

Pirate Biography Cards

Charles Bellamy

My name is Charles Bellamy. I gave up my semi-boring life as a wrecker in the West Indies to become a pirate. I wanted more adventure, so I purchased a ship with a partner and entered into a life of piracy. I am captain of the ship *Whidaw*. Paul Williams is one of my crewmembers. I never pass up the chance to speak to captured crews because I am a talented public speaker. As great as I consider myself to be, my life will soon come to an end. The year is 1726, and I am in prison in Boston. Because of things I did as a pirate, I am sentenced to be hanged.

Stede Bonnet

My name is Stede Bonnet. With all of my experience as a retired army major, I felt well equipped to become a pirate. I owned my own plantation in Barbados, so I had enough money to purchase a ship and organize a crew. We sailed the seas on two ships: the *Revenge* and the *Royal James*. I, of course, was the captain. I sailed with Blackbeard for a brief period of time. Our friendship ended because he took advantage of my kindness. I was known to some as a poor leader, but I am the only pirate I know of who made his prisoners walk the plank. However, despite all of my toughness, The year is 1718, and I am in prison in Charleston, South Carolina. I am to be hanged for my crimes.

Anne Bonney

My name is Anne Bonney. Many people believe that a woman cannot follow in a man's footsteps, but I have been living my life and showing them differently. I was born in County Cork, Ireland. I also lived on a plantation with my father who disowned me when I married a sailor. I later fell in love with John Rackam and joined his pirate crew. This is how I began my life of piracy. I was not the only woman on the ship. Mary Read was also part of our crew. Unfortunately, when you live like a pirate you die like a pirate. On November 28, 1720, I was convicted of piracy and was sentenced to be hanged for my crimes. Fortunately, I was pardoned due to the fact that I am expecting a child.

Jack Rackam

My name is John Rackam, but I am better known as "Calico Jack." I served as quartermaster in Captain Vane's Company, before becoming captain of my own ship. My lady, Anne Bonney, and another woman, Mary Read, were part of my crew. I enjoyed my life as a pirate—at least until I was seized by Captain Barrett near Jamaica. Barrett had orders from the government to capture me. I am now in prison in Port Royal, Jamaica, waiting to be hanged on November 17, 1720.

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Caesar

My name is Caesar. I was one of the few black pirates who had the honor to serve with Blackbeard. I sailed with him on the ship *Queen Anne Revenge*. Blackbeard considered me a trusted member of his crew. My piracy has now come to an end. The year is 1718, and I am in prison in Williamsburg, Virginia, waiting to be hanged for my crimes.

William Dampier

My name is William Dampier. I was born in 1652, in East Coker, England. When I was old enough, I joined the Royal Navy and became a sailor. After my time in the navy, I ran a plantation. Life on the plantation was more boring than I could stand, so I gave up dry land and went back to sea as a pirate. I sailed on three different ships: the *Loyal Merchant*, the *Revenge*, and the *Duke*. I also held different positions aboard the ships—seaman, captain, and navigation officer. I also sailed as a privateer for England and Denmark and twice sailed around the world.

Thomas Howard

My name is Thomas Howard. I was a sailor who later became a pirate. I sailed with Captain Bowen on the ships *Alexander* and later the *Prosperous*, of which I was the captain. I made a fortune from piracy and retired to India. My wife's relatives were not happy with the way I treated her, so they murdered me.

Bartholomew Roberts

My name is Bartholomew Roberts. I was born in 1682, in Wales. I was a seaman and master of sailing ships. A pirate ship captured me and I joined their crew. I have since sailed on the *Fortune*, the *Royal Fortune*, and the *Good Fortune*. I am a strict disciplinarian who allows no gambling or women on the ship and permits no fighting among crew. I have been fortunate, with the help of my crew, to capture over 400 vessels. I believe you can never force a man to become a pirate because he has to have the heart for it to be successful.

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John Phillips

My name is John Phillips. I was born in England. I became a carpenter, but decided that life was not rewarding enough. I stole a ship in Newfoundland and took to a life of piracy. I was captain of my ship. One of my crewmen was John Rose Archer. I was not well liked—even by my fellow shipmates. In my nine months in command I captured 30 ships. Many people considered me bloodthirsty. My crew mutinied and threw me overboard, where I drowned at sea.

George Lowther

My name is George Lowther. I was born in England. I was a seaman, and was the Second Mate on the ship *Gambia Castle*. I decided that I wanted to try pirating, so I seized the ship I on. I also sailed on two other ships: the *Delivery* and the *Happy Delivery*, of which I became Captain. In the course of my pirating career, I took many rich prizes and commanded a small pirate fleet. I am now in Isle of Blanco, West Indies. The authorities are coming to seize me. To keep them from capturing me, I plan to shoot myself.

Mary Reed

My name is Mary Read. I was born in London. I managed to dress and pass as a man. Few people knew I was a woman. I had greater strength than many of the men I encountered. I fought as a soldier. Once, to protect my boyfriend, I killed another pirate in a duel. For a while I ran a tavern. Later, I was a commander on a sailing ship. I began my life of piracy when John Rackam captured the ship I was on and I joined his crew. Anne Bonney, who was Captain Rackam's lady, was also aboard the ship. It is now 1720, and I am in prison in Jamaica, where I will remain until I die.

John Quelch

My name is John Quelch. I was born in the colony of Massachusetts. I was a crewmember on the privateer *Charles*. I became a pirate when I and the other crewmen mutinied and I took over as the captain of the *Charles*. I am now in prison in Boston. For my crimes, I am to be hanged on June 30, 1704. Everyone expects me to show repentance for my actions, but I say it was fun while it lasted. I will be smiling even as I am being led to the gallows.

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Thomas Tew

My name is Thomas Tew. I was born in England. I sailed as a crewmember of a privateer. I took over a ship that I was sailing on, turned to a life of piracy, and became wealthy a man. I considered myself as a fine sailor. I always tried to be a kind and honest man to earn the respect of both my crew and my victims.

Charles Vane

My name is Charles Vane. I was a seaman who stole a ship and began raiding other vessels because I wanted to live the life of a pirate. Many people considered me untrustworthy. I ended up shipwrecked on an island near Honduras. It was there that I was captured by the authorities and taken to Jamaica for trial. I am now waiting in a Jamaican jail waiting to be hanged.

James Mullet

My name is James Mullet. I was born in London. I lived the life of a seaman before becoming a pirate. I sailed on the *Royal James* as a crewmember with Major Stede Bonnet who was the captain of the ship. My days of piracy have come to an end as I sit in a Charleston, South Carolina, jail. It is now 1718, and I have been sentenced to be hanged for my acts of piracy.

William Kidd

My name is William Kidd. I was born in 1655 in Greenock, Scotland. I was the captain of a privateer. After my best crewmen left for two Royal Navy ships, I had to recruit new crewmen. Most of them turned out to be former pirates who wanted to attack any and all ships. I refused, they tried to mutiny, and during the struggle I shot and killed a crewman. I never intended to become a pirate, but after I captured a British East India Company treasure ship in 1698, I became a wanted man. The British government called me a pirate. I was caught by the authorities and convicted of piracy and murder. It is now 1701, and I am in jail in Wapping, England, waiting to be hanged for my crimes.

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Edward Teach

My name is Edward Teach, but I am best known as Blackbeard. I was born in Bristol, England. I began my life at sea by serving as a crewmember on a privateer, before becoming a pirate. I was the captain of the ship *Queen Anne Revenge*. Many considered me to be an unprincipled scoundrel who was merciless to both my victims and my crew. I frightened people with my appearance, but I was just being me, the “King of the Seven Seas.” I have no regrets—I lived by the sword and I died by the sword. I was killed in battle by an officer of the Royal Navy in November 1718 near Ocracoke Island, North Carolina.

Joseph Bradish

My name is Joseph Bradish. I was born in 1672 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While a seaman, several other crew members and I took over a ship. I kept the cargo, sank the ship, and began my life as a pirate. I sailed on the ship *Adventure*, of which I was the captain. I was captured in Boston by the authorities, but I escaped from jail. The year is now 1700. I was recaptured and now wait in prison in London, England, where I am to be to be hanged for my crimes.

John Avery

My name is John Avery, but I am known to many as Captain Bridgeman, Henry Avery, or even Arch-Pirate. If my memory serves me right, I was born in 1665, in Devonshire near Plymouth, England. I went from being a mate onboard a merchantman, to being the first officer the privateer, *The Duke*. When Captain Gibson went ashore, I plotted to take over his ship. I changed name of the ship to *Charles the Second*. The peak of my pirating career was 1695 and 1696. I have since retired to Bideford, which is in Devon, England and have taken an assumed name. I plan to stay here until I die.

John Rose Archer

My name is John Rose Archer. I was a fisherman on a Newfoundland (Canada) fishing boat. The boat was captured in 1723 and I was taken prisoner and then joined the pirate crew. I was an old man at the time. My captain was John Phillips, but I also sailed under Blackbeard. My piracy days have come to an end. I am now in prison in Boston waiting to be hanged on June 2, 1724 for my crimes.

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Samuel South Burgess

My name is Samuel South Burgess. I was born in New York where I was a businessman. I sailed on a privateer and traded with pirates. While I was serving as a mate on a trading ship, pirates captured me, and I joined their crew. My captain was Captain North and we sailed on the ship, *Neptune*. I died on the island of Youngoul after being poisoned by a ruler whom I had offended.

William Fly

My name is William Fly. Before becoming a pirate I was a boatswain and a prizefighter. I decided I wanted a career change, so I led the takeover of the ship *Elizabeth*. The crew elected me to be the captain, but my piracy career lasted only for one month. The captain of one of the ships that I tried to seize took me prisoner. I was sent to Blix's Mate, an island in Boston Harbor. I have been sentenced to be hanged on July 16, 1726 to pay for my crimes.

Charles Gibbs

My name is Charles Gibbs. I was born in Rhode Island in 1794. I was raised on a farm and became a grocer. Tired of my life the way it was, I led a mutiny on a privateer and entered into a life of piracy. I made a fortune, lost it, and then returned to sea to lead another mutiny. I was caught by the authorities and taken to New York. The year is now 1831, and I am in prison waiting to be hanged for my crimes.

Israel Hands

My name is Israel Hands. I sailed with Blackbeard, until he shot me in the knee for no apparent reason. I deserted his ship. I was captured by the authorities, tried in Virginia in December 1718, and was pardoned. Because of all of my misfortune, I have since lived in London, where I am a beggar.

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David Herriott

My name is David Herriott. I was master of the ship *Adventure* before Blackbeard captured it. When Blackbeard took over, I joined his crew. I later joined Major Stede Bonnet when he split from Blackbeard to become captain of his own ship, the *Royal James*. Later, the authorities captured me. At the trial, I turned evidence against the pirates held in Charleston, South Carolina. I was convicted anyway and sent to prison. In 1718, I was shot and killed while trying to escape from a prison on Sullivan Island off the coast of South Carolina.

William Lewis

My name is William Lewis. I was a sailor before I decided to become a pirate. I took over a sloop and continued to seize bigger and bigger ships until I captured the *Morning Star* which became my flagship. I was a pirate from 1717 to 1726, during which time I traded my stolen booty with the inhabitants of South Carolina and Virginia. I was murdered in my sleep by one of my crew who feared I was too close to the devil.

Edward Low

My name is Edward Low. I was born in Westminster, England. I was a rigger before becoming a pirate. I seized a vessel and later joined with Captain Lowther. I sailed with Captain Lowther until May 1722, when our ship was captured. I was a pirate from 1722 to 1723, during which time I captured many ships. I was considered to be so cruel and bloodthirsty that I was an outcast even among my fellow pirates.

Captain Worley

My name is Captain Worley. I began my life as a pirate when I set out from New York with some friends and seized the ship, *The Delaware*. I became the captain of that ship. In 1718, I engaged in a battle on the James River near Jamestown, Virginia, with two sloops that were sent to capture me. All of my crewmen were killed except me and one other man. As fate would have it, the authorities captured both of us and we have been sentenced to be hanged for our crimes.

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John Augur

My name is John Augur. I was placed in charge of a sloop by the governor of the Bahamas, Woodes Roger . . . but I turned it into a pirate ship. My crew and I were shipwrecked on New Providence, Bahama Islands. The Governor's sailors captured us and we are now waiting to be hanged by the authorities for our crimes. My only sorrow is that my piracy began and ended the same year, 1718. I would have liked to have more chances to create pirate mischief.

Edward England

My name is Edward England. I was a mate on a sloop before being taken prisoner by the pirate Captain Winter. I joined his crew on the ship, *Royal James*. I was later given command of the ship, *Victory*. Because of the kindness I showed to other captured crews, my crew elected a new captain then marooned me and three others on the island of Mauritius. Fortunately, we were able to build a small boat and sail to Madagascar, where we have since lived off the charity of other pirates.

Benjamin Hornigold

My name is Benjamin Hornigold. I was a privateer, but later decided to try piracy. From 1716 to 1718, I lived a pirate's life. I was the first captain to recruit Blackbeard, who became my second in command. In 1718, the governor of the Bahamas, Woodes Roger, offered to pardon all pirates. I surrendered. Shortly after that, I wrecked my ship on a reef and drowned.

Christopher Moody

My name is Christopher Moody. I was born in 1694. I became a sailor when I grew up, but I wanted more excitement so I became a pirate. I sailed as chief officer on the ship, *Royal Fortune*. Bartholomew Roberts was my captain, but now the governor has taken me captive here at Cape Coast Castle. The year is now 1722, and I am in prison waiting to be hanged for piracy.