

# PIRATES OF THE CAROLINAS INFORMATION SHEET

Pirates of the Carolinas includes the areas of North and South Carolina from Bath and Edenton in the north to south of Charleston and the eastern islands.

We have highlighted 10 of the 20 most notorious pirates because they are engaging and colorful and have ties to the Carolinas. While those depicted were the Captains of the ships; the crews, officers and captured slaves increased the numbers over the thousands to the pirates who roamed the Carolinas.

The average life of a pirating career was about two years... but two were as short as two months and the other six months.

The life of a pirate is depicted. Their food consisted of what they could find...turtles, turtle eggs, fish, hens, hen eggs, birds, wild boar and hardtack made from a mixture of flour and water. Beverages were mostly wine, ale and rum.

## Pirate Myths Debunked:

Pirates did not kill enemies by causing them to walk the plank. Most often they would maroon them on a deserted island with one day's ration of food and a gun loaded with a single bullet.

Although rumors of buried treasure abound, most pirates spent their booty as quickly as they acquired it.

Parrots and monkeys are more legend than fact. They would have gotten in the way during attacks or would have been eaten when there was a scarcity of food.

Although documentation existed in those days in the forms of Privateering Commissions, Cargo Manifests, Death Sentences, List of boots sold to Governments, Maps, etc. much of the true document were lost. What actually was the pirates' life has been glamorized, idealized history without legend.

Edgar Allen Poe's ***THE GOLD BUG*** was based upon the supposed buried treasure of Captain Kidd

Daniel DeFoe's ***ROBINSON CURSOE*** found route in the marooning of Stede Bonnet and Alexander Selkirk.

Robert Louis Stevenson's ***KIDNAPPED*** and ***TREASURE ISLAND*** named Issac Hand who served with Blackbeard as a major character.

Movies surrounding pirates date back to silent films. More than twelve versions of ***TREASURE ISLAND*** have been filmed. Everyone from Abbot & Costello to the Muppets have engaged with these robbers and thieves of the high seas.

We hope our exhibit provides you with insights into the personalities and lives of these fascinating sea marauders.