Caribbean Pirates
Who were they and how did they get here?

It ain't stealing if you're a pirate

- Huckleberry Finn

Dr. Tom

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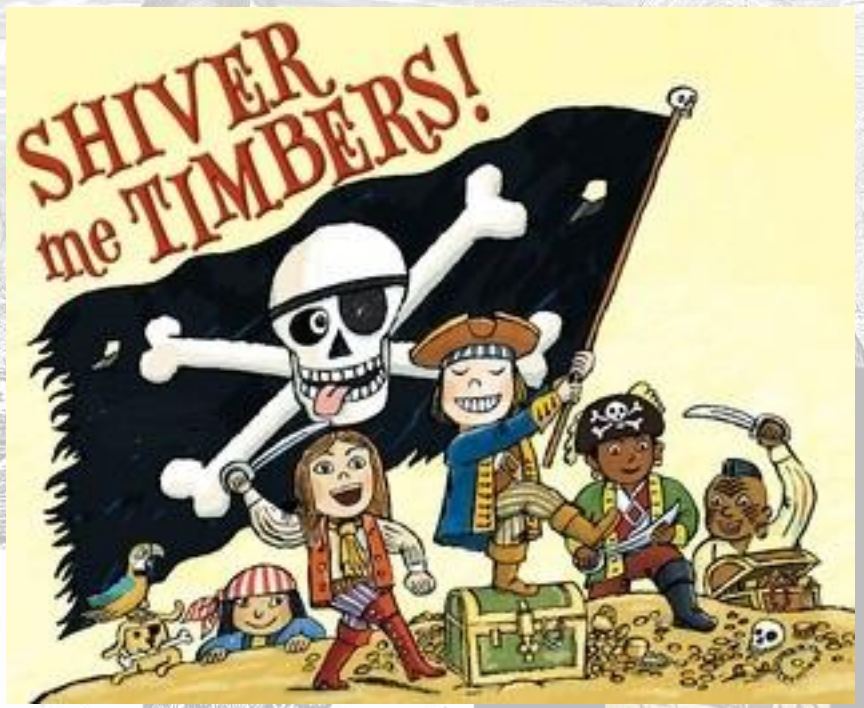
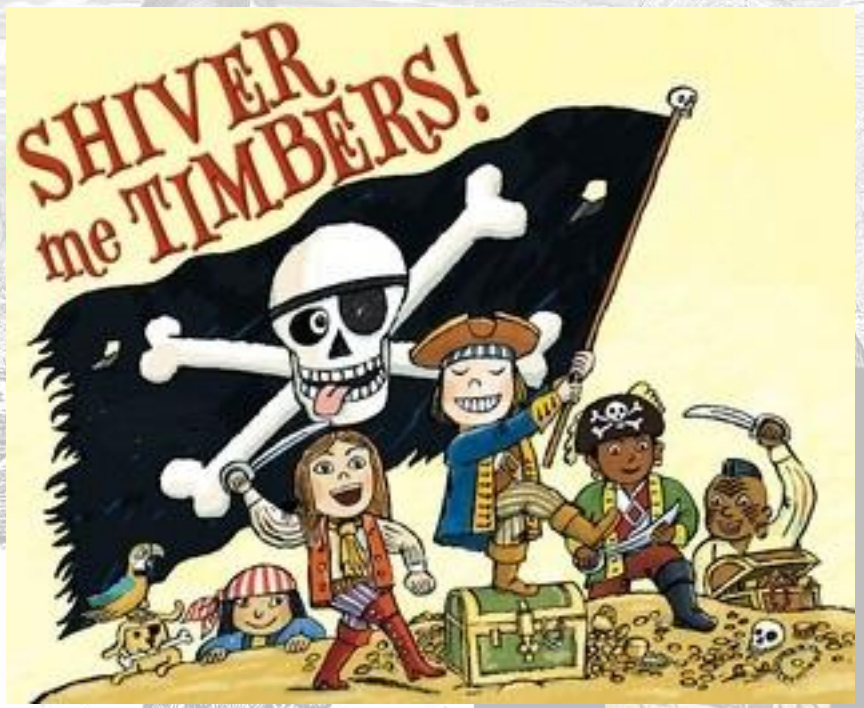
Myths & Legends



Did Pirates say things like, “Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr”
Or “Shiver Me Timbers”



"Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr"

Arrr, Avast, Landlubber, etc. came from Disney's *Treasure Island,* 1950

"Shiver Me Timbers"

Coined in 1795 - "Peace? Shiver my timbers! what a noise ye make – ye seem to be fonder of peace than ye be of quiet."
Long John Silver (Robert Louis Stevenson – 1883)

Talk Like a Pirate

Golden Age Caribbean Pirates came from many countries
Cornwall, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Holland, France,
Denmark, Sweden, African descent

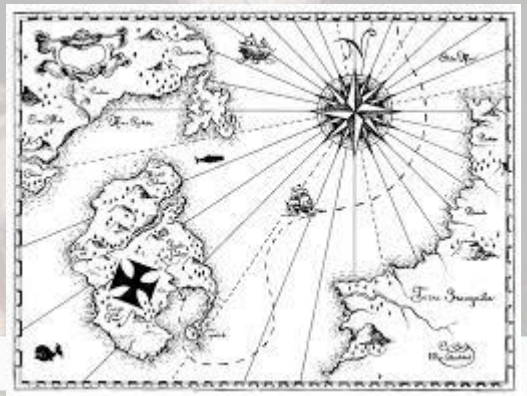
Did Pirates make people Walk the Plank?

Not likely – no written proof

- Tie to the Yardarm and Flog
- Maroon
- Just throw Overboard

Myth from *Robinson Crusoe* (Daniel Defoe, 1719)

“Arrrr, Matey. Ere’s the map to me Buried Treasure”



No Maps, Because No Treasure!

- Early Rare Instances – Drake
- Lived a Hard & Fast Life – Spent their Treasure as Fast as they Could

Pirates only Stole Gold & Stuff like that

Practical Stuff

- Tools for Fixing Ship
- Cooking
- Foodstuffs
- Clothing
- Household Items
- Ships headed To Colonies

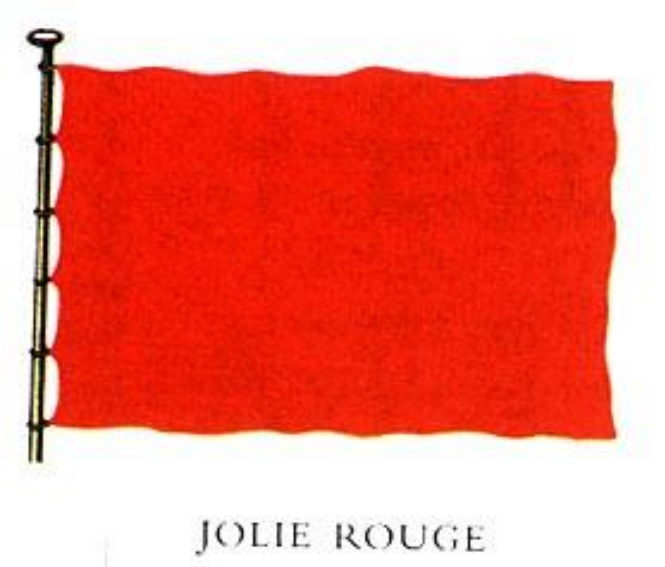
Did Pirates Wear Eye Patches to Cover Missing Eyes

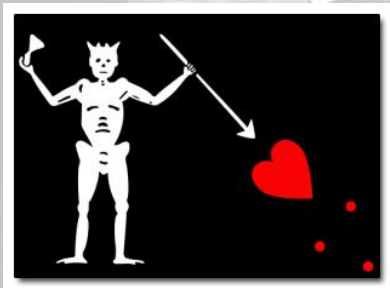
Uh, no.

Kept One Eye covered in Battle, so when they went below deck, they could see in the dim light

Speaking of the Parrot on the Shoulder …

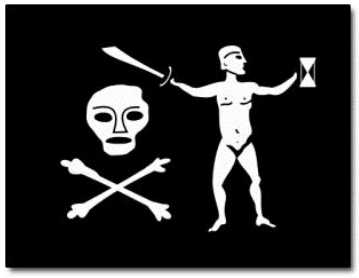
Every Pirate Ship flew the Skull & Crossbones or Jolly Roger flag





Blackbeard's Flag

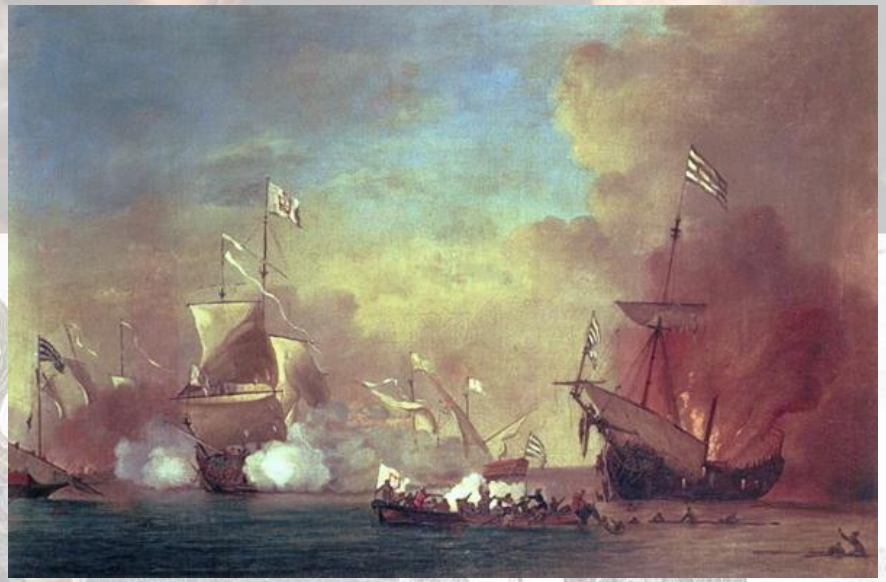
Captain Tew's Flag



Captains Walter Kennedy & Jean Dulaien

Black Flag meant Safety – Quarter would be given

Red – Attack Immanent



Pirates Attacked ships with Cannons Blazing

Did Blackbeard light his hair on fire before battle?

What is a Privateer

A private person or ship authorized by a government by Letters of Marque to attack foreign vessels

Actual work of a *Pirate* and a P*rivateer* is generally the same (raiding and plundering ships)

Perceived legality of the actions that form the distinction

What is a Buccaneer

Pirates who attacked Spanish shipping in the Caribbean Sea during the 17th century

Low-budget way to wage war on England's rival, Spain

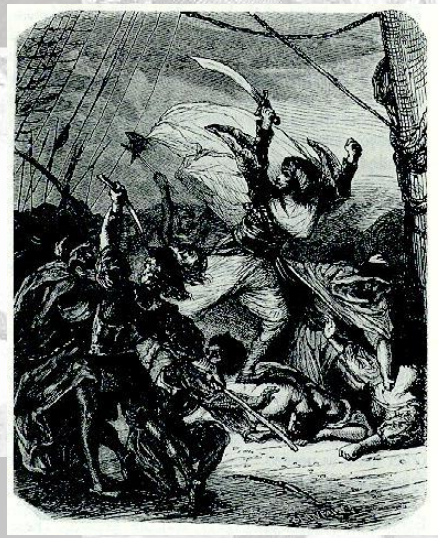
May have had a Letter of Marque

Pirate Money

8 Reales or Piece of 8

Cobb – Piece of Silver (1/4 oz – 7 grams – 110 grains)

Cheaper to produce than coins



Where did they come From

Dionysius the Phocaean - 494 BC

Oruç Reis (Barbarosa) – 1474-1518

Where did they come From – Caribbean Pirates

Jean Bontemps (died 1572) was a French privateer – Columbia & Venezuela

Jean Lafitte (Early 1800's) – French Corsair

"admiral of the pirate fleet", "prince of pirates,"
"the terror of the Gulf," and the "hero of New Orleans."

Dutch Pirates

Michiel Andrieszoon (d.1684) Mexico & Central America – used small ships to our maneuver the Spanish

Laurens Cornelis Boudewijn de Graaf (c. 1653 – 24 May 1704) – Pirate & Mercenary

Edward Mansvelt (d. 1666) Raided Spanish Settlements from Hispaniola to Venezuela

African

Black Caesar – 17th Century

Sailed off of Florida, Escaped Slave, Huge Size, Superhuman Strength and Diabolical Intelligence. Sailed with Blackbeard

John Julian – (1701 – 1733) Central America with Samuel Bellamy

Francis Drake (1540-1595)

Nicknamed “my pirate” by Queen Elizabeth I

“Sea Dog” privateer licensed by the English government to attack Spanish shipping

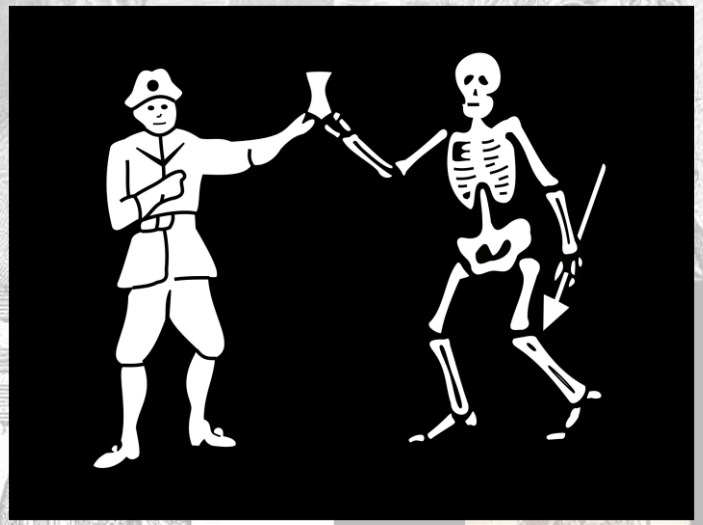
First English Captain to circle the Globe

- Raided several Spanish ports
- Captured a Spanish Treasure vessel

Knighted by the Queen

Francis Drake (1540-1595)

- Went to Sea at 13
- Privateer, Courtier, Politician, Slave Trader, Explorer, Naval Commander, Pirate
- Called “El Draque” by the Spanish
- Joined with Huguenot Corsairs to attack Spanish ports
- Returned to England with 40,000 ducats ($10.5M) in Treasure
- On later Silver Train Raids, buried 15 tons of Silver, which the Spanish recovered



Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart) 1682-1722

Plundered ~400 ships
Wore a crimson waistcoat with expensive hat with a unique red feather
Cold Blooded – He burned a ship with 80 slaves on board – didn't want to waste any effort freeing them
Attacked Spanish, French & English ships
Shot by English sailors attempting to capture him

Charles Vane (1680 – 1720 Active 1716-1720)

- Captured many vessels, tortured and murdered many prisoners
- Refused the King's Pardon
- Treated his pirate companions with little respect
- Hanged in 1720 after being marooned by Storm and Captured

François l'Olonnais (Jean-David Nau) 1635-1668

Indentured Servant in Martinique

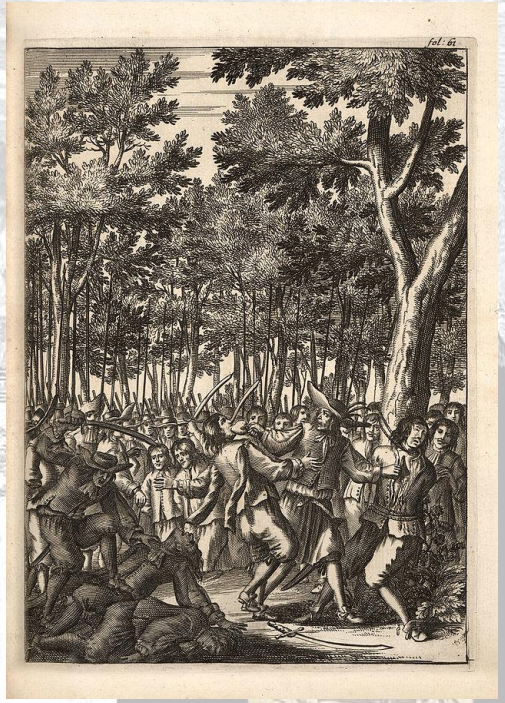
Most Ruthless & Barbaric Pirate

slicing portions of flesh off the victim with a sword

burning them alive

“woolding", tying knotted rope around the victim's head until their eyes popped out.

Outfitted by Governor of Tortuga to Harass Spanish Ships



François l'Olonnais (Jean-David Nau) 1635-1668

“When L’Ollonais had a victim on the rack, if the wretch did not instantly answer his questions, he would hack the man to pieces with his cutlass, and lick the blood from the blade with his tongue, wishing it was the last Spaniard in the world that he had thus killed.“

"L'Ollonais grew outrageously passionate; he drew his cutlass, and with it cut open the breast of one of those poor Spanish, and pulling out his heart with his sacrilegious hands, began to bite and gnaw it with his teeth, like a ravenous wolf, saying to the rest: I will serve you all alike...“

Shipwrecked, captured by native cannibals, hacked to pieces, cooked over a fire and eaten

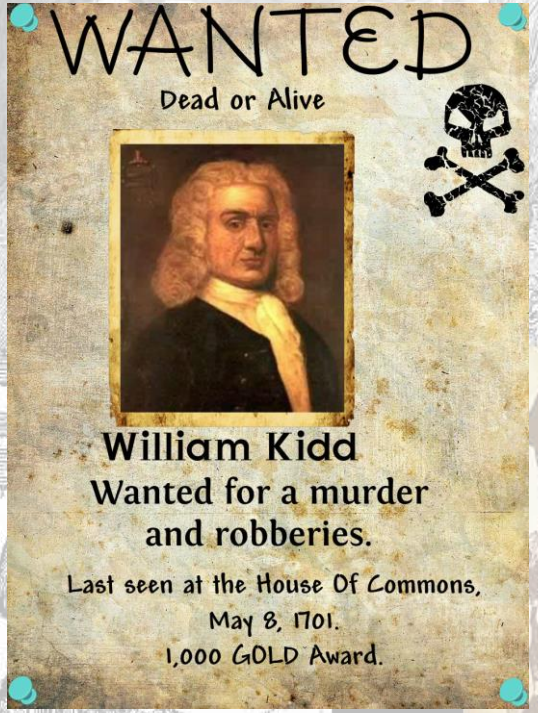
Captain William Kidd (1654-1701)

Moved to America from Scotland – Married a Wealthy Widow

Commissioned a Privateer to protect English Ships from the French (1695)

Went to Caribbean to Raid French Ships and split the booty with his Backers in New York

Headed for the Indian Ocean in search of Richer Treasures



Captain William Kidd (1654-1701)

Pillaged Indian Ships (East India Company) – was now considered a Criminal by England

Returned to West Indies, then England

Arrested & Tried (his benefactors abandoned him) and hung in 1701

To serve as a warning against other pirates, his body was hung in a cage and left to rot for all to see

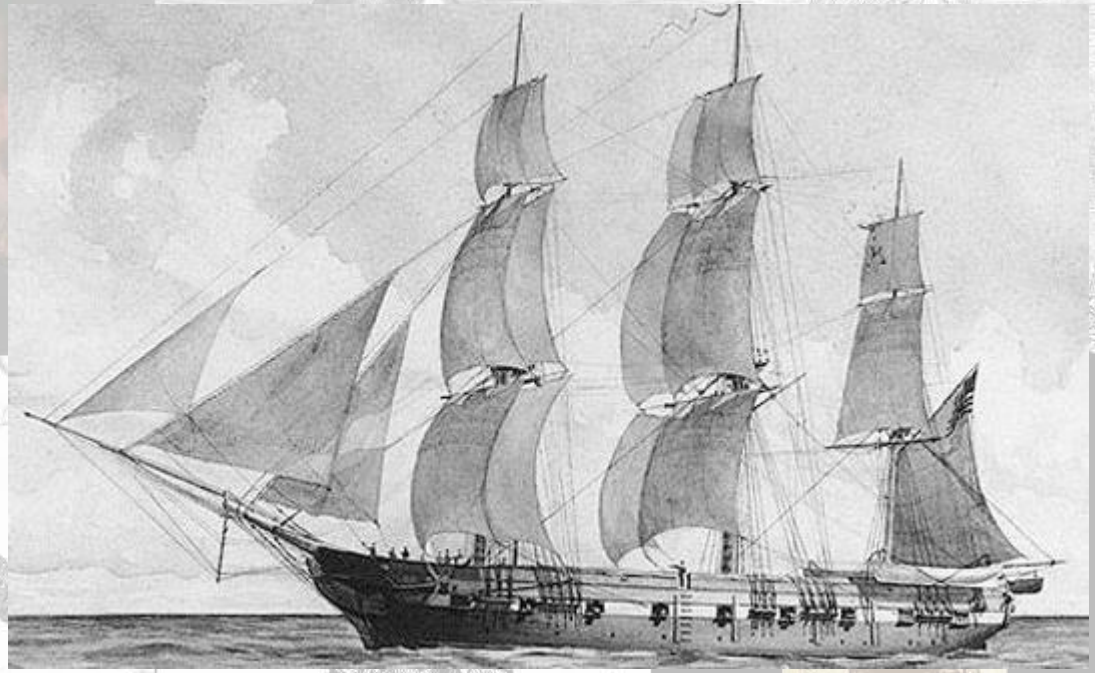
John “Calico Jack” Rackham (1682-1720)

Name from the calico clothes he wore (patterns of brown, white, and black)

Aboard a Ship captained by Charles Vane.

Vane Deposed by Crew for Cowardice and Calico Jack voted in as Replacement (1718)

Plundered that French Battleship and other ships that Same Day



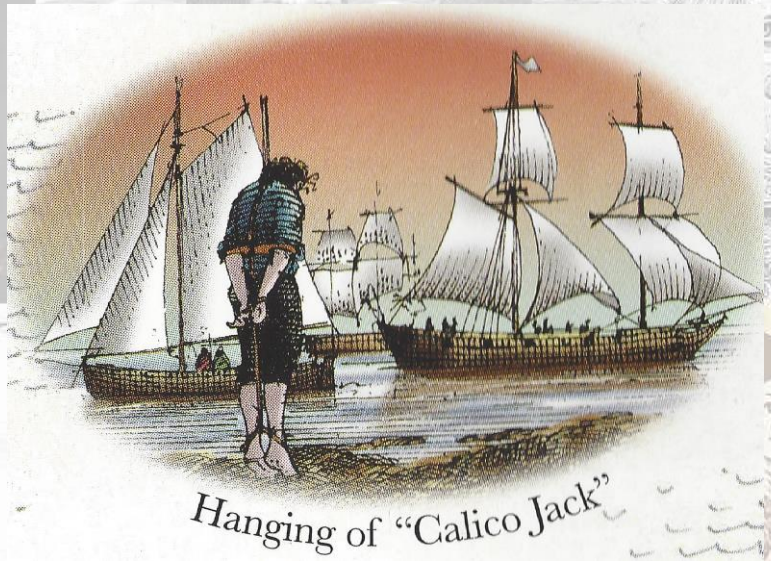
John “Calico Jack” Rackham (1682-1720)

December 1718 Captured the *Kingston* with its Rich Treasure

While on shore in February 1719, the Merchants reclaimed the *Kingston* and its Cargo

Allowed Female Crewmembers

Designed the “Jolly Roger”



John "Calico Jack" Rackham (1682-1720)

Later, he stole a sloop. While refitting their small sloop, a Spanish with a small English sloop they captured. The Spanish saw the pirates but could not get at them at low tide, waited for morning. That night, Calico Jack rowed over to the English sloop & took it. As dawn broke, the warship began blasting his old ship, now empty, as Jack silently sailed past in their new prize

Hung November 1720

Henry Morgan (1635-1696)

Privateer – not a Pirate per se. Worked only for the Crown
Sailed with General Venables and Admiral Penn in 1654, capturing Jamaica
1667, sent to find escaped Spanish prisoners
Captured Portobello, received 100,000 pesos for sparing the City

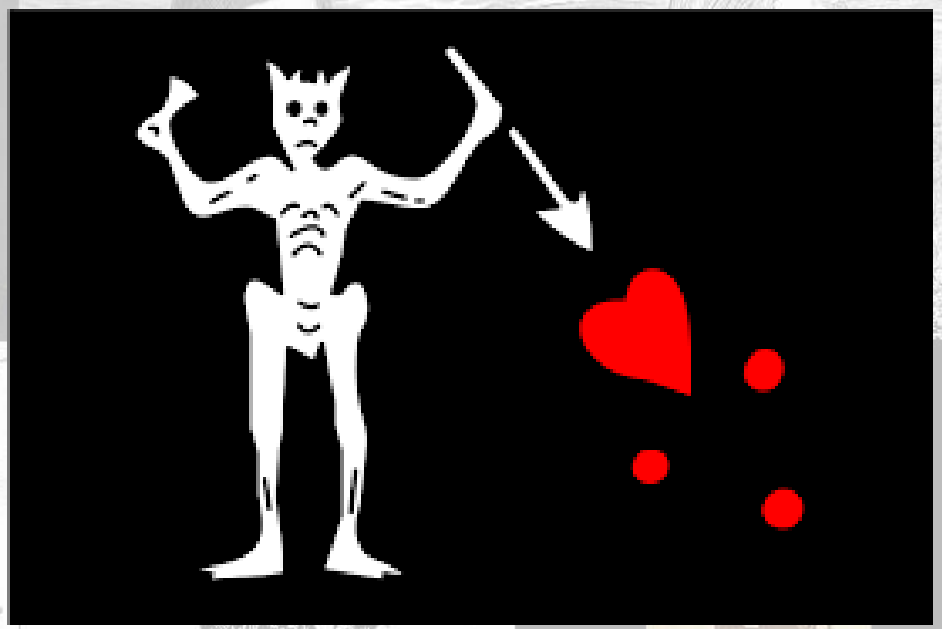
Henry Morgan (1635-1696)

1669, rallied a Fleet and Sacked Maracaibo & Gibraltar

1671, sacked Panama

Retired (rich) from Privateering (end of War with Spain), England, Jamaica

Guilty of the death and torture of countless innocent Spanish civilians and spread terror far and wide on the Spanish Main



Edward Teach, “Blackbeard” (1680-1718)

- Joined Captain Benjamin Hornigold 1716
- Captured a French merchant vessel, renamed her *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and equipped her with 40 guns
- Had thick black beard and fearsome appearance
- Put Candles/Fuses in his hair/beard and lit them for Battle

Edward Teach, “Blackbeard” (1680-1718)

Spurned the use of force, relying instead on Fear - Shrewd and Calculating

No known account of his ever having harmed or murdered those he held captive

Died in Battle against Lt. Robert Maynard

Started in the Bahamas, Ended career off of the Carolinas

Edward Teach, “Blackbeard” (1680-1718)

Queen Anne’s Revenge

As seen in "Pirates of the Caribbean ~ On Stranger Tides"

Edward Teach, “Blackbeard” (1680-1718)

Fact or Fiction

Blackbeard hid buried treasure somewhere
Blackbeard’s dead body swam around the ship three times
Blackbeard was the most successful pirate ever
Blackbeard retired from piracy and lived as a civilian for a while
Blackbeard left behind a journal of his crimes

Edward Teach, “Blackbeard” (1680-1718)

Fact or Fiction

Blackbeard hid buried treasure somewhere

Nope – Legend came from Treasure Island

Blackbeard’s dead body swam around the ship three times

Don’t think So! He sustained no less than five gunshot wounds, twenty sword cuts before finally dropping dead and his Head Cut Off!

Blackbeard was the most successful pirate ever

Not even the most successful of his time – that was Black Bart

Blackbeard retired from piracy and lived as a civilian for a while

Accepted a Pardon in 1718, but went back to Pirating

Blackbeard left behind a journal of his crimes

Nope – But, Captain Charles Johnson (William Defoe?) wrote *A General History of the Pyrates* in 1724

Stede Bonnet (1688-1718)

- Wealthy landowner, a member of the aristocracy of Barbados
- 400 acres of farmland, 94 slaves
- Liberal Education and Service in the Militia (Major)
- Turned to the piracy without any particular reason 1717

Stede Bonnet as a "guest" of Blackbeard on board Queen Anne's Revenge, from Captain Charles Johnson's work, "A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates." Courtesy North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort

Stede Bonnet (1688-1718)

Why

Nagging wife drove him to it? (no divorce allowed)

Bored?

Tired of Conforming?

Knew nothing of the Pirate's Life

Stede Bonnet (1688-1718)

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- Nagging wife drove him to it? (no divorce allowed)
- Bored?
- Tired of Conforming?

Knew nothing of the Pirate's Life

Stede Bonnet (1688-1718) Active 1 year

Knew nothing about Sailing – had to trust his crew
Bought his own ship and paid his crew
Sailed “with” Blackbeard
Plundered Ships off Honduras & Cayman Islands, then East Coast
Accidently grounded his ship off Cape Fear & Captured
Held in Provost Marshal’s House – Escaped 4 days later
Recaptured, tried, hung

Any Question or Comments?

Come on Down!