

sch. "Clara L. Sparks" of Provincetown 96 tons -

Journal of a whaling voyage on board Schooner Clara L. Sparks
Capt Henry Sparks commanding May 1 1876

Monday May 1

This day came on board and got under way
at 4:30 the wind NW passed Race Light at sundown
Highland light 8:30 at 11 o'clock Chatham lights bore WNW
7 miles distance from which I take my departure course S 64 E

Tuesday May 2

This day commenced with fresh breezes from
the Westward took in the mainsail at 1:30 and set
the topsail and double reefed the foresail

Wednesday May 3

This day commenced with fresh NW winds with much
rain Steady S by W at 8 o'clock reefed the foresail at 2 pm
took the mizzen out of the topsail and set

Thursday May 4

This day commenced with a fresh gale from the N E
arriving under double reefed foresail at 3:53 - New Point Light
of Provincetown while standing on the lee side of the quarter
the vessel gave a heavy lurch and heaving his balance was
thrown violently against the rail of the vessel and from that
overboard as it was blowing heavy at the time with a very heavy
sea and the vessel going at the rate of 7 miles an hour we could
do nothing to save him we have the helm down but as the vessel
was drifting S by E and being in danger of having our decks swept
we was compelled to leave the fore jellies Lat 36.53 Lon 69.02

Friday May 5

This day commenced with N breezes and then backed to
the North haul out the main boom and put her on the cranes and sent
up the bowsprit and mainmast S by E steering S by W Lat 35.27 Lon 69.30