abundance here seemed once to have cheered the savage horde, but time had hardly left enough to mark the spot of long past days of joy and savage mirth. The spot was most delightfully situated and some lakes at the back probably afforded them a variety of fish and fowl.

[18 June] At 4 A.M. we halted on a low point to lunch. Several flocks of geese in anxious search for water on this marshy point. Good ice, we had quick travelling. Halted at 9 A.M. on low point having travelled about 21 miles. Wind Northerly, fog and cloud. Eyes very sore [marginal observation giving latitude 72°21']. Set out at 9 P.M. N.Ely and at midnight arrived at Point Garry. The weather cleared and gave us a sight of Fury Point which tended not a little to stimulate our exertions.

[19 June] We left all the provisions we could spare and, the land now trending to the NNW, we at once descended to the ice that covered this inlet and, travelling nearly North to round the high piled ridges of hummocks, we had in many places very good and in others the very worst of travelling (Temp +24°) but our *port* was now in sight and we were enabled to prolong our day's exertion until near 10 A.M. having made good about 22 miles. We then encamped on the ice and, while the snow melting beneath us soaked us to the skin, our day's march gave us sound repose and we rose in the evening refreshed and strengthened to renew our exertions.

At 9 P.M. we started. A strong breeze opposed us which soon after increased to a violent gale, but the ice being good



FIG. 6. Victoria Harbour from the same view depicted in Figure 5.

we advanced rapidly towards the North shore of the inlet and had the satisfaction to land on its beach at 5 A.M. when we lunched.

[20 June] We were now within 10 miles of the Fury and, although eight hours of hard walking had nearly knocked us up, we determined to endeavour to resolve the doubts which had so long hung on our minds and which, as we approached, increased to the most intense anxiety that can be felt. We hastened forward and, though up to our knees in deep snow and travelling amongst hummocks, our sledge broken down and the rays of the sun combining with a violent northerly gale, we still carried on, though slowly and hardly able to drag one leg after the other. In this manner, we opened point after point, and every weary footstep seemed to diminish our hope of reaching the anxiously expected spot when, after 9 hours labour, we beheld the tent poles open to our view and soon after the boats, provisions and other stores. Weariness fled from every limb, joy now overcame every other sentiment and gratitude threw us prostrate on our knees to bless the name of that Power who had now again saved us from ourselves.

We hastened forward and pitched on the beach at 1 P.M. 20th June. A long rest was now necessary to restore our wasted strength, and the pains of the limbs of both my companions together with sore eyes prevented our departure so early as I could have wished. The boats were dug out and found in excellent condition.

[21 June] Set out at 9 P.M. to rejoin our party with the joyful intelligence. Strong northerly wind. Shot a female *Spectabilis* [King Eider]. Aby's [Abernethy] knees so painful that we were compelled to halt and encamp on ice at 7 A.M. [22 June] Having 3 days provisions for the whole party, we found our sledge go rather heavy, having nearly 200 lbs. weight on it. A fine morning.

[At this point in his journal, James Ross, some time later, wrote a marginal note: "Their party at island south of Possession Island. Capt. R. examined inlet and found a river open and many ducks and divers in it." When they crossed Brentford Bay in 1829, James Ross certainly, and John Ross possibly, had suspected the existence of a strait entering the bay, owing to the heavy pack ice which they observed streaming out of its northeast corner. It seems likely that James Ross had asked his uncle to survey the bay more closely, and that this note was the result.

[On 23 June, John Ross's party was at the cairn erected by James Ross on 16 June at Grimble Islands. John Ross's narrative reads: "After six in the morning, leaving the men to their rest, I proceeded to examine the inlet [i.e., Brentford Bay]. After the usual measurements and observations, I ascertained its figure and extent, finding that its bottom gave entrance to a large river and, consequently, that there was no opening, or passage to the western sea at this place, as might otherwise have remained a point of doubt.

["Having proceeded at nine [his published map shows that his course passed near Long Island] we passed two considerable rivers at the northern part of this inlet and, after that, several islands; arriving at a point where we again found a cairn [erected by James Ross on 17 June]. We pitched on the south-east side, where I completed the survey of this bay" (Ross, 1835:649-650).

[One of the "two considerable rivers at the northern part of this inlet" must, surely, have been Bellot Strait, discovered by Kennedy and Bellot in 1851. A knowledge of the true nature of Bellot Strait would have been of no value to the Rosses in their present circumstances, but Savelle and Holland (1987) have suggested that John Ross may not have even *wanted* to find a strait.]

A fine evening, water on ice. Set out again at 9 P.M. travelling along the lowland. Traced the low beach distinctly round the bay [Creswell Bay] in places where I had formerly supposed a passage to exist. Our keeping so much up the bay has however enabled us to feel that question most unequivocally at rest. We found the travelling also so much better that, although the distance was of course much increased, we gained time by following that route.

[23 June] Encamped among the Esquimaux huts on Point Garry at 9 A.M. Here we made a depot of the provisions we had brought for the party. It was a fine morning and the extremely low land that forms this point was covered with pools of water. Huts very numerous and old.

Set out again at 9 P.M. In attempting to cross a stream that empties its waters into the sea at the pitch of the point, we all got thoroughly wetted and, where only 4 or 5 days before, one could not find a drop of water, we might have got head over ears in it. We lost some time in sounding its mouth. A bitter cold night that succeeded kept us on the move. Shot 2 H. *Glacialis* [probably old squaw duck] and a gull — also a *Spectabilis* [King Eider]. Halted at 7 A.M. [24 June] being extremely wet, cold and fatigued and disappointed at not meeting party.

Set out again at 10 P.M. with much anxiety at not having yet met the party, the most fearful apprehensions began to uphold themselves, and all wondered what could have delayed them so long. Shot 4 *Spectabilis*. Much water on the ice and travelling very good.

[25 June] At 1.30 A.M. we had the satisfaction to see our party advancing and rejoined them at 2 A.M. having hoisted our colours to make them aware of the happy news we brought. We immediately landed and encamped (72°12'). Some of the party quite knocked up. They were immediately put on whole allowance, the provisions we had brought being more than sufficient to meet that expense, and a hot supper off our game together with the cheering intelligence brightened every eye, and joy and gladness every feature.

In the evening, a fresh breeze NNW and cloudy sky. We had very good travelling along the land and we made a rapid journey leaving George [Taylor] far behind. We halted to

allow him to come up at 1 A.M. [26 June] when we took him on our sledge until we pitched at 5 A.M. having come about 12 or 13 miles. Fresh breeze from the North and a clear sky.

During the day we had fine weather and started in the evening at 8 P.M. After travelling about 8 miles we arrived at the river that empties its waters at the extreme of Garry Point. At 1 A.M. 27th a number of ducks seen.

[27 June] We had much trouble in rounding the freshes of water that flowed over the ice from the lowland of Garry Point and, after passing the river that runs out at the extreme point of it, we halted to lunch and drank the health of our worthy friend N. Garry Esq., for whom the point was named by Parry. We halted at the depot only a few minutes to take up 3 days provisions I had left for the party and, travelling about a mile further, we pitched at 4 A.M., George being a long way astern and appearing much fatigued.

At 8 P.M. we started. I ? for dark head. 6 hours good travelling, except 2 hours among hummocks. A fresh breeze from N.W. After lunch steered for low beach at head of bay, WSW for 3½ hours. A bear seen.

[28 June] We encamped at 6 A.M. after obtaining observations. I went to the hill whence I could distinctly trace the tide mark of hummocks all round the shores of the cove, which I consider to be about 6 miles deep and from 1½ to 2 miles at its broadest part. Wind Westerly. We had a few drops of rain. No meridian altitude.

At 7.30 P.M. stood over direct for point A. George, having been directed wrong, soon left far astern and we had to wait ¾ of an hour for him to come up, so he got on No. 3 sledge. At midnight close in with Dark Head. Got angles for survey having travelled about 5 miles from our sleeping place. Travelling along shore we had much deep water to wade through and in crossing a river all hands (but 2) got thoroughly wetted, as also much of our luggage.

[29 June] A very fine morning. Encamped at 3.30 A.M. having come about 9 miles. In the course of this day's journey, 3rd sledge much damaged. Walked 4 miles along the bank of the river to the Westward. The banks gradually increase in height to 10 or 12 feet at this spot and are washing away. River ½ a mile at mouth, ¼ in here and continues its course in a pretty direct line. Sax. op. fol, draba alpina [mustard plant],



FIG. 7. A prehistoric Thule Inuit dwelling immediately north of "Possession Island," showing the entrance constructed from bowhead whale crania. This is probably the feature described by James Clark Ross as containing the six bowhead whale "crown bones" (see entry for 17 June 1832).

cochlearia [scurvey grass] and willow in flower. Platypetalum [?], Leontodon [?] and Papaver [Arctic poppy] in a forward state. Caught an A. Hudsonia [Hudson Bay lemming].

Started at 7.45 P.M. continuing our course direct to Fury Point and close along this low land. We had good travelling and made rapid progress. At 4 miles we passed over a salt water lake between point and ½ moon reef 1½ to 2 miles off it. At 2 or 3 miles further a river empties its waters to the West of a point. We then had some heavy work amongst hummocks and deep water. George on our sledge all day and, being much heavier loaded than any other, we had very hard work of it. Halted at 5 A.M. [30 June] having made about 12 miles. 4 geese shot by Capt. R., 2 King ducks and a gull by myself. A Sabine gull and a new kind of plover seen. Wind West and clearing weather.

Started at 9 P.M., a very fine evening. We saw a great number of ducks and about 40 seals laying on the ice at a crack. 3 ducks shot. Travelling very good. A hare shot and 3 more ducks. We halted at 5 A.M. 1st July having rounded Fury Point about 3 miles, and about 4 or 5 from the beach.

We started again at 6 P.M. for the beach and arrived there at 9 P.M. 1st July 1832 — all hands in good health and in high spirits. A very fine night. Several dovekeys shot that were landing on the cliffs. [These were not little auks (*Alle alle*), which are commonly known as Dovekeys today, but Black Guillemots (*Cephus grylle*). "It was subsequently met with in great numbers as we travelled along the high precipitous land between Fury Point and Batty Bay, where they collected in vast quantities during the breeding season, affording our party many delicious meals, and providing a valuable addition to our then scanty stock of provisions. Several thousands were shot by our sportsmen, and by means of this providential supply of fresh food, several of the men, that had long been afflicted with that most dreadful malady, the sea scurvy, were restored to health" (James Ross in Ross, 1835, Natural History Appendix:xlvx).] First bee seen on the wing (large kind).

3. At Fury Beach

[2 July] A fine morning — fresh northerly breeze. At 6 A.M. commenced building a house to live in during our stay here, and in case of being compelled to winter. It was laid down sufficiently large and substantial for that purpose ["it was planned at thirty-one by sixteen feet, and seven in height, to be covered with canvas" (Ross, 1835:652).]

[3 July] Strong northerly breeze. At 6 A.M. set all hands to work at the house and, in the course of the day, the sides and ends were covered in. Some hands arranging and taking account of stores and provisions.

[4 July] Wind light southerly. At 3 A.M. we had some rain and some smart showers fell till towards noon; these are the first showers that we have had this season. It was followed by a warm cloudy day, temp. up to 50°, and the snow from the hills fast clearing away. This ice to seaward very watery. Some of our people continued to suffer from eating too much. The rest employed covering in the house and arranging stores and provisions. Roofed the house in ["The house was finished and received the nickname Somerset House; this tract of land having been previously called North Somerset" (Ross, 1835:653).] Aired specimens of birds and stuffed some others. Sax. op. fol, Draba alpina and Salix arctica [Arctic willow] are the only plants here in flower, Papaver will soon be out. Water running in heavy streams from the numerous ravines with which this land is intersected.

[5 July] During the night we had rain and snow, which was followed at 4 A.M. by a strong northerly gale and clear weather. Carpenter began on the green cutter at 6 A.M. and the rest of the people dividing the house into cabins for the officers. 2 of the small chrysalids turned to flies.

[6 July] Rain fell during the night and turned to snow in the morning. Ther +29°. Snow on the ground. Northerly breeze all the forenoon, backed round by the West to S.W. and some showers of rain and snow fell by the evening. Dined for the first time in the house, and in the evening the people shifted into it and slept there at night. ["The house was divided into two rooms, one for the men, and another, containing four small cabins, for the officers: at present, the cook's department was a tent" (Ross, 1835:653).] Carpenter at green cutter. The two flies of a darker colour than when first ejected.

[7 July] Southerly breeze (3) and rain. At 9 Ther. +42°. At 2 P.M. +38°, at 8 P.M. +37°. Frequent, and some heavy, showers during the day. Employed arranging stores and provisions on the beach. Carpenter at green cutter. Shreeve [carpenter's mate] finished repairing my gun late at night. Several large flocks of gulls (either Ross or Sabine) passed to the south in the course of the day.

At 9 P.M. high water, a rainy night. Freshes from the land much increased mark on tide pole 0 ft. 0½ in. above ⊖ [datum mark for tide readings].

[8 July] At 8.15 high water tide not so high as last night by 4 inches (mark on pole 3½ inches below ⊖). Southerly wind and showers. Ther. +42°, wind veered round to the N.W. and soon after to North and N.E. Performed divine service. A fine afternoon and evening. Abernethy shot 25 dovekies. *Platypetalum*, *Draba hirta*, *Arenaria quad* [sandwort] and *Cerastium* [chickweed] in flower. Sax. op. fol. going out. Paper to Capt. R.

At 8 P.M. Ther. +37°. Wind N.Ely 4. Blue sky and clouds. Several of the crew walked to the Northd- report much water on the ice in extensive pools. At 10 P.M. tide had fallen ½ inch — now 8½ inches above mark on pole high water mark of the 7th. 0 ft. 9 ins. high water. Diver on lake.

[9 July] A fine morning. High water at 9 A.M., tide did not rise so high at last night's by 11.5 inches (mark on pole 2½ in. below ⊖). Wind light Southly. Calm and fine P.M. A fresh northerly breeze. ☉ 78.37.40. ☽ 79.37.20 [altitude of the lower and upper limbs of the sun]. Carpenter began my boat this morning. George [Taylor] caulking green cutter. Blowing hard all the afternoon. A bear came within 30 yards and escaped with two balls in him. Aby [Abernethy] and I pursued

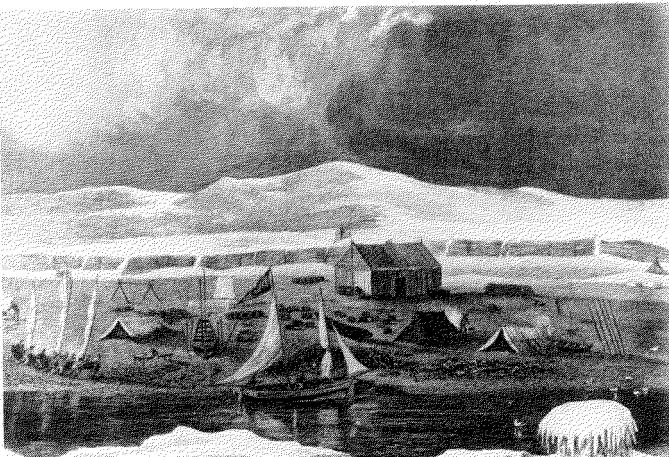


FIG. 8. Fury Beach cache and Somerset House. From Ross, 1835: facing p. 656.

but could not get up to it again. Moth [a Bombyx] came out. Doctor and Mr. Thom [the purser] went shooting dovekies — shot 12. At 9 P.M. Temp. +36°. At 10.50 H.W. 13 inches higher than last night's tide.

[10 July] Strong breezes and clear (some clouds about). Wind northerly, and westerly. Carpenters employed at boat NO.2. Joiner making bellows for forge. Some hands stripping the lower yards to saw up into planks. H.W. 10.10 not so high as last night's tide by 20 inches. Moderate breezes and fine, wind northly. P.M. more wind again N.W. Tide fell very low but had no mark placed to ascertain rise and fall. It had risen to this morning's high water mark (0.2 on pole) by 8.15 P.M. and to last night's 1 ft. 10 in. by 10.10 P.M. 11.30 H.W. mark 2 feet 3 inches. Strong breeze from N.W.

[11 July] Strong breezes N. Wly and cloudy ? continuing in squalls to the West. 8 A.M. +40°. High water at 10.50, mark at 0.3½ above. Dr. and Mr. Thom went shooting — 14 dovekies, 1 Kittie. Thomas [carpenter] employed at my boat. Capt. R. forbade him to rise on her, according to my wishes; when will this system of persecution end? God be praised it cannot last much longer. ["I had intended to rig the whole with shoulder of mutton sails, as the safest and best; but Commander Ross preferring a spritsail, was allowed to manage one of them in his own way" (Ross, 1835:653). The term "to rise on her" means building up on top of the existing gunwales of the boat, to increase her capacity. It was done to the *Victory* herself — ". . . by raising five feet and a half on her, she became capable of carrying a hundred and fifty tons . . ." (Ross, 1835:3).]

Low water at 5.30 P.M. 3.5 below. Strong gale from the N.W. moderated late in the evening, at times quite calm and at others a strong breeze. Midnight high water tide 2.3 above ⊖ the same height as last night's tide. Being less wind to-night is perhaps the reason of its not rising higher. Blanky unwell with pains in his limbs.

[12 July] Strong breeze N.W. and cloudy. At 8 A.M. +40°. High water at 11.30 A.M. 0.½ above, not so high as yesterday's tide by 3 inches. Wind strong from the N.W. in squalls. Carpenter at my boat, George caulking green cutter, Shreeve making bellows for forge.

2.30 P.M. Ther +41°. Low water at 5.30 P.M. mark 3 ft. 5 in. below P.M. Trying and altering compasses. Dr. and Mr. Thom brought home 20 dovekies. Midt. strong breezes and squally.

[13 July] H.W. at 0.30, mark 2.6 above, L.W. at 7.0, mark 1.11 below.

6 A.M. turned hands up, unrigged tent from green cutter and put it over my boat, which George began to caulk immediately after breakfast, and hands employed digging a sandpit. A fine day with a fresh Northly or N. Wly breeze. Blanky unwell these 2 or 3 days with severe cold and pain in all his joints. Took a walk to the north — two large streams or rivers run into the bay to the North. Brought 2 cocoons and a caterpillar. Several oars, spars and casks washed up on the bay. H.W. about noon, 0.3 above mark. Calm and fine during the afternoon, at times light airs Southerly, but a breeze again sprang up from the North and destroyed the hope we have long entertained of a southerly gale. Low water at 6 P.M., mark 3 ft. 6½ in. below ⊖. Towards midnight we had calms and light airs, most beautiful night. Mr. Thom and Dr. shot 34 dovekies. *Lychnis* [campion] in flower.

[14 July] A.M. light airs North and overcast, but very pleasant. Bay ice against tide pole. H.W. at 1.10, mark 2 ft. 10 in. above ⊖, 6 ft. 4½ in. rise of tide. More bergs capsized. L.W. at 7, mark 1 ft. 10 in. below ⊖, 4 ft. 8 in. fall of tide.



FIG. 9. Fury Beach looking southwest, with the remains of the cache in the foreground (compare with Fig. 8).

At 8 P.M. +40°, light airs Northerly and hazy foggy weather. Saw very small tern. Blanky ordered to 3rd boat. The tide did not ebb so low as usual this evening by 2 feet!! 3 P.M. more clear, Ther +34° (Severe headache).

H.W. at 0.20 P.M. mark at 0 ft. 3 in. above \ominus

L.W. at 6.30 P.M. ——— 3 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below.

Ther +30°. Light breeze in the evening at times — mainly calm — but wind freshened in puffs towards midnight.

[15 July] H.W. at 1.30 A.M., 3 ft. 3 in., 6 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. rise. Light breezes North. L.W. at 8.0 A.M., 1 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below. Performed divine service. (Colours [?] up for first time at large tent.) 1.0 P.M. high water 0 ft. 5 in. above \ominus . Light breeze and overcast. Temp. +43°. (a moth out). People went for a walk, built cairn on hill. Draba in seed. Aby 28 dovekeys and 1 Glaucous.

[16 July] A.M. moderate breezes and cloudy, Thin films of young ice on the surface of the sea. H.W. 2.10 A.M., 3 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. At 8 D.W. George working at starboard of my boat, Thomas at 1st. cutter's masts. Rigged forge. Ther. +38°. L.W. at 8.40 A.M., 3 ft. 1 in. below. (2 more moths out). Noon moderate and fine, +40°. Some hands grinding iron rust to make *black paint* for boats. Employed getting diurnal variation needles ready for action. A cold overcast evening, Ther. at 6, +32°. Dr. and Mr. Thom shot 26 dovekeys. Pedicularis [lousewort] and dryas [mountain avens] in flower.

[17 July] A fine morning. Light winds northerly, 8 A.M. +40°. Bread laid out to dry. Light airs at times Southly. A calm and very hot day. Thomas at green cutter, George No. 2, Shreeve at bellows. In the afternoon wind freshening from the South. Showers of rain.

[18 July] A.M. moderate breezes S.W. and cloudy, with rain at times. Continued observations on diurnal variation. Thomas at green cutter, George repairing slippers, Shreeve at gun, armourer at forge, people at sundry jobs. One sail cut out, Aby working it. D. Wood [an able seaman] taking exercise.

Noon overcast, wind S.W. Opposite shore of inlet very distinct from 23° to 83° to right of cairn on Cape. Fell to light variable airs, but again breezed up from the South by 10 P.M. Dr. and Mr. Thom shot 28 dovekeys and 1 A. glacialis. 2 eggs from the dovekeys.

[19 July] Moderate S.W. and cloudy. At 1, a fresh breeze. Ice moved a little to the northward but, falling calm soon after, it again stopped. At 2, fresh breeze S.W. Calm and light vari-

able airs till 6 A.M. when it sprung up from the N.W. and some showers of rain followed.

Employed as yesterday passing away time. Noon fresh breeze and cloudy with much blue sky appearing — turned out a fine afternoon. Armourer making stanchions for boat's awning. Doctor shot an A. glacialis. Midnight light breezes and fine. A flock of 12 Eider ducks flew past.

[20 July] Light breeze Northly, cloudy. Bay ice on surface of the sea. Up all night at needles. At 6 removed No. 1 having got the direction of its zero, reset and levelled it by a mark, and on comparing it with No. 2 it has returned to the same thing as near as possible. A lovely morning. Thomas at green cutter. Shreeve ill these 2 or 3 days, swelled testicle. George mending shoes. Brunton [engineer] making stanchions. Aby making foresail. P.M. Dr. and Capt. Ross away to river. Cut out, and employed two hands making, spritsail. A mallimauk [fulmar] flying about all day, the first we have seen for 3 years. A number of seals and their young lying on the ice.

[21 July] Nearly calm, and cloudy. Needles looked at much more frequently, but the changes so very small that the hourly and $\frac{1}{2}$ hourly sight includes them all. At 8 a most lovely morning — too hot and nearly calm. Thomas began at my boat, shifting step of foremast etc. Brunton at forge. A young hare seen by D. Wood, also some butterflies and moths. Some hands making fore and main spritsails for my boat.

[22 July] Light breeze N.E. and fine. Performed divine service. P.M. people went out to walk. Nest of Lestris Pom. [Pomarine skua. "A nest with two eggs was found near Fury Point, by the margin of a small lake" (Ross, 1835:Appendix, xxxviii).] A butterfly. P.M. went to the nest and took a female bird in a snare. Found some Sax. flagellaris [spider plant] in flower. Abernethy shot 37 dovekeys.

[23 July] Calm and fine, occasional light airs alternately from the S.W. and N.E. Ice forming fast on the still water, but between 2 and 3 A.M. a light land breeze (North) raised the thermometer 10° in less than half an hour and the young ice rapidly disappeared. Hands employed as on Saturday at my boat.

[24 July] Calm and clear. Ice forming fast on the still water. A breeze sprung up from the N.E. about 3 A.M. and continued to freshen till between 6 and 7, and was succeeded by a S. Wly light air, which continued at intervals throughout the day. The mallimauk has taken up his quarters close to us and lands close about the people fearless of danger. The hands employed as before. Blanky and Thomas ordered to let my boat stand until 3rd boat is ready for George to caulk. The young hare seen again to-day but they could not catch it.

[25 July] Calm and fine. Land wind came off this morning at 2 A.M. and thermometer rose 12° in half an hour. Some little motion discernible in the ice. Thomas began to work at 3rd boat and Blanky at his sails, mine being now nearly finished. Packed specimens of birds in ling. A rainy morning. Towards noon the wind shifted to N.W. and soon after to N.E. and continued all day at 2 knot breeze with occasional showers. At night, continued rain.

[26 July] A.M. light breezes with rain (N.E. 2) Collected some more Sax. flagellaris and propinquus, and Dryas octopetala. Sax. cernua [nodding saxifrage] bud opening. Saw a fox, some which patches on rump still left. Shot 2 A. glacialis. Dr. shot a female Eider and 11 dovekeys.

[27 July] N.E. 3 hazy with rain. Loose ice moving slowly along the shore to the southward, and the main body occasionally pressing it on the point. At 9 a heavy pressure showed a decided motion in the whole mass and large hummocks were

thrown up along the whole of the land ice, and during the whole day was in considerable motion and some large and extensive cracks opened.

Thomas employed at 2nd boat till 4 P.M. then at 1st, fitting stanchions etc. In the evening when the flood made, the whole body of the ice was observed to be in motion and towards 11 or 12 at night the heavy pressure upon the point drove immense masses up on the land ice, the complete disruption having now without doubt taken place. Dr. and Mr. Thom went 4 or 5 miles inland, saw no lakes nor any game. Ice moving to the south in masses till midnight.

[28 July] Light breezes and foggy with drizzling rain. Ice in rapid motion to the south began to check an hour after high water at 0.10, and between 2 and 3, having opened in a wide lane $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the shore, was drifting rapidly to the north with the strength of the ebb against light northerly breeze. The extent of the lane of water could not be ascertained for the dense fog that obscured it. Thomas at green cutter. George caulking 3rd boat. At 10 A.M. ice packed close in.

At 10.30 P.M. ice began to move slowly to the southward, and about midnight had slacked off the land to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles leaving a lane of clear water along the land, affording us a most favourable opportunity had our 3rd boat been ready. Towards 6 or 7 A.M. [29 July] it had again closed in with the land and began to drift to the north in shore, but in the offing continued to go south till 5 A.M. 8 A.M. calm and cloudy. Park heard a whale — saw a bear. Ice very open. Noon ice close, rainy. Divine service. Very heavy rain at 2 and 3 P.M. 11.30 ice began to move to the southward and to slack off shore. Fog and rain.

[30 July] Calm and foggy with rain. At 2.30 A.M. a strong breeze from the north dispersed the fog and in half an hour a clear lane of water opened along shore as far as the eye could discern to the north. Called Capt. R. and roused people out to get the 3rd boat ready for sea. Employed all day at her and dandifying the 1st cutter. Received from Capt. Ross a parcel said to contain a copy of his journal and some rough pencil drawings. ["Commander Ross and I exchanged copies of our charts and narratives, in case of separation; and a bottle was buried in the house, containing a short account of our proceedings" (Ross, 1835:656).] Discontinued observations on magnetism in order to pack up the instruments. Employed all day packing up. Blowing a strong breeze of wind from the northward all day.

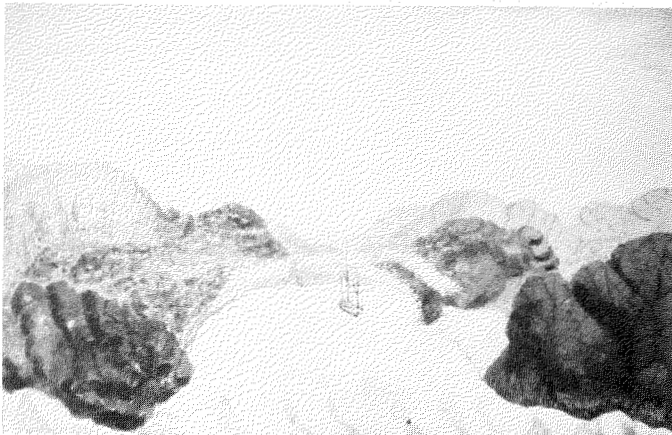


FIG. 10. Whaler Point, Port Leopold, looking east.

[31 July] A fine morning with a light southerly wind. At 2 the ice had gained such an offing that the extent of clear water to the northward as seen from the highest land abreast us was bounded only by a well defined clear horizon, not a particle of ice to be seen in that direction and the pack 4 or 5 miles from the land at the end of the beach. I called Capt. R. and urged him to proceed taking the 3rd cutter in tow, but in vain. We must now wait till tomorrow and lose this fine opportunity. We did not deserve to succeed when such precious moments as these are thrown away.

[1 Aug.] High water at 2.40 A.M. Light airs at times southerly, and a fine morning. Ice began to slack off soon after H.W. Roused out and started at 4 A.M. pulling along shore amongst loose ice, after passing the point of the shore in clear water till we passed the Monument Bluff when, after pulling 2 miles further, we were stopped by the ice closing and we were obliged to haul the boats upon the land ice, which had scarcely been completed when the pressure came on. [The party was travelling in three boats referred to in this diary as No. 1 commanded by John Ross, No. 2 by James Ross and No. 3 by Thom. Each boat's crew camped in its own separate tent.]

4. To Port Leopold and back

[2 Aug.] Calm and cloudy. Walked along shore but could find no better place. It began to slack just at high water (4 A.M.) and to move to the north all in a compact body. Heavy rain came on at the same time. Precipice 431 feet high — beach at high water not twenty feet broad. Heavy pressure at noon and some heavy falls of stones from the hills, many of which struck our tents.

[3 Aug.] Calm, continued heavy rain and some snow P.M. Northerly wind no opening and but little motion on the sea.

[4 Aug.] Fresh breeze from the north. Floe jammed close to the shore abreast of tents and much clear water to the south of it. A very large flock of duck seen on the water to the north from the hills.

[5 Aug.] Breakfast 3 A.M. Strong northerly breeze, ice drifting fast to the South. Clear weather. Saw a fox. P.M. Foggy, much open water about, but no favourable opportunity to start.

[6 Aug.] Light northerly breeze. Got some more red snow. Saw a fox. Had a view from the hill, and we started at 9 A.M. pulling along shore amongst loose ice. Landed at 11.30 A.M. at "Valley" on chart, River etc. much difficulty about proceeding. People apply to Capt. Ross and we start. Got 4 or 5 miles, and were then stopped by a large floe jammed against shore. Landed and found a fit place for boats at 5 P.M., when we hauled the boats just in time before a heavy pressure came on, throwing large blocks of the floe on the land ice.

[7 Aug.] Took a walk in the afternoon to two rivers, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant in a small bay and valley. Bank of sorrel, a fox seen, *Parrya arctica*, (?) head. Ice much broken up but closely packed against the floe, to the South of which much clear water. At 7 P.M. ice drifting to the South, floe broke up and drifted away. A bear seen. Ice drifting slowly all night. ["Foxes, gulls and dovebies were numerous, but we dared not fire, on account of the falling rocks, nor could we afford fuel for cooking, even had we succeeded" (Ross, 1835:658).]

[8 Aug.] Ice moving slowly to the southward. 3 hands along shore could see no water amongst the pack. Noon light breezes and cloudy. At 11.30 P.M. high water and light Southerly.

[9 Aug.] Light Southerly wind and snow. Ice drifting to the North and moving off the land. Launched boats and made sail at noon before the wind. After running about a mile we found the ice closing the land and with much pressure. Hauled the boats up on the land ice. Main body stationary and taut packed all the rest of the day.

[10 Aug.] Light Southerly airs and fine weather. Having hauled boats up on a dangerous part of the land ice, we launched them at 10 A.M. and again hauled up at a more safe place ? of a mile to the northward, where we found sufficient depth of water at H.W. to track the boats along between the grounded ice and the beach. Encamped close to a waterfall on a beach of shingle, where we had a good egress and ingress formed by 2 heavy bergs.

[11 Aug.] Made an attempt to get round the point into 2 river bay, but the ice closing we were compelled to return to our port which we made with some difficulty. Soon after noon we had some rain, which continued during the afternoon and night in heavy showers.

[12 Aug.] Fresh breezes Northerly and cloudy. At noon ice moving slowly off shore, in the offing going to the North against the wind. H.W. at noon. A lane of water opened along the shore to allow us to get into the bay, but opportunity was neglected for the purpose (I suppose) of sending back for more provisions, for at midnight I was called by Capt. Ross (H.W. 0.30 A.M.) when, no opportunity appearing either North or South but much water to the East, he proposed sending back to the beach. I objected on the ground of the probability of losing the next favourable opportunity of proceeding and the delay that *might* arise in consequence of his absence. Mr. Thom however was ordered to go in the 3rd cutter with all the seamen of the party. ["As there was no change to-day, Mr. Thom was sent with a boat to Fury beach for three weeks' provisions; there being open water in that direction, through there was none to the north of us" (Ross, 1835:659).]

[13 Aug.] It continued to blow from the North. High water at 1.30 A.M. (the highest tide), not a hole of water to be seen in any direction. Noon fresh breezes and cloudy. H.W. 1.15 P.M. A hawk seen, *Falco islandicus*, also another species.

[14 Aug.] Fresh breezes from the North. Early this morning the ice opened off the land and by noon it was more than a mile from the land extending North as far as a bluff (5 miles) and possibly much further, but to the South was close in at 1 mile from the tents. Ice moving slowly to the South. At 6 P.M. went to the Northward, clear water along the land 5 or 6 miles, thus by the absence of our party we have lost one of the most favourable opportunities that has ever yet occurred of getting to the North. Blowing hard at night N.W. and the ice drifting to the South 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles off shore. [Marginal observation gave latitude 73°.]

[15 Aug.] At 6.30 A.M. Park arrived from Mr. Thom's party, the boat having been stopped at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from us by the ice setting in with great pressure. Mr. Thom arrived at noon and 2 hands were sent back with him carrying a table etc. They returned at 6 P.M. with some cannisters of meat with orders to return at midnight to assist in getting boat along between land ice and beach if practicable. H.W. 1.45 P.M. At noon light airs North and very fine. Much water along the land to the North.

Midnight 3 hands sent to the assistance of Mr. Thom.

[16 Aug.] They returned at 5 A.M. 16th, were sent again at noon and returned at dinner at 4 P.M. with some part of their load. They were sent away again after dinner and returned

with another load, having unloaded boat and carried provisions etc. to the place where they can launch the boat and load her again, and track her up between the ground ice and the beach.

[17 Aug.] Light variable airs and fine. All hands dispatched soon after midnight to assist in bringing up 3rd cutter and provisions. They arrived at 5 A.M.

Received	4.8.6	=	32 lbs
	6.8.8	=	48
	7.6.20	=	42
	3.8.15	=	24
	1.8.16	=	<u>8</u>
meat			154 lbs

carrots 12 lbs, soups 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, sugar an 8 lb. cannister and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a 6 lb. cannister, and some extra articles and some fuel.

Employed arranging stores and provisions. Shreeve raising on boat.

[18 Aug.] Light breeze Northerly and cloudy. From 9 till 3 P.M. ice drifting to the North in a compact body, stationary till 5 when it travelled again to the South very fast before strong Northerly breeze, which brought on fog and snow towards night. Shreeve employed at my boat.

[19 Aug.] Ice stationary till 3 P.M. when it began to go to the South, before a fresh N.Ely breeze. Hazy weather with heavy snow in large flakes. Shot a fox.

[20 Aug.] Moderate breezes N.E. and cloudy. Shreeve employed raising on my boat. Ice stationary all the morning and quite close. Soon after noon it came on foggy and continued the rest of the day with a N.E. light wind. At 4 P.M. ice began to move slowly to the Southward, from 6 to midnight it ran very fast to the South. Much heavy broken-up ice passed us. Dark water sky to the North.

[21 Aug.] A cold raw unpleasant day. Ice at 6 P.M. moved fast to the South till midnight.

[22 Aug.] A fine morning with a light Northerly breeze. Took a walk to the North. On arriving at the first bluff it became very foggy and, after walking down the valley, it still continuing foggy, we turned back. On our return to the first bluff we had an excellent view, and the appearance of the ice was very much more favourable than we have yet seen it, with much water amongst it. We saw two black whales in a hole of water which we considered a most auspicious omen as they are seldom found far from the edge of the pack. Collected *Sax. flagellaris* which is now in great beauty, also some *Cetraria islandica* to boil. It softens so as to make very good eating. The plant is however very bitter. At 5 P.M. ice moved to the South till past midnight. Ther. at +24°.

[23 Aug.] A.M. Ther +22° Young ice on the surface of the sea getting rather strong and at 8 A.M. $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch. During the forenoon we had a light breeze from the South and clear weather. The ice drifting very slowly to the North till 1 P.M., then stationary till 5 P.M. when it began to move to the South. High water at 10.30 P.M. Midnight calm and cloudy. Ther +31°.

[24 Aug.] A.M. calm and cloudy. At 7.30, +33° At 8 calm and fine, a most lovely morning. Ice continued going to the South till 1.30 A.M. then stationary till 2, after that time going North till 8 A.M. Very light airs from various quarters. Noon light breezes S.S.Wly and foggy low, clear high. Ice stationary.

7 P.M. ice began to move South. 11 P.M. calm and clear. Capella and Lyra, 2 other stars and a planet seen. Ice moving rapidly to the South. A cold night +28F. Light air Northly.

[25 Aug.] Moderate breezes and clear round North. 8 A.M. free breeze. Noon some snow, soon after in large pieces and thick in showers. Freezing all day and a strong breeze blowing, it was cold in our tents. Young ice getting very strong. High water about midnight, rise 8 feet 5 inches. Soup at night.

[26 Aug.] A bitter day. Strong breeze Northerly and cloudy. Ice going to the South nearly all day, and after 6 P.M. very rapidly. Evening and night very stormy. Our first cask of bread finished to-day and 12 lbs. over Soup at night.

[27 Aug.] Opened a cask of bread. Strong breezes and cloudy with heavy squalls and snow at times. High water at 0.20 A.M. 5 inches higher than last night's tide. Ice continuing to run to the South at 2 or 3 miles per hour. Gale continued with heavy squalls. At noon ice still going rapidly to the south apparently very slack, and at times ? to $1/2$ a mile off the land here and to the Southward of us. 3 hands went to the 2nd bluff and brought very favourable accounts of the appearance of the water along the land as far as the most distant point they could see, a very large hole amongst the pack in the offing. Ice continued all night to drive rapidly to the South and the wind coming more off the land, the pack edge was hardly in sight from the beach the following morning.

[28 Aug.] Wind blowing in such violent gusts that we could not launch the boats until noon when we made sail along the land. We continued our course along shore without interruptions except from the existence of the squalls. The sporadic at times flying over us in clouds reduced us to bare poles, at other times light baffling winds and the variable direction and force of the gusts, kept us in constant anxiety and danger. No. 1 nearly ?? and No. 3 carried away her main boom. We however made rapid progress along shore and at midnight, having reached the South point of Elwin Bay, all hands being thoroughly drenched and frozen, and a threatening night, we landed and pitched on a small piece of beach. Several white and some black whales seen in the course of the day.

[29 Aug.] Moderate breezes Southerly and hazy weather. Started at 2 P.M. and stood over to the pack edge and coasted along it to the Northward, leading ahead all day. At 9 P.M. coming on to blow hard from the South, night very dark and hazy with snow and visible swell getting up. We found ourselves embayed in a bight of the ice, and were obliged to carry heavy press of sail to beat out again. Pitched in close under Cape Seppings where we found some shelter for the boats among the loose and grounded ice. Night stormy with snow.

[30 Aug.] At 2 A.M. we were obliged to shift our berth to a more secure place, but the weather prevented our starting until near 2 P.M. when, standing out to the East, we made the pack, which not affording any opening, we tacked and stood inshore again and landed on a beach forming the North point of the bay north of Cape Seppings [Whaler Point at Port Leopold; see Fig. 10]. Foggy with snow, wind Southerly. Several Eskx huts made of whalebones. Beat the other two boats very much both yesterday and to-day, particularly beating to windward.

[31 Aug.] Moderate breezes Easterly with snow. Saw the opposite shore — an extensive pack between us and it. Port Bowen, Jackson Inlet, Neill Harbour, Cape York and all the indentations were clearly seen — also the North shore of Lancaster Sound. A very few dwarf flowers of the *Parrya arctica* found. Eskimaux winter huts of bones of small whales near a lake (No. 3 of survey). Harbour or bay nearly landlocked but has not broken up this year yet. P.M. wind N.E. ice drawing to the S.E. rapidly. Evening wind North, ice S.W. Saw much open water North of the isthmus. Strong breeze at night.

[1 Sept.] Wind shifted during the night and this morning it was blowing hard from the Westward, cleared the ice out of this bay and passed [?] off the point. Pack not very distant from the land and rather slack at the edge. A remarkable fossil of *Corallicus* found of large size near our tents. At night an owl that paid us a visit carried off the contents of 2 barrels severely hurt losing much blood as it flew out to seaward and fell.

[2 Sept.] A strong breeze from the West confined us all day, but in the afternoon I went round the bay and erected stations for a survey. Numbers of shells among seaweed at head of bay. Sent a hand along shore to look for owl but was not to be found.

[3 Sept.] A fine day. Soon after noon, ascended the N.E. hill which, from having taken a very steep part of it, I had much difficulty to accomplish, encumbered with my gun and implements. An extensive view from this position was by no means cheering; the pack was seen as far as the eye could reach but there were many lanes (?) of holes of water amongst it. ["I ascended the mountain which is in reality the north-east point of America, whence I obtained a sight of Cape Warrender and Hope's Monument on one side, and, on the other, Cape York, with the headlands beyond it, including the whole of that part of the sound which is called Barrow's strait. This was an unbroken field of ice: there was not a pool of water to be seen; everything was precisely such as it had been on the thirty-first of August in 1818. It was a bad prospect; since it seemed to prophesy that we should yet be compelled to return to Fury beach" (Ross, 1835:665).] Got good angles and completed the survey of this bay as we returned, having in the forenoon measured a base of 1500 feet for that purpose. At night a young fox came to our tents, and I shot it. — in a state of change — dark markings of summer are now ash grey — beard light entirely.

[4 Sept.] Strong breeze from the S.W. and a good wash of a sea against the point obliged us, at high water in the evening, to haul our boats higher up on the land ice. The pack kept at a distance of 6 or 7 miles from the land and was going fast to the N.E. A large shoal of white whales came close to the shore, several were wounded and pursued by the others. No. 1 [boat] much injured by surfing, transom ? broke. Another fox shot.

[5 Sept.] Early this morning the wind shifted round to the Southward with fine snow. At 9, the pack hardly visible to the S.E., but blowing too hard for us to run down to it. 3 hands sent to the hill to look out and, for some snow gusts, they were not able to see so far from the top as from the foot, a dense haze covering the ?. In the evening, the ice came close to the land. [Marginal observation gives latitude $73^{\circ}49'$ (approx).]

[6 Sept.] Blowing hard with thick snowy weather. Ther. last night down to $+14^{\circ}$ Ice near the shore, stream from the main (?) hazy so pack was at a good distance off. Two young foxes that were caught for our supper proved excellent food. The soup, had a very disagreeable smell and very bad taste, quite unfit for use. A raven, a turnstone, some buntings and kittiwakes seen.

[7 Sept.] More moderate wind westerly with small snow. Ice not far from the land and going slowly yesterday and today to the South. P.M. calm with snow and milder, but young ice forming in the protected places of the bay. In the evening, strong wind with much drift and a very cold night. Pack quite close in with the land. Blowing violently at about 10 P.M. Dark night.

[8 Sept.] At 9 A.M., Ther. $+14^{\circ}$. Blowing a strong N.N.E. with much drift. No prospect appeared this morning of getting away, the pack drifting to the South. Towards noon wind

abated, and calm in the evening was followed at night by light Southerly wind and cloudy weather. Aby shot a young fox. Ther. +13° during the night and floes of ice forming.

[9 Sept.] Much young ice, a floe drifting about. No opportunity offered of getting away, but much water seen on the pack. Several whales and a young one seen. Shot another young fox.

[10 Sept.] Light Southerly wind. Cloudy. A better prospect presented itself this morning, the pack streaming off to the northward but insufficiently so to allow us to make any attempt to cross, though weather yesterday and to-day has been comparatively mild. The floe of young ice had not yet disappeared. Several flocks of snow buntings of this year, very backward in change though the season is so unusually severe. H.W. at noon, H.W. at 11.45 P.M. A whale seen.

[11 Sept.] Ther. above +26° all day. A fine mild day. Much ice appeared between us and the opposite land. Fixed stations in isthmus [between Port Leopold and Rodd Bay] for measuring its breadth and extending survey to the North Bay [Rodd Bay] and to Leopold Island.

Much violent contention about the propriety of returning to Fury Beach has occurred these last few days. All our tent are unanimous in the wish to persevere to the last. ["These debates served to keep up our spirits: the sanguine, in the heat of their arguments, magnifying our prospects of success and the timid and desponding thus gaining some courage from the very speculations and anticipations which they were opposing.

[Each of our three tents thus formed a kind of deliberative party, or a little society . . . Commander Ross, who had always been the most sanguine, was still the leader of the hopeful, at least nearly up to this time . . . The contrary opinion prevailed in the party of Mr. Thom, whose excellent qualities in all other points were not accompanied by that spirit of confidence which belongs in general to a period of life which my excellent friend had passed [he was younger than John Ross himself] . . . My own tent alone was one of divided opinions; and it afforded, therefore, the greater opportunities for these discussions" (Ross, 1935:669).] H.W. at 0.15 P.M. This is the third high rise. Have had the stove in our tent and have derived much benefit from it. 9 P.M. light Westerly wind and a cloudy mild night.

[12 Sept.] A fine morning. Set off at 10 A.M. with 3 hands to measure a base line (9016 feet) on the isthmus in order to survey both the bays and determine breadth of isthmus. Shot 2 ptarmigans and saw many snow buntings. Returned at 6 P.M. after a hard day's walking. During our absence the ice had been driven close in with the beach by the Easterly wind. Night cloudy and very mild.

[13 Sept.] Light variable wind and ice close in with the land, very little water to be seen amongst it. Some snow at times in the morning. Ther. +31°, fine reasonable weather. A fox seen and a raven passes every day. Employed examining red insect from fresh water lake.

[14 Sept.] An Easterly wind brought the pack close in with the land and precluded any hope of crossing to-day. A mild day with some snow at times. Many whales heard blowing last night and one seen to-day. Shot another young fox. Contents of crop of ptarmigan — *Cerastium*, *Draba* and papaver.

[15 Sept.] Light N.Ely wind and clear weather, a fine morning. Took 3 hands with me to the N.E. point of America, where we erected a cairn and hoisted our colours, completed the survey and returned at 7 P.M. Kept up Saturday night

blowing fresh from the N.E., and much snow and drift during the night.

[16 Sept.] Strong breezes, squally with snow and drift. A young kittiwake flew into our tent for shelter, was taken alive. Ice close packed against this shore and no motion could be observed. In the evening more moderate with continued snow. Received bread from No. 1 — 50 lbs. Blowing hard all night.

[17 Sept.] 4 A.M., +25°. Strong breezes N.E. and snow at times. Commenced this morning on the bread we received from No. 1 — 19½ cannisters for 50 lbs., our casks having some 12 lbs. over.

[18 Sept.] A fresh Southerly breeze. Capt. Ross consulted me as to the proper period to return to Fury Beach. This measure I would not recommend to be pursued until the end of the month at earliest, and in the meantime to go on half allowance, so that we might take advantage of any opportunity of proceeding that might occur. He acquiesced in the first, but differed on the latter. I shot a young and an old fox, and 1 ptarmigan, Dr. 4 and Abernethy 2.

[19 Sept.] A strong Southerly breeze and thick weather. Bay ice very strong. Main body drifting fast to the North and much clear water. Too much wind to start. Shot 1 ptarmigan, saw an ivory gull. More clear at night.

[20 Sept. — No entry.]

[21 Sept.] Walked to the N.E. point of America again. Saw 2 grouse. Abernethy shot 2 ptarmigan at night close to the tents.

[22 Sept.] Took a walk round the bay. Saw a fox. People went for water. Ther. +5° this morning. Ice came in with much pressure in the evening. Calm and fine.

[23 Sept.] Calm and fine. A flock of 20 grouse seen. Ice in motion but no opportunity occurred of going either way. Issued 3 days bread to No. 1 and 4 days to ourselves, No. 3 having 4 days surplus. A row about it in the evening. Strong N.E. breeze and a mild night.

[24 Sept.] A fresh Northerly breeze. Ther. +27° at noon. In the evening more Westerly with snowdrift. Shot 3 ptarmigan and saw a fox. ["On the twenty-fourth, everyone agreed that all hope was at an end, and that it only remained for us to return to Fury Beach" (Ross, 1835:667).]

[25 Sept.] Shot a grouse. Went for a walk but was recalled, the ice moving off. At noon we made sail with an offshore wind to the Southward, and encamped at 6 P.M. at Elwin Bay (sleeping in the boat). More moderate at night and much bay ice. Shot another grouse this morning from a flock of 10 or 12.

[26 Sept.] Light airs. Cast off at 5.30 A.M. and pulled and sailed along the land. Breakfasted at 10. No. 3 very far behind, went back to their assistance. Pulled along the land again until 1.20 P.M. the ice closing obliged us to haul the boats up on high ice close to a projecting low point, having come 7 or 8 miles. Shot a young Glaucous gull. Many small and some large *G. cadmanus* (?) [not identified in Appendix to Ross, 1835] seen. Much bay ice all day and snow at night. A fox seen.

[27 Sept.] Shot a fox. Made a slip for launching the boats off. A breeze off the land. Day extremely cold and ice quite close packed against the shore. Snow at night.

[28 Sept.] Blew hard at night. At 5 A.M. clear water along shore, launched the boats and made sail. Pulling and sailing — violent squalls — got to a place of safety to breakfast 11.30 A.M. Soon after became fine and we again launched at 2 P.M. Much difficulty in making our way through the floes of the bay ice, which at length obliged us to haul the boats up on the ground ice — the main body closing. Blowing hard at times during the night. Dr. shot 5 out of 11 Rock grouse, Aby a young and an old Glaucous.

[29 Sept.] A fine morning. Bay ice very strong and going fast to the North. We were unable to proceed. A very cold night.

[30 Sept.] A fine morning. The ice began to move off at noon, and we launched the boats working from hole to hole among the bay ice and, crossing Batty Bay, hauled the boats up at 4 P.M. 1¹/₄ from the south point of the bay and landed all our heavy things in readiness to haul the boats to the beach. A mild night. Aby shot a fox.

[1 Oct.] George shot a fox. A mild day. Directly after breakfast we commenced hauling the boats over the young ice that now filled this bay to the beach, each occupying 1¹/₂ hours. It was completed at 6 P.M. Not the least hope of our being able to proceed to Fury Point by sea. ["We had fixed on the twenty-fifth of September for our departure . . . and from that date we had but ten days' provisions left, at half allowance, while we had not fuel enough remaining to melt the snow which would be required for our consumption of water. Thus did our arrival at Batty bay turn out to be a most providential circumstance, as there were, from this point, but thirty-two miles of direct distance remaining; a line which all the intricacies and obstructions of the route could not well increase to more than forty" (Ross, 1835:674).]

[2 Oct.] Began to make sledges of our bread casks to carry our clothes etc. to the beach as it was now evident that we should have to go by land, and this being considered a desirable place for our boats to be left. Came on to blow hard at night with violent squalls and drift, but this moderated towards the following morning.

[3 Oct.] Wind moderated and shifted to the S.E. A fine mild day with snow. Completed our arrangements and finished sledges. At 7 P.M. all was ready for an early start. Shot a raven. Went to look at bay, also the road we have to go, which was by no means promising.

[4 Oct.] A hazy morning with snow and high temp. made the travelling extremely fatiguing and, owing to the weight of the load and bad sledges, we did not get above 3 or 4 miles after a day of very hard labour. The necessity now of abandoning everything but what was actually necessary to be taken with us was now imperative, and a party could afterwards return with good sledges and fetch them.

[5 Oct.] We accordingly set out next morning with little else than our beds and provisions on the sledges and, being favoured with better weather and the road improving, we made a good day's progress of about 10 miles. A mouse caught by George escaped again from him.

[6 Oct.] We proceeded again on our journey early this morning and made good progress, No. 2 far ahead. Encamped on North shore of valley on chart. 2 sent back to assist the other sledges.

[7 Oct.] A fine morning for our work. Barney and John Wood [seaman] of no service to us. Shreeve sent to No. 1 sledge made our labour this day very great but we kept up and had the satisfaction all to arrive in safety at Fury Point early in the afternoon. Capt. R. addressed a few words to the people, and we took possession of our winter quarters.

[8 Oct.] Moderate breeze from the northward, but day tolerably fine and was allowed to the crew as a day of rest.

[9 Oct.] Strong breeze N.W. and drift. Began to make arrangements for a party to go away for the things we had left behind us, as soon as the weather would admit.

[10 Oct. — No entry.]

[11 Oct.] Sledges and provisions all ready for our party to start, but the inclemency of the weather prevented it to-day. Much clear water occasionally made along the land excited the hope that a boat load of provisions might yet be conveyed to some distance to the North. The gig was therefore got ready and as much provision as she would carry in case of an opportunity offering.

[12 Oct.] Hard gale continued. We experienced extreme cold in our cabins, particularly on the windward side where the ther. must have been at or near -30° .

[13 Oct.] More moderate but with violent squalls. At 10 A.M., ther. -21° . 2 foxes caught.

[14 Oct.] Frequent intervals of light winds which, in the afternoon, were at times from the Southward, but a gale came on at night and it blew with great violence.

* * * * *

James Clark Ross's diary ends here, with a note "see continuation in journal No. 5," the remaining pages of the diary having been used previously in 1827. Unfortunately, the No. 5 journal has not survived.

On 17 October, the gale abated, and James Ross departed with a party to retrieve the stores that had been left some 40 km to the north on 4 October, returning 21 October. Among the stores recovered was a stove, which was to make a great difference to the comfort of Somerset House.

During the winter Chimham Thomas, the carpenter, died of scurvy (the only death directly attributable to the conditions of the expedition), others suffered from it, and John Ross himself was troubled by his old wounds. In April and May 1833 James Ross, with the few available fit expedition members, travelled to Batty Bay with sufficient provisions to last from 1 July to 1 October. The entire party of twenty departed Somerset House for the last time on 8 July, with three men being carried on sledges and three additional men unable to haul. They were forced to spend a month at Batty Bay and finally arrived at Port Leopold on 16 August. On 17 August they were able to cross Prince Regent Inlet. Finally, on 26 August, they were picked up by a whaler at the entrance of Lancaster Sound which, by extraordinary coincidence, was the *Isabella*, which John Ross himself commanded on an earlier arctic expedition in 1818.

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