

humpbacks were taken, several with calves. These adult female humpbacks were much smaller, probably averaging from 25 to 30 barrels each.

From 7 September to 31 January 1849 'elephanting' recommenced with Rogers delivering, servicing and collecting shore gangs, mainly along the south, south east and west coasts.

On 1 February 1849 the *Charles Carroll* departed for home, which was reached on 3 June 1849 after a sixty-three day stay at Georgetown, St Helena, possibly to cure scurvy. Aboard were 3,600 barrels of 'whale oil'.

As noted earlier, Rogers captained the trading schooner *E. L. Frost* on a trading voyage to the Californian goldfields and back from November 1849 to mid-1850. (The journal entries are brief and disjointed.)

Captain Rogers of the Corinthian

The industry at Desolation was flourishing and had proved so lucrative that New London owners purchased two new ships and a schooner for this trade in 1851¹⁰ and by December at Desolation there were three ships and six schooners carrying 175 men (almost all of whom were under 25 years old).

Rogers was then given command of the largest Desolation veteran, the 505-ton *Corinthian* which left New London on 19 August 1851, and reached Desolation ninety-six days later. Two cutters left ashore, *Industry* and *Kerguelen*, were refitted before 'elephanting' commenced in December. However the season was over and in January 1852 the cutters and six tenders were left behind to search about the bays of stragglers, whilst the three ships, *Corinthian*, *Peruvian* and *Julius Caesar*, undertook whaling cruises off-shore for right whales. It is known that the latter ship took 800 barrels and 6,000 lb of whale bone in a 41-day cruise,¹¹ but the *Corinthian* probably did not do so well.

Rogers took two right whales on 24 and 26 January and lost a third on 31 January with 'Dambd hard luck'. At least four others were killed but later lost because the weather was too rough to allow the carcasses to be brought alongside and 'cut in'. During February the weather was so rough only five whales and one calf were saved. A boatsteerer was drowned and foul weather kept the *Corinthian* off-shore well after her provisions had run low. It was not until 29 February that she finally entered Three Island Harbour, where all six schooners were also sheltering. After an even less successful cruise for two weeks near the south east coast, the *Corinthian* beat her way into Pot Harbour. All three ships spent the remainder of the winter there for Desolation's boisterous winds prohibit off-shore pelagic whaling for nine months of the year.

The shallower draughted tenders, however, were able to continue