

## DIARY OF THE REV. JOHN HENRY HELFFRICH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1771—JANUARY 14, 1772.

Translated from the German, by PROF. WILLIAM J. HINKE, Ph.D.

John Henry Helffrich was the son of John Peter Helffrich, a saddler in Mosbach, a town in the Palatinate, and of his wife, Ann Margaret Dietz. He was born October 22, 1739, at Mosbach. His father died soon after the birth of his only son. Sometime afterwards his mother married the Rev. Peter Helffenstein, pastor at Sinsheim, in the Palatinate. John Henry grew up in the family of his stepfather. On February 2, 1758, he matriculated as student of theology in the University of Heidelberg. In September, 1761, he was licensed as candidate of theology. Then he preached several years as assistant to his stepfather in Sinsheim and Rohrbach. Later he was for several years vicar at Reyen, Kirchhard and Steinfurt. On July 4, 1771, he was commissioned by the Synods of Holland as missionary to Pennsylvania. With him went also his half-brother, John Conrad Albert Helffenstein and a third native of the Palatinate, John Gabriel Gebhard. All three became German Reformed ministers in Pennsylvania. They landed in New York on January 14, 1772. On his arrival in Philadelphia, Mr. Helffrich was sent to the Maxatawny charge, consisting of congregations in Lehigh and Berks Counties, namely Weisenburg, Lowhill, Heidelberg, Long Swamp, Kutztown and others. These he served till his death, Dec. 5, 1810.

*Diary.*

On September 6, 1771, in the morning, after nine o'clock, we set sail from Amsterdam. At twelve

o'clock we struck ground and needed help, that is, a lighter ship had to take our larger ship in tow. At four we ate our dinner. At eight we drank coffee and nine o'clock we cast anchor in the Zuyder Zee and went to sleep.

On the 7th, in the morning at 5 o'clock, the anchors were weighed. We had a strong wind so that we could not stand erect. My cousin and his wife,<sup>1</sup> as well as my brother, were seasick in the morning, when they wanted to get up and hence had to stay in bed. Mr. Gebhard<sup>2</sup> and I kept well till two o'clock, when we, too, felt a touch of seasickness, but there was no outward eruption. At twelve o'clock we came to [the island of] Texel, where we cast anchor with great difficulty. It is very dangerous there because of the many sand bars. We passed very close to a stranded ship. The wind blew very strongly till night and the ship was in continual motion. At two o'clock we ate two chickens, but they did not taste well. At 4 o'clock we drank coffee. At 8 o'clock we ate ham and eggs and slept quietly.

On the 8th, Sunday, we intended to weigh anchors, but the wind was so strongly set against us that we kept anchored. Towards evening it stormed so fiercely that the topmost masts had to be taken down. We could make no fire on the ship and the captain cooked the soup for the child<sup>3</sup> over candle light. At night, at

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<sup>1</sup> As mentioned later, under date November 9th, the name of this cousin was Mr. Doll. What became of him is unknown, cf. Wm. A. Helffrich, *Geschichte verschiedener Gemeinder in Lecha und Berks Counties*, etc. Allentown, 1891, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> John Gabriel Gebhard was born February 2, 1750, at Waldorf, in the Palatinate. He matriculated in Heidelberg University in January, 1768. He was commissioned for Pennsylvania in August, 1771. Traveled to America with Helffrich and Helffenstein. He was pastor of Witpen and Worcester, Montgomery County, 1772-1794. Left the Reformed Coetus of Pennsylvania and entered the Dutch Reformed Church. Was pastor of the German Reformed Church in New York City, 1774-1776, at Claverack, N. Y., 1776-1826. Died August 16, 1826, at Claverack, N. Y.

<sup>3</sup> This was probably the child of Helffrich's cousin, Mr. Doll.

11 o'clock, another ship passed us and tore away our anchor; another anchor was cast out immediately. We went asleep during a very violent wind.

On the 9th the wind blew strongly. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon it blew so fiercely that three anchors had to be cast and the sails had to be taken down. Mr. Gebhard was compelled to stay in bed most of the day, but he could not find relief. It rained most awfully.

On the 10th the wind died down somewhat but it was contrary. To-day we had great fun with our captain on account of the language.

On the 11th the wind became stronger again. Another ship, which was unable to make use of its anchors, circled around our ship and once rammed into us hard.

On the 12th the wind calmed down, but it was still contrary. The cabin boy wanted to dry a pillow to-day for the child, but threw it into the sea.

On the 13th we at last got south wind. The anchors were weighed, the sails were hoisted and we left the dangerous Zuyder Zee. After 8 o'clock we sailed into the Texel [Stroom] and at 12 o'clock we were in the ocean. In the afternoon there was a calm, hence we could not get very far. At night the wind rose again with a continuous rain till

The 14th, towards evening, but it was contrary wind for us.

On the 15th the wind was still contrary till evening, when we got good wind. During the whole night we were unable to sleep because of the awful rocking of the ship. This continued

The 16th till noon, when we reached the harbor of New Castle. But, because of the contrary wind and the tide, we could not enter port before evening.

On the 17th we went to the wall with the sloop. Here we were met by a large number of people who kissed the child and wanted us to kiss their children.

On the 18th we went to New Castle. Here we had the same experience.

On the 19th we went to the wall with the captain.

On the 20th and the 21st we stayed on the ship. During these days we got two more passengers.

On the 22d we went to the wall.<sup>4</sup>

On the 23d Mr. Gebhard went to the wall together with cousin's wife to make purchases. The mate and a sailor came to blows.

On the 24th we went to the other side of the wall and looked at the glass works.

On the 25th we went to the wall.

On the 26th we stayed on the ship.

On the 27th likewise.

On the 28th, 29th and 30th we went to the wall.

On the first of October we went to the wall and took up another passenger.

On the 2d we wanted to go to sea, but the wind was contrary, hence we went to the wall.

On the 3d to the 5th we remained in the harbor. During this time Mr. Gebhard fell deeply in love with Mad. Wirth, and she with him.

On Sunday, the 6th, at noon, after 1 o'clock, in company with many ships, of which two bumped into ours, we left the harbor, with the rising tide and made for the ocean. Towards evening, all of us, except my brother,<sup>5</sup> became violently seasick.

On the 7th the seasickness continued. The wind was contrary to us and the waves in great number swept into the ship.

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<sup>4</sup>The wall referred to is probably Hadrian's wall, which touches the River Tyne at Wallsend, four miles east of New Castle. See "Hadrian's Wall" in *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

<sup>5</sup>This was his half-brother, John Conrad Albert Helffenstein. He was born at Mosbach on February 16, 1748; matriculated at Heidelberg University, May 7, 1765; commissioned for Pennsylvania, July, 1771; pastor at Germantown, 1772-1776, at Lancaster, 1776-79; at Germantown again, 1779-1790. Died May 17, 1790. Two volumes of his sermons were published after his death.

On the 8th the seasickness left us. The wind was still contrary. The waves were constantly dashing on deck. The sailors had to stand in water on the deck up to the calves of their legs. Mr. Gebhard attempted to go on deck, but a wave came and made him wet through and through.

On the 9th and 10th the wind continued.

On the 11th we saw Holland and [the island of] Texel; but, because of the contrary wind, we could not enter the channel. We had to stay in bed constantly, had no appetite, did not smoke, and at night slept hardly at all. But to-day we ventured on deck and smoked a pipe of tobacco.

On the 12th the wind was strongly opposed to us. We were tacking all this time. This morning a wave came through a window into the cabin of a passenger. He nearly drowned in bed. Towards evening we had a severe storm. For two days only few sails could stay up.

On the 13th we had a terrific storm. The sails were taken in, the uppermost masts had to come down, the rudder was tied fast and the ship was surrendered to the storm and waves. The waves came rolling like mountains, now we were high up, now deep down, now lying on one side and then again on the other. We passed a sleepless night, the waves dashing into our cabin.

On the 14th the storm continued. Shutters were tied against the windows that the waves might not break them. The whole day we had a light in our cabin. Many chickens and ducks, which were on deck, perished because of the quantities of sea water there. In general, since we left Amsterdam, 80 chickens have perished. We were thrown back by the storm so far that it will take us two days to get to the place where we were. Two masts and the forecastle of the ship were damaged. It is fortunate that our ship is so strong

and that we were on the open sea, where we have little to fear from sand banks and rocks. The roaring of the wind and the raging of the waves was terrible to hear. When the waves struck the ship it sounded like the roaring and rattling of cannons. We surrendered ourselves to the divine providence. During the night the storm subsided somewhat, but the sea still raged furiously. My brother became very seasick.

On the 15th, towards noon, the sails were hoisted. Towards evening we had a right good wind, and sailed a little more steadily, although the ship tossed badly.

On the 16th the cabin-boy had a disagreeable breakfast, for the captain thrashed him soundly, because, by his silly talk, he brought about disagreements between the captain and the first mate. The wind was favorable till night, when it became contrary again.

On the 17th we had another storm. The sails were taken in, the rudder was fastened and the ship was given over to the storm. At night, when we were just eating our cold meat, left over from noon, we were frightened not a little. The cabin-boy shouted, full of alarm, to the captain. He jumped from the table and rushed to the deck. He called to a passenger and the light was taken away from our table and carried on deck. I also left the cabin to see what had happened, because we could not understand the French, but I could not see anything and returned to the cabin, yet I was frightened because of the alarming shouts on deck. When the captain came down into the cabin, we were relieved from our fright. I asked him what had happened. Then he told us that a large ship had been heading straight for us with full sails, which because it had the wind in its favor, might easily have run our ship down. My brother had to give up his meals twice.

Through the first storm, on the 13th, we were carried adrift close to Hamburg, but the second storm, on the 17th, did not drive us back so far.

On the 19th the wind was still contrary. The distance which we covered in two weeks we could have traveled in three days with a favorable wind.

On the 20th we got at last good wind.

On the 21st we saw France and England. At 11 o'clock we reached the [English] channel. During the night the wind changed and we met a southwester. This contrary wind lasted till

The 22d.

The 23d and 24th we had largely west wind, which was also contrary for us. Toward evening there was a calm, which continued till

The 25th, towards noon, then there was a violent storm from the west. Towards evening we were off Cowes.

On the 26th, in the afternoon, we entered the harbor. We had ourselves at once transported to the land, where we stayed till

The 30th at night about 11 o'clock. Here we learned that during the last storms more than a hundred ships had been wrecked. Our cousin here recovered from his dangerous illness.

On the 31st, in the morning at 2 o'clock, the anchors were weighed and we sailed with a good but light wind till

The 3d of November, then it became contrary. Towards evening we got a strong northwest wind. This was very good and continued until

The 4th, at night, when it subsided. At this time we left the channel.

On the 5th we had southeast wind, but it was not strong.

On the 6th it blew stronger.

On the 7th we had very strong wind from east north-east. In twenty-four hours we covered 132 English miles.

On the 8th we had a strong east wind. We traveled

130 English miles. During this time the waves repeatedly dashed over the ship and it tossed very much.

On the 9th we had a very strong east wind. The ship covered 150 English miles in twenty-four hours. During the last night a rat tried to take the comforter away from the child, and, as it did not want to give it up, it was bitten in the finger, which bled very profusely. The child screamed, the mother awoke and the rat ran off, without accomplishing its purpose. In the afternoon the wind veered about and we got south wind. After 1 o'clock we were greatly alarmed. Around us black clouds had gathered, it thundered and lightened, all sails were taken in during a heavy down-pour. We passengers helped to haul the sails in, but as they were very heavy, several ropes broke. Twice we met a whirlwind. Fortunately the sails had all been taken in. A wave struck against a window and broke it, so that the whole wave dashed into the cabin. Mr. Gebhard, who was not far from the window, was covered with water, so that nothing was visible of him any more. My brother also got wet, the rest of us retired upon boxes and trunks. The bed of one passenger was filled with water. Our terror was still more increased when the captain called to us to load our rifles. Cousin Doll had a double-barreled gun. I had an ordinary gun. Mr. Gebhard's was covered with grease, hence he could not use it. These are all the firearms on board, we do not even have a cannon. We loaded the double- and single-barreled guns quickly with heavy charges, then we went on deck to learn the cause of the trouble. There we saw that all our sails had quickly been hoisted to escape our danger. The danger was this, the water around us here and there was drawn up in the form of an arrow. When it falls, it comes down with such force that, if it hits a ship, it breaks it to pieces, and even if it touches the ship but slightly, it smashes the deck. It follows the ships.



The English call it a water spout, in Latin it is called *cataracta e nube*, or *rapidus ex aere nimbus*. The only means to scatter the rising water is to break it up by shooting. Towards evening we escaped from this danger as the clouds scattered somewhat. At eight o'clock at night a wave hit the window again, and threw it down, but did not break it. My brother and Mr. Gebhard were again drenched pretty well. I sat at the table upon a trunk and, as I did not lift up my feet quickly enough, the water ran into my shoes. We are to-day not far from the Azores, between them and Lisbon. At night the shutters were tied on.

On the 10th we had northeast wind. This morning a fight took place between the first mate and a sailor. The captain was called, who seized a rope and lashed him thoroughly with it. From twelve o'clock yesterday till twelve o'clock to-day we sailed only 98 English miles. Towards evening we encountered a strong south wind. A passenger had hardly made his bed with great difficulty, when a wave splashed again through the window and drenched everything.

On the 11th we had little east wind. It was as warm to-day as it is on St. John's day [June 24] in the Palatinate.

On the 12th we had north wind. We traveled only 42 English miles. During the last night we could not move for six hours, for we had no wind. At night northeast wind.

On the 13th we had little north wind. We sailed 68 English miles. In the afternoon the captain, first mate, cabin-boy and three sailors dived into the ocean head first. They swam about for some time, either on their stomachs, their side or their back, stood up straight in the water, one even turned a somersault.

On the 14th the wind was contrary, southwest, and hence we had to go northwest. We did not make more than 37 English miles. The night before we stopped altogether for six hours, because we had no wind.

On the 15th the wind was still strongly southwest. We sailed W.N.W. We made 84 English miles. During the night we sailed 14 miles S.E.S. Deducting these 14 miles, which we went back, 70 miles still remain. During the night a rat bit six holes in the finger of the child. It bled profusely. Brother got seasick.

On the 16th the wind was northeast. We went S.W. by W. We made 58 English miles.

On the 17th the wind was south. We made 115 English miles. During the night we got S.W. wind.

On the 18th we had very violent S.W. wind. We sailed towards N.W. The storm raged so furiously that only two sails could stay hoisted up. One sail was torn by the wind, several ropes broke and the rudder was tied fast. Towards evening and during the night the storm was most severe. When the shutters had just been fastened on the windows, a wave broke through a window. We took refuge on trunks and boxes. A passenger, who was lying in bed, jumped out in great haste, but he was drenched all through. The waves broke the stove, a very necessary article. We were no longer troubled by the rats, which before annoyed us frequently. During this storm the wind roared more violently than on the 12th and 13th of August. The sea also was very boisterous. The waves were like the highest mountains. The cook, when before the stove, was almost thrown overboard by a wave. The western sea is not as dangerous because of its wide extent, as the north sea. On the latter the waves follow each other more rapidly and often dash against each other. We made 86 miles towards W.N.W.

On the 20th the wind was W. We sailed W. by S. We made 55 English miles.

On the 21st the wind was S.W. We went W. and N.W. We made 65 miles.

On the 22d we had almost no wind. We made only 19 miles.

On the 23d but little wind. We made only 4 miles towards S.W. by W. This afternoon the captain dived again into the sea, almost three stories high.

On the 24th we had little east wind. We made 52 English miles towards S.W. by W.

On the 25th the wind was contrary, S.W. and W. Since 12 o'clock noon yesterday till 4 o'clock this morning we sailed 30 miles S.W., and till 12 o'clock 32 miles W.N.W. and N.W.N.

On the 26th we had contrary S.W. wind. We sailed most of the time southward and made 89 miles.

On the 27th the wind was still S.W. We sailed 104 miles, partly S. by W., partly south. This morning one of our hogs, weighing 20 [!] pounds was slaughtered. Now we have still another hog of about 35 pounds. For eight days we have had no beef, nothing but some sides of bacon and peas. All the flour, which we intended to save up, has been spoiled by the rats. What will become of us? But God will help us.

On the 28th the wind was largely N.E. We made 96 miles, 72 towards south by west, and 24 miles W.S.W.

On the 29th wind E.N.E. We sailed 80 miles W.S.W.

On the 30th the wind E.N.E. We went 66 miles towards W.S.W. In the afternoon and evening we had no wind. The captain, first mate and several sailors took a dip [in the ocean]. A passenger and a sailor had themselves tied to the ship with a rope, in order to be able to bathe. This was an amusing sight, for they swallowed a good deal of salt water. They did not dare to go far away from the ship because of the large fish in the neighborhood. A few days ago one was very close to the ship. He lashed the water surprisingly high. He was from ten to fourteen feet long, according to the mate. This kind of fish have the mouth under the body. They have not only long teeth and can bite off a human arm or leg, but they can swallow a man whole.

On December 1st, the wind was N.W. We sailed 33 miles southwest by west. Towards evening the wind blew strongly.

On the 2d wind N.E. We went 108 miles W.S.W.

On the 3d the wind N.E. We went 104 miles W.S.W.

On the 4th the wind N.N.E. We went 109 miles W.S.W. This afternoon we almost engaged in a naval battle. Since yesterday we saw a ship in the distance, which was taking its course westward. Early to-day we saw it just ahead of us. It was going fast as it was not heavily laden. They hauled in their sail and thereby gave us to understand that they wanted to speak with us. Our captain directed his course westward and in the afternoon at 3 o'clock we were near it. It carried a white flag and was a French ship going to Martinique. The captains asked each other through the speaking trumpet where they came from and where they were going to. The French captain asked for longitude and latitude and our captain gave them to him. As we had not hoisted a flag, the French captain was displeased and insisted that we hoist one and because we did not do it immediately, he threatened to fire on us with his cannons. If we had only had six cannons, he probably would not have threatened us, or our captain would have made him regret his threat. But now he ordered the flag to be brought up and hoisted, but before it was fully hoisted, he ordered it down again. This annoyed the Frenchman still more. He hauled back several cannons as if to load them. If he had fired on us, our captain, as he said, would have sailed so as to take the wind from him. That would have led to a hand-to-hand fight. But the Frenchman sailed away without firing.

On the 5th wind E.N.E. We went 126 miles towards west.

On the 6th wind E.S.E. We went 109 miles towards west.

On the 7th wind E.S.E. We went 130 miles westward.

On the 8th wind south. We sailed 120 miles W. by N.

On the 9th wind generally south. We made 90 miles towards west by north. This evening at five o'clock, when the sails were shifted about, the captain, the mate and a German sailor heard on the middle mast, below which they stood, a plaintive voice as of a dying man, calling out three times: "O, Yes," the last time it was very low. Towards evening there was vivid lightning, but in the distance.

On the 10th wind S.S.W. We sailed only 65 miles W. by N. In the afternoon we had at one time this, at another time that wind, and again none at all, but repeatedly awful rain.

On the 11th wind generally south. We made 60 miles W. by S. At 12 o'clock, at noon, we had a heavy thunderstorm with awful rain, and at 2 o'clock a violent storm. The middle part of the foremast [the foretopmast] broke and much rigging was torn. It was a sad sight. Moreover, we heard the sad news that it would become worse. May God help us! Along the coast of America there must have been a terrible storm for several days, for the waves coming from N.W. are like high mountains. Near us the storm quickly subsided. The wind came from the north and the sea was very stormy. For two days we have been dissatisfied with our captain. We complained about his poor food, which we can hardly stand. The captain hardly talks to us, but we do not care for that. We have the sailors on our side. These also complain very much. They often beat the cook, but they mean the captain. On

The 12th wind N.E. We sailed 87 miles westward. To-day the piece of the broken mast was again repaired. A storm comes frequently, then the upper

sails have to be taken in. The middle part of the mizzen mast is also split and the bow of the ship is broken. Everything presents a wretched appearance. The child was bitten twice yesterday by rats on the forehead and on the hand.

On the 13th the wind was east. We sailed 100 miles W. by S.

On the 14th the wind was east. We sailed 100 miles towards west. The captain began yesterday to be friendly again. He fears that we might lodge complaints against him before the merchants in New York and in Amsterdam, to whom the ship belongs.

On the 15th the wind was south. We sailed 105 miles towards west. At noon we met black clouds and at night we had a heavy thunderstorm.

On the 16th the wind was north. We sailed 83 miles towards west. In the afternoon and at night we had hardly any wind.

On the 17th the wind was W.N.W. We sailed only 30 miles S.W. by S. This wind continued till

The 18th, in the morning, at 6 o'clock we got north wind. We sailed 86 miles, partly S.W. by S., partly towards west. This afternoon we caught the first fish with the line. It was a dolphin, weighing between 40 and 50 pounds, which was quite good. It had in its stomach a flying fish and one which was white all over and full of sharp points like a hedgehog. We had already caught three flying fish, which had fallen on the ship. They cannot fly far.

On the 19th the wind was N.E. We sailed 90 miles towards west by north and W.N.W. This noon we saw a young whale, which swam for over an hour around our ship and was often so near that it was not farther away than three steps. It was more than 40 feet long, grey on top, green below. The old whales are more than 120 feet long.

On the 20th was east wind. We sailed 76 miles

W.N.W. This afternoon we saw for over an hour, as far as the eye could reach, everywhere full of fish, now they showed their head, now their back above water. They were of the kind which eat up people. The English call them porpoises. In Latin they are called *Phocæna*. During the night the wind veered about till it was N.W. by W.

On the 21st the wind was N.W. We sailed 69 miles, partly W.N.W., partly W.S.W. This morning we caught again a dolphin, but it was not large.

On the 22d but little wind, N.N.W. and N. We sailed 53 miles W. by S. and west.

On the 23d very little wind, then N.N.W. We sailed 46 miles W. and W.N.W.

On the 24th very little wind, N.N.W. and north. We sailed 45 miles towards W.N.W. and N.W. by W.

On the 25th there was little N.E. wind. We sailed 59 miles towards N.W. This morning they began doling out the water. Everyone, passenger as well as sailor, gets daily about two and a half pints. Of this he must again give up some for tea and soup. In the forenoon each passenger gets a little glass of wine. On account of the terribly salty and stinking meat, which we only get in scant quantities, our thirst is extraordinary. We have only a small supply of peas. We get them twice a week with bacon. Then we have yet four hams and some pickled beef. Occasionally cold beef, cut into small pieces, together with biscuit and water are cooked into a soup, for which we have to give up our water. We are already suffering hunger and thirst. With favorable wind we might get to New York within ten days. But we may also, when near to the harbor of New York, be held up for seven weeks or more by north wind, and even be compelled to enter a southern harbor. To-day we saw again a ship in the distance. At noon it was near us. It came from Boston and was headed southward to catch

whales. Our captain asked for longitude and latitude. We heard that during the whole journey he had miscalculated only a few miles.

On the 26th we had very little N.E. wind. We made only 28 miles towards N.W.

On the 27th the wind was N.N.E. We sailed 71 miles N.W.

On the 28th the wind was N.E. and east. We sailed 80 miles towards N.W. and north. During the last few days it was so warm that we could hardly stand it. At night we slept under a sheet. But now it is a little cooler. The farther north we get, the colder it will become.

On the 29th we had but very little east wind. We only made 38 miles towards N.W. by N. To-day there was an extraordinary heat. Towards evening the captain bathed [in the ocean].

On the 30th, was very little east wind. We sailed only 23 miles towards N.W. by N. Yesterday and to-day we saw two ships, but because we had no wind, we did not meet. To-day we ate our last oatmeal.

On the 31st we had little and variable wind, S.W. and W. We went only 25 miles towards N.W. by N. and N.N.W. and E. This noon we saw again a waterspout in the distance. May God turn it away from us! In the afternoon the wind was contrary, N.W. and N.N.W. At 12 o'clock, at night, we got northeast wind. This evening at 7 o'clock, when it was 12 o'clock at home, we wished them [our people at home] a happy New Year.

On January 1st, 1772, the wind was N.E. by E. We sailed 22 miles towards N.E. and N.E. by E., and 77 miles N.W. by N. At night the wind changed to south.

On January 2d the wind was S.W. by W. We sailed 94 miles towards N.W. To-day we saw again two ships in the distance. In the afternoon we struck a W.S.W. wind. At night it veered about to N.N.E.



On the 3d the wind was N.N.E. We sailed 40 miles N.W. by N., 18 miles towards N.E. by E. and 18 miles towards N.W., in all 76 miles. At night the wind changed by way of south to S.W. There was but very little wind.

On the 4th the wind was W.S.W. We sailed 30 miles towards N.W. by N. During the last night a sailor saw a white woman on deck. Towards evening the wind blew up strong. There was lightning in the distance. At night the wind became contrary, strongly N.N.W.

On the 5th we had very strong wind, N.N.W. We sailed 43 miles towards N.W. by N. and 49 miles N.E. It stormed terribly and the waves came often upon deck.

On the 6th the wind was N.N.W. We sailed 40 miles towards N.E. and 31 miles towards west. This noon we saw a sloop. We sailed towards it, but could not speak with it, because it passed by too quickly. Towards evening we had no wind. At 10 o'clock at night we had a terrible storm from the southwest.

On the 7th we sailed 7 miles towards west, 74 miles towards N.W. by N. The waves dashed frequently upon deck. This morning our last hog, which we had kept for an emergency, was washed overboard. Gebhard was drenched by a wave and became seasick. He stayed in bed most of the time. The storm tore our topmost sail, but it drives us toward land. In four days we can be in New York with this wind. This afternoon my brother H., Gebhard and two passengers were drenched by a wave, which covered the whole ship, while I had gone down to fill my pipe. At night the storm calmed down and the wind changed by way of north to east.

On the 8th but little east wind. We sailed 75 miles towards N.W. by N.

On the 9th violent wind. We sailed 72 miles towards N.N.W.

On the 10th the wind was N. by W. We sailed 23 miles towards N.E. by E., 41 miles towards west, 17 miles towards W. by N. To-day and yesterday it was too cold to be on deck.

On the 11th, contrary wind. We sailed 16 miles towards N.E., 18 towards west. We have thrown out the sounding line several times, but for 720 ft. found no bottom. The ocean is so deep that the sounding line of a merchant vessel, of 12,000 [1] lengths, did not find bottom. In the afternoon the wind was N.E., at night it blew strongly from E.S.E.

On the 12th the wind was E.S.E. We sailed 104 miles N.N.W. This morning we struck ground 210 feet deep.

On the 13th we had west wind. We sailed 100 miles towards N. by E. This morning we saw the land of New Jersey. At six at night we saw fire on a tower on the land, which is lighted every evening for the safety of the ships. We sailed close to a sandbank, and to our greatest joy we cast anchor in front of the harbor at 12 o'clock at night.

On the 14th, in the morning at 8 o'clock, we entered the harbor and at 2 o'clock we were on land in America. Thou, O God, hast helped us through wind and weather, help us also in that which we want to undertake here!