

May 5th faire clear weather, we steer to the N^W (3)
and make pretty good way, running west & and
notts p hour. <sup>6th The wind due west so we steers NNW.
or NW and by N, about 4 in the afternoon we sp'dd a sail
and the master taking her, could make nothing off
her, about one hund-
red and fifty yds
our broad side.
We now thought we
Algerine men. They
up our colors; But when we spoke them we found
they were french men and their Cap^t drunk who out of
a Bravado had fired at us seeing we were before left.
from this time to May 18th we had generally colors about
the 22nd we see'd a ship on our larbord side about 4
miles distance from us it being then break off day
and our Cap^t much in liquor we did not much care
for speaking to them, but our Cap^t would speak them
and it being then a very rolling sea, as we were coming
very nigh to speake them a heavy dash over ship
against her Boles pit which broke part of it, and we
would not have except damage had not been by the
exterity of our steerman; the ship was a frenchman
lately come from Newfoundland load with cod fish.
We were then about the Latitude of 47° - va. May 23
the wind still proving contrary we resolved to steer to
west, and continued doing so until June the 2 when
the wind shifted to SW, then we were obliged to star
NW and WNW which we continued for 6 days; about
this time the servants aboard that were to be</sup>

(4) be transported, broke open our wine-chest and stole
about 3 doz: of our wine, which ^{was} a great loss to us, our
water beginning to smell. Then were lashed to the pump &
whipt with a cat of ⁸ & the wind shifts
to N^E and we steer W^S continue so to the 14
We now plainly see the ~~the~~ humour, for he gets him
self drunk every night, never minding the course of the
Ship, and seeing our liquors beginning to run scarce
the Supercargo y I take our own shares, leaving the
other to him to do as he pleased which he had not above
8 Days before it was finished. June 14 The wind
at W. and continued from W b N to W b S most part
of this month, here we had more wine stole, from us
for which the principal Rogue was hang'd up at the
maine yards arm, and then plung'd into the sea for 3
or 4 times successively, the rest were whipt at the main yard.
We are now almost out of Liquor and therefore very sparing
Our water being very loathsome to drink. July 1 exceeding
hot weather we being now in the Latitude of 36¹⁵
the weather very calm. Our men are so fatigued that
they can scarce handle the Sails, and our Water very
~~bad~~

6d. July 3 spyd a Brigg about 2 Leagues ahead (5)
we immediately hoisted our Ensign, on purpose to know of
her from whence she ^{came}, how far she might be from the
coast of America, whether she had any fresh provisions
to spare, or could supply us w^tth any Rum and sugar.
When her came nigh her we found she was an Irish
Ship come from Barbados bound for Cork in Ireland.
We told her our condition, and the master desired us to hoist
out our Boat which was immediately done, so our
Mate and 4 of the sailors went on board of her, and were
very kindly entertain'd; but they could not spare us any
fresh provisions, only they supply'd us with what rum
& sugar we wanted; We understood from them she came
from Barbados on the 4 of June, and reckond they were
about 4 hundred Leagues from the coast of America.
they likewise told us they left the trade wind on the Lat
of 30°-00°. July 4th we immediately steer S on purpose
to make the trade wind, it is now very hot weather but
the ^{Sailors} can stand it out a little better, because we gave them
drain now and then. But our master is very lazy lying in
his bed and getting him self drunk for 2 or 3 days suc-
cessively without offering to take one observation or

(6) or mind the ships course, we make but slow way
our ship being very foul. July 5th about 3 in the
morning our watch cryes for all hands upon deck, at
the same time telling there was one of the ships com-
pany fallen over board, immediately there was tops thrown
over board, but all to ... use, for ere the ship could
be turned about he perisht. This poor fellow was one
of the transports and had a hand in stealing our wine.
This day the hottest we have had yet. July 6th fair
clear weather, we continue to steer to the S. We perceive
now a vast many Dolphins and Flying fish, which we
frequently catch and make very good food of them, they
being the only fresh provisions we can have. July 7th
Stormy Weather we sail all day long under a Reef
main sail, but about 30 at night our M^r being in
Liquor to show his courage order'd the Sailors to
hoist the main top sail, then then the fore sail and
forslop e sail, at which the mates shou'd ^{him} the danger wherto
he expos'd the ship cargo and all their Lives, but he
being headstrong order'd them to hoist topsail back
which they By the supercargos persuasion refused.

by force hold him down to his Cabin where they
shut him in all night, they lowered the Sails presently yet
notwithstanding the water had got over the gannel and
damag'd several parcels of goods. July 8th Fairer clear
weather, this day our Supercargo takes a protest against the
the master, about noon we catch a shark 9 foot long
they having continued about our shipps ever since our
man fell over bord. From July 9th to 26th ditto we still
continue to steere S in which time we catch'd a vast
many Dolphins and Bonettos, which was a great preser-
vative against y^e scury, we having nothing but one
Barrell of salt pork aboard, but the greatest want we
laboured under now was the want of water, which tho'
shinking as it was had all along preserv'd our Lives, we
were now reduced to almost one English pail to day, until
July 27th when their fell such a quantity of raine water
as would have fill'd all the vessells we had, If we could
have gotten them shoon enough aspon deck. We are now in the
Latitude of 31- 14. July 28th We are just coming into
the Trade winds, But by the masters orders we are

(8) are obliged to back about, and steer N W
and WNW; by which we could perceive his design was
to protract the time as long as he could. August 21
pleasant weather about 8 in the morning we
spy'd a ship to the Windward of us about 2 Leagues
all our water we had being unwholesome, and our
Rum gone, we hallow'd her to see if she could spare
us any provisions or fresh water. when she comes
within speaking we askt them from whence they
came and to whom they belong'd; they answer'd they
belong'd to Boston in New England, came from New
foundland, & were bound for South Carolina. We then
beg'd them to spare us what provisions they could
offering any price for them; But they answer'd they
would spare nothing but some salt fish and a little
Rum, there being very scarce of water and provisions
themselves. Then we gave them what they demanded
and so parted. We understand by them that they
reckon themselves but 70 Leagues from the Capes of
Virginia, But to our Experience we found after-
wards we were more than 4 times so distant.
From August 5 to the 23rd very high winds and

for the most part contrary, here we find very (91)
strong currents setting sometimes Northly and then
Southly so that it was very difficult to keep a due
reckoning. August 26 about 10 in the morning
perceived a ship about 3 Leagues ahead, which bore
our Ensign, at which she bore down to us, and came
up with us about 12 she had come from Kew in
West Indies, had been load with rum sugar &
molasses, but having lost her masts in a barrie
theyt were obliged to throw most of their rum &
sugar overboard, She was steering for new England
to repaire and have new masts. we could gett no
help from them it being then a very high sea. From
August 26 to September 2 very faire winds, we
are now quite run out of Bread, so that we were
obliged to eat peases, but to our great comfort we
had still water aboard. September 3 spyd a ship
on our starboard quarter, but it being then a N W
which is a violent NW wind which continuall about
an hour we could not speake her untill it was over
she was a ship come from new York bound for
Barbadoes in the West Indies, her cargo being mostly

(10) partly horses, having 29 of them when she
came away and now only 12 remaining, being ob-
liged to throw 17 of them overboard by the violence
of the weather, we gott from them 2 Barrels of
flour which was a considerable help in our great
necessity. We continued until this ^{time} in a pretty good state
of health, saving the scurvy which now began to shew
its effects upon our mens constitutions for there were
scarce 5 able to work the ship in this condition
we continued until the 19th of Sept: which was
a day like to have cost us all our lives, it was
a violent Hurricane which begun thus early in
the morning we perceived a little black cloud rising
from the N.E. about ane. hour afterward it rose
higher and spread broader. Our mate who knew
what it portended immediately ordered the Sails
to be furled and the yards lowered; by the time
this was done we could perceive the cloud coming
with mighty forces and the sea at a distance ris-
ing like the Alps in a Mass & grow terrible dark
as it approach'd, with all the other signs of Terror
It was immediately order'd all hands upon Deck
and with much difficulty & pain, the rest not being
able or willing we then shutt all the Hatchets very
close and secured the boat. The sea now began to

be very high, and there was nothing but terror (11) before us. Large huge waves breaking over our stern and main mast. Our men crying to one another but not a word to be heard, except they came close to one another's ears and whispered, at last there came a wave like a mountain which wash'd over our maine top studds and brought the ship on her broad side at the same time Ballast Goods and all shifted in the hold; Our ship lying on her broad side made water very fast and there was no pumping of her, none being able to stand upon deck, at last with much difficulty we got 2 men lash'd fast to the pumps to relieve one another. We had not now much hope of our lives but relying on providence the Carpenter was orders to cut away the main mast, which done we thought to have, likewise cut the maine mast but before they sett about it the violence of the wind blew it off and the maine yard, which fell directly upon the gunnel and almost shattered it to pieces; it was indeed very terrible now to see our ship without either mast or yards exposed to the violence of a raging sea and so few hands able to work; so had it not been

(12) been the providence of almighty God we had all com-
=tantly perished; While the carpenter stood ready with
his axe there comes a terrible wave, which washes him
and 2 others overboard, but they were all 3 taken up
alive. This Tempest continued from 8 in the morning
until 4 afternoon, but the height of it did not continue
above 3 hours; about 5 we went down to the hold
where we found it much better than expectation there
being not above 2 foot of water in it, but the goods
were much damaged. The Ship lay all this time on her
Broad Side, so that there was no standing, however we
shifted as well as we could the goods and Ballasts
and brought the ship a little to rights. Next morning
promised a fine day, but it was very dismal to see our
ship destitute of masts and sails, we not knowing how
far we might be from any land. In the place of a
maine mast we sett up an old fore top mast and
fore the maine an ore; we got old rotten remnants of
sails in the hold and patcht them up as well as we
could; and after this manner we continued until the eve

20 of our voyage, about 4 days after this we met a Sloop
as bad a Condition as our sloop if not worse, she had met
with a violent storm in the month of August, by which she
lost her mast and her upper deck and cabin with the
suppereargo in it, they had neither compass nor quadrant
aboard and having lost their rudder were obliged to let
her drive as the winds permitted; they had come from New
England and bound for Jamaica. We spared them a compass
& quadrant, for which our Capt. gott 8 Barrels of flour.
and 6 firkins of butter. The Weather continued very
good and on Sunday the 29 September we gott soundings
in 34 fathom water, about 5 afternoon we gott sight of
North Carolina which was very acceptable to us, we not
having seen land this 6 months and more. This day one
of our men fell over board and was dyed; Here we anchored
2 days in which time we run a great hazard of our
lives. for there happen'd at this time to be a Bristol
ship and a Maryland ship riding along with us; the
Maryland ship had come from Jamaica load with
rum sugar and molasses. The Bristol man came from

(14) from Guinea but had dispose of his Slaves in Barbadoes, and was bound homeward with a cargo of Suggar; he had lost all of his men but 5 hands, and this Maryland Ship was to conduct him to Dungeness where he was to gett more hands and provisions. Our Capt: went aboard to see him and there gott himself very drunke, it being late all night when he came aboard and high seas we could not gett our Boat housted in which occasioned its being lost, for all night the sea was very rough and next morning about 10 she was staved to pieces! The weather continued very tempestuous all that day which forced the Maryland Ship to slip her anchor, but the Bredslot man and we still kept fast until about 12 att night when the Byetot ship shipt leechways; now if she had struck on our vessel it had been perhaps the loss of both Ships, to save which we were just going to cut our cable, and had already cut it half throw when the ship drove by us about 6 yards, and the wind being right on shore forc't the ship against a hard Beach where she was staved to pieces and all in her perish'd, they being fast asleep when she slip't her Anchor. We had gone the same way had it not been for the toughness of our ropes, next

next day the wind proved faire and we weighed anchor (13)
and sailed along the coast towards Virginia but we hapened
in the night time to sail by the Cap's, and afterward turning
N we could not gett back againe, here we met with an
English ship bound for Maryland, from whom we gott
some fresh provisions but our Guineas were so swelled with
the Scurvy we could scarce eat them, We continued
about 2 days and the third the wind turning faire we
gott up to the Cap's where to compleat our misfortunes
our Cap^t through his rashness ran the Ship aground in
the Bay, where she still continues without any hope
of getting her off. Our whole crew were 19 when we came
from Scotland and there are now but 14 alive. Thus end
this tedious voyage which continued 6 months and 17 days
We having come from Scotland Aprile 4th 1728 and
entered the cap's of Virginia October 21. 1728.

John Cunningham

1728

Ship wrecks -

Adam Cunningham

(son of Sir Wm Cunningham
of Caprington & his wife
Dame Janet Dick of Westerfield)