

anne bonny and mary read

Anne Bonny and Mary Read: The Fearless Female Pirates of the Caribbean

anne bonny and mary read are names that echo through the annals of pirate history, standing out as two of the most notorious female pirates who defied the conventions of their time. Their daring exploits, fierce independence, and adventurous spirits have captivated historians and enthusiasts alike, making them legendary figures in the Golden Age of Piracy. Unlike many pirates whose stories have faded into obscurity, Anne Bonny and Mary Read's tales continue to inspire curiosity and admiration, highlighting the rare presence of women in a male-dominated world of piracy during the early 18th century.

The Origins of Anne Bonny and Mary Read

The stories of Anne Bonny and Mary Read begin in the early 1700s, though much about their early lives remains a blend of fact and legend. Both women grew up in circumstances that shaped their rebellious natures and eventual pirate careers.

Anne Bonny's Early Life

Anne Bonny was born around 1697 in Ireland, the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner. Raised in a privileged environment, Anne's spirited personality clashed with the expectations placed on women of her social class. It is believed she ran away from home to seek a life filled with adventure, rejecting the traditional path of marriage and domesticity. Her decision to disguise herself as a man allowed her to navigate the male-dominated world of piracy and prove herself as a capable fighter and strategist.

Mary Read's Mysterious Beginnings

Mary Read's background is equally intriguing. Born in England around 1685, she was raised as a boy by her mother to secure an inheritance, which meant she learned many skills typically reserved for males of the era. Mary's life was marked by deception and disguise from an early age, as she later joined the British military and eventually turned to piracy. Like Anne, her ability to masquerade as a man enabled her to partake in activities otherwise barred to women.

How Anne Bonny and Mary Read Crossed Paths

The convergence of Anne Bonny and Mary Read's paths is one of the most fascinating aspects of their story. Both women found themselves aboard the ship commanded by the infamous pirate Captain Calico Jack Rackham in the early 1720s. It was on his ship that the two female pirates revealed their true identities, astonishing their crewmates.

Life on Calico Jack's Ship

Calico Jack's pirate vessel was a hub of adventure and lawlessness in the Caribbean Sea. Anne Bonny and Mary Read earned respect not only for their courage but also for their skills in battle. Their presence challenged the traditional roles of pirates and demonstrated that women could be just as fierce and effective as their male counterparts. According to accounts, both women fought fiercely alongside the men during raids and skirmishes.

Their Unique Bond

Anne and Mary shared a unique bond forged through their shared experiences of living as women disguised as men in a brutal and unforgiving environment. Their camaraderie and mutual support were essential in navigating the dangers of pirate life, and they are often remembered as symbols of female empowerment in piracy.

Anne Bonny and Mary Read's Pirate Exploits

The exploits of Anne Bonny and Mary Read are legendary, filled with tales of bravery, cunning, and resilience. Their adventures offer a rare glimpse into the lives of women pirates during an era when piracy was predominantly a male pursuit.

Notable Battles and Raids

Both women were known to participate actively in pirate raids. They were reputed to be fierce fighters, with Anne Bonny often described as having a fiery temper and a bold spirit. Mary Read, on the other hand, was praised for her calm demeanor and tactical skills. Together, they helped Calico Jack's crew capture ships and amass treasure, leaving a trail of fear among their adversaries.

The Capture and Trial

Their pirate careers eventually came to an end in 1720 when Calico Jack's ship was captured by a pirate hunter. Anne Bonny and Mary Read were arrested alongside the rest of the crew. During the trial, both women claimed to be pregnant, a move that delayed their executions. Mary Read died in prison, likely from complications related to childbirth or illness, while Anne Bonny's fate remains uncertain, with some accounts suggesting she was released or escaped.

The Legacy of Anne Bonny and Mary Read

Anne Bonny and Mary Read's legacy extends far beyond their pirate exploits. They have become icons of rebellion and female empowerment, inspiring countless books, films, and scholarly studies.

exploring the roles of women in piracy and maritime history.

Breaking Gender Norms

In a period when women's roles were rigidly defined, Anne Bonny and Mary Read shattered stereotypes by embracing lives of adventure and combat. Their ability to disguise themselves as men and excel in a harsh environment challenges traditional narratives about gender and power in the 18th century.

Influence on Popular Culture

Their stories have been adapted into novels, movies, and television series, often highlighting their boldness and defiance. From pirate-themed adventures to feminist reinterpretations, Anne Bonny and Mary Read continue to captivate audiences and serve as symbols of courage and independence.

Lessons from Their Lives

Beyond their dramatic tales, Anne Bonny and Mary Read remind us of the complexities of identity, the courage to defy societal expectations, and the resilience required to survive in hostile environments. Their stories encourage us to look beyond stereotypes and appreciate the diverse roles women have played throughout history.

Understanding the Historical Context of Female Pirates

The Golden Age of Piracy, roughly spanning from 1650 to 1720, was dominated by men, but women like Anne Bonny and Mary Read show us that piracy was not exclusively a male enterprise. Their presence on pirate ships was rare but not unique, illustrating how some women navigated the constraints of their gender to pursue freedom and adventure on the high seas.

Why So Few Female Pirates?

Social norms and legal restrictions made it difficult for women to participate openly in piracy. Many disguised themselves as men to gain entry and respect among pirates. The harsh realities of pirate life, including violence and instability, also discouraged female participation. However, the stories of Anne and Mary prove that determination and skill could overcome many barriers.

The Impact of Their Stories on Maritime History

By studying Anne Bonny and Mary Read, historians gain valuable insights into the gender dynamics of

piracy and maritime culture. Their experiences highlight the fluidity of identity and the potential for women to assert agency even in hostile environments, enriching our understanding of pirate history.

Exploring the Myths and Facts About Anne Bonny and Mary Read

Separating fact from fiction in the stories of Anne Bonny and Mary Read can be challenging due to the sensationalized accounts passed down over centuries.

Common Misconceptions

Many portrayals of Anne Bonny and Mary Read exaggerate their appearances or romanticize their lives. For example, the idea that Anne Bonny was a stunning beauty with a quick temper is often repeated, but historical evidence is scarce. Similarly, Mary Read's military background is sometimes overstated.

What Historical Records Tell Us

Court records, eyewitness accounts, and contemporary reports provide the most reliable information, revealing two women who were resourceful, courageous, and resilient. These documents confirm their presence on Calico Jack's ship and their involvement in piracy, but many details about their personal lives remain elusive.

Why Anne Bonny and Mary Read Still Matter Today

The enduring fascination with Anne Bonny and Mary Read lies in their ability to challenge conventions and embody the spirit of adventure and rebellion. Their lives encourage us to question historical narratives and celebrate the contributions of women who have often been overlooked.

Whether you are a history buff, a fan of pirate lore, or someone interested in stories of empowerment, the tales of Anne Bonny and Mary Read offer a compelling glimpse into a world where courage and determination transcended gender.

From their daring escapades on the high seas to their lasting impact on culture and history, Anne Bonny and Mary Read remain two of the most remarkable figures in pirate history—women who dared to live on their own terms and carve out their place in a world ruled by men.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were Anne Bonny and Mary Read?

Anne Bonny and Mary Read were two famous female pirates who operated in the Caribbean during the early 18th century's Golden Age of Piracy.

What made Anne Bonny and Mary Read unique among pirates?

They were unique because they were women who disguised themselves as men to join pirate crews, defying the gender norms of their time.

How did Anne Bonny and Mary Read meet?

They met while serving under the pirate captain Calico Jack Rackham, who commanded their ship in the Caribbean.

What roles did Anne Bonny and Mary Read play on the pirate ship?

Both women were active and fierce fighters, participating in battles and raids alongside their male counterparts.

What happened to Anne Bonny and Mary Read after their capture?

After their capture in 1720, both women were sentenced to hang, but they 'pleaded pregnancy,' which postponed their executions. Mary Read died in prison, while Anne Bonny's fate remains uncertain.

Why did Anne Bonny and Mary Read disguise themselves as men?

They disguised themselves as men to avoid the restrictions placed on women at the time and to be accepted among pirate crews and in combat.

Are Anne Bonny and Mary Read considered historical or legendary figures?

They are historical figures documented in pirate trial records, but their stories have also been romanticized and embellished in popular culture.

What impact did Anne Bonny and Mary Read have on pirate history?

They challenged gender roles and became symbols of female empowerment, showing that women could be just as daring and capable as male pirates.

Additional Resources

Anne Bonny and Mary Read: The Legendary Female Pirates of the Caribbean

anne bonny and mary read stand out as two of the most infamous female pirates in history, captivating the imagination of historians, writers, and enthusiasts alike. Their stories defy the traditional narratives of piracy as an exclusively male domain, shedding light on the roles women played in the Golden Age of Piracy during the early 18th century. By examining their lives, exploits, and the socio-historical context in which they operated, one gains a fuller understanding of these remarkable figures and the enduring legacy they left behind.

The Historical Context of Anne Bonny and Mary Read

The early 1700s marked the peak of piracy in the Caribbean, a time when countless privateers and outlaws roamed the seas exploiting the political chaos following the War of Spanish Succession. Amid this turbulent backdrop, Anne Bonny and Mary Read emerged as rare examples of women who not only participated in piracy but also thrived in its brutal and male-dominated environment.

Anne Bonny was born around 1700 in Ireland and later moved to the American colonies. Mary Read, whose early life remains somewhat shrouded in mystery, was similarly born in Europe but disguised herself as a man for much of her life before her piracy career. Both women eventually joined pirate crews, with their stories intertwining aboard the ship commanded by the notorious pirate “Calico Jack” Rackham.

Breaking Gender Norms in the Pirate World

One of the most compelling aspects of anne bonny and mary read’s story is their defiance of contemporary gender expectations. During the 18th century, women were largely confined to domestic roles, and their participation in violent or adventurous pursuits was socially condemned. However, both women dressed as men to blend into pirate crews, demonstrating a pragmatic approach to survival and inclusion.

Their ability to maintain male disguises and fight alongside male pirates underscores their determination and resilience. This not only challenged the gender norms of their time but also revealed how piracy could offer an alternative social structure, where merit and courage sometimes outweighed traditional hierarchies.

Anne Bonny: A Portrait of Courage and Defiance

Anne Bonny’s life is characterized by boldness and rebellion. Married to a sailor named James Bonny, she left him and fled to the Caribbean, where she met Calico Jack. After joining his crew, she quickly gained a reputation for her fiery temper and combat skills.

Unlike many female pirates who might have remained in the background, anne bonny actively engaged in battles and was known for her fierce loyalty to her compatriots. Contemporary accounts

describe her as passionate and fearless, qualities that earned her both admiration and notoriety.

Mary Read: The Enigmatic Warrior

Mary Read's story is equally fascinating but somewhat more enigmatic. Raised as a boy by her mother to secure an inheritance, she spent much of her early life disguised as a man. This upbringing likely facilitated her seamless transition into piracy, where she continued to conceal her gender.

Her service alongside Anne Bonny on Calico Jack's ship was marked by valor and tactical acumen. Reports suggest that Mary Read was just as formidable in combat as her male counterparts, often taking part in boarding actions and skirmishes. Her ability to maintain her disguise even under extreme conditions speaks to her resourcefulness.

Their Capture and Legacy

In 1720, the pirate crew led by Calico Jack was captured by a British naval vessel. Both Anne Bonny and Mary Read were among those imprisoned. Remarkably, each claimed to be pregnant, which delayed their executions—a common legal practice at the time to avoid killing unborn children.

The subsequent fate of both women remains a subject of speculation. While some sources suggest Mary Read died in prison from fever, the historical record about Anne Bonny's later life is less clear, with theories ranging from her release to a quiet disappearance from the historical stage.

Impact on Popular Culture and Historical Scholarship

The stories of Anne Bonny and Mary Read have transcended historical texts to become part of popular culture. They have been featured in novels, films, TV series, and scholarly works, symbolizing female empowerment and the complexity of pirate life beyond mythic caricatures.

Their lives have sparked discussions about gender roles in history, highlighting how marginalized individuals navigate oppressive systems. Moreover, their story provides a counter-narrative to the male-centric view of piracy, enriching our understanding of the diverse participants in maritime history.

Analyzing Anne Bonny and Mary Read Through Modern Lenses

From a contemporary perspective, Anne Bonny and Mary Read can be examined through various analytical frameworks including gender studies, maritime history, and social rebellion. Their choice to adopt male identities and engage in piracy can be understood as acts of resistance against rigid societal norms.

- **Gender Identity and Expression:** Their cross-dressing challenges binary gender constructs and invites discussion on the fluidity of identity during historical periods.
- **Social Mobility:** Piracy offered a rare avenue for social advancement and autonomy, especially for women constrained by class and gender.
- **Legal and Moral Implications:** Their trials and punishments highlight the intersection of law, gender, and justice in early 18th-century colonial societies.

Comparisons with Other Female Pirates

While anne bonny and mary read are among the most famous, they were not entirely unique. Other female pirates such as Grace O'Malley and Ching Shih also defied conventions in their respective cultures and eras. However, the Caribbean context and detailed records surrounding anne bonny and mary read provide a particularly vivid case study.

Their collaborative story also sets them apart, illustrating how women pirates could form alliances and support networks within a hostile environment. This contrasts with many male pirate narratives, which often emphasize rivalry and betrayal.

The Enduring Fascination with Anne Bonny and Mary Read

The allure of anne bonny and mary read persists due to their embodiment of adventure, rebellion, and mystery. They represent a challenge to historical stereotypes and invite ongoing research and reinterpretation. Their lives continue to inspire creative works and academic inquiry, ensuring their place not only in pirate lore but in broader discussions about gender and history.

Their enduring legacy also raises important questions about the gaps in historical records and the ways marginalized figures are remembered or forgotten. As new evidence and perspectives emerge, the stories of anne bonny and mary read may evolve, offering deeper insights into the complexities of piracy and female agency in the past.

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anne bonny and mary read: *Mary Read and Anne Bonny* Rebecca Stefoff, 2014-12-15 Discover the lives of Mary Read and Anne Bonny, the dangerous female duo who sailed with Calico Jack.

anne bonny and mary read: Pirate Queens Rebecca Alexandra Simon, 2022-06-16 The first full biography of Anne Bonny and Mary Read, 18th-century partners in crime who terrorized the Caribbean: "Excellent . . . informative and interesting." —Model Shipwrights Between August and October 1720, two female pirates named Anne Bonny and Mary Read terrorized the Caribbean in and around Jamaica. Despite their short career, they became two of the most notorious pirates during the height of the eighteenth-century Golden Age of Piracy. In a world dominated by men, they became infamous for their bravery, cruelty, and unwavering determination to escape the social constraints placed on women during that time. But despite their notoriety, mystery shrouds their lives before they became pirates. Their biographies were recorded in Captain Charles Johnson's 1724 book, *A General History of the Pyrates*, depicting the two as illegitimate women raised by men who, against insurmountable odds, crossed paths in Nassau and became pirates together. But how much is fact versus fiction? This first full-length biography about Anne Bonny and Mary Read explores their intriguing backgrounds while examining the social context of women in their lifetime and their legacy in popular culture, which exists to the present day. Using *A General History of the Pyrates*, early modern legal documents relating to women, their recorded public trial in *The Tryal of Jack Rackham and Other Pyrates*, newspapers, and new research, this book unravels the mysteries and legends surrounding their lives.

anne bonny and mary read: *Anne Bonny and Mary Read* Aileen Weintraub, 2002 Presents the history of two female pirates, discussing how they came to be pirates, what life was like as a pirate, and what became of the two women.

anne bonny and mary read: Anne Bonny & Mary Read Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-09-05 *Includes historic illustrations depicting Anne Bonny, Mary Read, and important people in their lives. *Includes a profile of Anne and Mary from the famous English pirate history *A General History of the Pyrates*. *Discusses common legends about Anne and Mary, separating fact from fiction. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. NOW we are to begin a History full of surprizing Turns and Adventures; I mean, that of Mary Read and Anne Bonny, alias Bonn, which were the true Names of these two Pyrates; the odd Incidents of their rambling Lives are such, that some may be tempted to think the whole Story no better than a Novel or Romance; but since it is supported by many thousand Witnesses, I mean the People of Jamaica, who were present at their Tryals, and heard the Story of their Lives, upon the first discovery of their Sex; the Truth of it can be no more contested, than that there were such Men in the World, as Roberts and Black-beard... - Captain Charles Johnson, *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the most notorious Pyrates* One of the most famous pirates of all time, and possibly the most famous woman to ever become one, was Anne Bonny. The Irish-born girl moved with her family to the Bahamas at a young age in the early 18th century, which at that time was a hotbed for piracy by the likes of Blackbeard, but the redhead with a fiery temper would go on to forge her own reputation. After marrying a poor sailor who accepted clemency to give up piracy, Anne began a legendary affair with Calico Jack Rackam and became pregnant with his child, but that did not stop them from plundering the high seas aboard his pirate ship *Revenge*, at least until they were captured by British authorities. Anne avoided execution by pleading her belly, getting a temporary stay of execution due to her pregnancy. Among all the pirates of the Golden Age of Piracy, none were as unique as Mary Read, who was one of just two known women to be tried as a pirate during the Golden Age, alongside her own crewmate (and possible lover) Anne Bonny. Like Anne, Mary Read was an illegitimate child who spent some of her childhood dressed up as and disguised as a little boy through incredibly strange circumstances. But unlike her future shipmate, Mary ultimately took a liking to it, and she continued to disguise her gender to take on roles reserved for men, including in the British army. During that time, she fell in love with a Flemish soldier and eventually married him. Mary Read might have been content to live out her life with her husband in Holland, but after his death, she headed for the West Indies, only to have her ship commandeered by pirates. But Read, who had worked on a ship before, was only too

happy to join the pirate crew and play the role of privateer. And in 1720, that crew was captured by Calico Jack, who already had his lover Anne Bonny as part of his crew and now unwittingly added a second female when Mary opted to join. Together the three played a legendary role as shipmates and possible lovers while continuing their piracy around the Bahamas, only to eventually be captured by authorities in October 1720. Most of the crew was executed, but Mary was able to successfully plead the belly and thereby receiving a stay of execution. This spared her the noose, but Mary would die of illness while still imprisoned in 1721. *Anne Bonny & Mary Read* chronicles the mysterious lives and legends of the two famous female pirates, attempting to separate fact from fiction while analyzing her lasting legacy. Along with pictures depicting Anne Bonny, Mary Read, and other important people, you will learn about the famous pirates like you never have before, in no time at all.

anne bonny and mary read: *Anne Bonny EBook* Laura Perdew, 2015-09 Yo-ho-ho! Join our terror on the high seas as stories of famous pirates from around the world are retold in this fast-moving series for kids in grades 3 through 6; each book includes an analysis page in each chapter that helps the kids understand what is real and what might have been fictionalized over time; Each book provides a concluding chapter that recounts for the kids whether the pirate is more legend or mostly truth. The story of Blackbeard is undeniably a thrilling one that is best classified as a mystery. But one might also call many parts of it a fantasy. We know, of course, that Edward Teach--or Edward Thatch--was a real person. But much of what we think we know about his alter ego, Blackbeard, is almost certainly fiction. Could a headless body actually swim around a ship three times? Science tells us this is preposterous. But many gray areas exist between the simple fact that Blackbeard was an actual person and the absurd idea that he was superhuman. Was he indeed a murderer or just very good at making people think that he was a merciless killer? At least some reputable sources are convinced that he wasn't just acting ruthlessly. National Geographic calls Blackbeard the worst and perhaps the cruelest pirate of them all. These books correlate well to common core standards that ask students to read stories and literature, as well as more complex texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas such as science and social studies. Students will be challenged and asked questions that push them to refer back to what they've read. This stresses critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life.

anne bonny and mary read: *Anne Bonny and Mary Read* , 2018-07-28

anne bonny and mary read: *Calico Jack, Anne Bonny and Mary Read* Charles River Charles River Editors, 2018-03-02 *Includes historic illustrations depicting Calico Jack, Anne Bonny, Mary Read, and important people in their lives. *Includes the profiles of Calico Jack, Anne Bonny and Mary Read from the famous English pirate history *A General History of the Pyrates*. *Discusses common legends about the three famous pirates, separating fact from fiction. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. The Day that Rackam was executed, by special Favour, he was admitted to see [Anne Bonny]; but all the Comfort she gave him, was, that she was sorry to see him there, but if he had fought like a Man, he need not have been hang'd like a Dog. - Captain Charles Johnson, *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the most notorious Pyrates* One of the most famous pirates of all time, and possibly the most famous woman to ever become one, was Anne Bonny. The Irish-born girl moved with her family to the Bahamas at a young age in the early 18th century, which at that time was a hotbed for piracy by the likes of Blackbeard, but the redhead with a fiery temper would go on to forge her own reputation. After marrying a poor sailor who accepted clemency to give up piracy, Anne began a legendary affair with Calico Jack Rackam and became pregnant with his child, but that did not stop them from plundering the high seas aboard his pirate ship *Revenge*, at least until they were captured by British authorities. Anne avoided execution by pleading her belly, getting a temporary stay of execution due to her pregnancy. It is at that point that Anne Bonny drops off the historical record and becomes the stuff of legends. It's unclear whether she was eventually executed or pardoned or even ransomed, and it's unclear what became of her child. Her relationship with Mary Read aboard the *Revenge* is also the stuff of legends, and

people have been filling in the gaps ever since. Among all the pirates of the Golden Age of Piracy, none were as unique as Mary Read, who was one of just two known women to be tried as a pirate during the Golden Age, alongside her own crewmate (and possible lover) Anne Bonny. Like Anne, Mary Read was an illegitimate child who spent some of her childhood dressed up as and disguised as a little boy through incredibly strange circumstances. But unlike her future shipmate, Mary ultimately took a liking to it, and she continued to disguise her gender to take on roles reserved for men, including in the British army. Though he would accomplish many things in his career that would earn him notoriety among the pirates of his age, the simple truth is that he is remembered mostly for his association with Anne Bonny and Mary Read, two of history's most famous women pirates. In fact, had it not been for his involvement with them, his name might have disappeared from the history books entirely. And fittingly, even his nickname, Calico, came from the type of fabric he preferred for his shirts, the same fabric typically used for women's everyday clothing. Rackham preferred attractive print fabrics produced for trade with natives in the New World, a flamboyant taste worthy of the common pirate stereotype. Calico Jack to make yet another contribution to pirate history and legend: the Jolly Roger pirate flag. Flying the simple yet frightening flag that featured a white skull and crossed swords against a black banner, Calico Jack ensured his targets knew they were in trouble as soon as they could spot the flag. To this day, the flag remains synonymous with piracy. Still, it seems Calico Jack will never escape the shadow of his famous female shipmates, despite the fact he was their captain, and if anything it seems he enjoyed having the fairer sex aboard, in more ways than one. This book chronicles the lives and legends of history's most famous pirate crew, with historic illustrations and contemporary accounts. It also includes a bibliography and Table of Contents.

anne bonny and mary read: *Pirate Queens* Rebecca Alexandra Simon, 2022-04-30 Between August and October 1720, two female pirates named Anne Bonny and Mary Read terrorized the Caribbean in and around Jamaica. Despite their short career, they became two of the most notorious pirates during the height of the eighteenth-century Golden Age of Piracy. In a world dominated by men, they became infamous for their bravery, cruelty and unwavering determination to escape the social constraints placed on women during that time. Despite their infamy, mystery shrouds their lives before they became pirates. Their biographies were recorded in Captain Charles Johnson's 1724 book, *A General History of the Pyrates*, depicting the two women as illegitimate women raised by men who, against insurmountable odds, crossed paths in Nassau and became pirates together. But how much is fact versus fiction? This first full-length biography about Anne Bonny and Mary Read explores their intriguing backgrounds while examining the social context of women in their lifetime and their legacy in popular culture that exists to the present day. Using *A General History of the Pyrates*, early modern legal documents relating to women, their recorded public trial in *The Tryal of Jack Rackham and Other Pyrates*, newspapers and new, uncovered research, this book unravels the mysteries and legends surrounding their lives.

anne bonny and mary read: *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates* Charles Johnson, 2002 This is a print of the 1927 reissued 4th edition of *A General History of the Pirates*- enhanced by the Arthur L. Hayward's editorial touches.

anne bonny and mary read: *Iron Men, Wooden Women* Margaret S. Creighton, Lisa Norling, 1996-05 From the voyage of the Argonauts to the Tailhook scandal, seafaring has long been one of the most glaringly male-dominated occupations. In this groundbreaking interdisciplinary study, Margaret Creighton, Lisa Norling, and their co-authors explore the relationship of gender and seafaring in the Anglo-American age of sail. Drawing on a wide range of American and British sources—from diaries, logbooks, and account ledgers to songs, poetry, fiction, and a range of public sources—the authors show how popular fascination with seafaring and the sailors' rigorous, male-only life led to models of gender behavior based on iron men aboard ship and stoic women ashore. Yet *Iron Men, Wooden Women* also offers new material that defies conventional views. The authors investigate such topics as women in the American whaling industry and the role of the captain's wife aboard ship. They explore the careers of the female pirates Anne Bonny and Mary

Read, as well as those of other women—transvestite heroines—who dressed as men to serve on the crews of sailing ships. And they explore the importance of gender and its connection to race for African American and other seamen in both the American and the British merchant marine. Contributors include both social historians and literary critics: Marcus Rediker, Dianne Dugaw, Ruth Wallis Herndon, Haskell Springer, W. Jeffrey Bolster, Laura Tabili, Lillian Nayder, and Melody Graulich, in addition to Margaret Creighton and Lisa Norling.

anne bonny and mary read: *A Man Among Ye #3* Stephanie Phillips, 2020-10-28 Who said pirates have to be men? Caught between Captain Calico Jack Rackham and the British Crown, buccaneers Anne Bonny and Mary Read have no choice but to assemble an all-female crew and teach them the pirates' life!

anne bonny and mary read: *Anne Bonny the Infamous Female Pirate* Phillip Thomas Tucker, 2017-08-22 The story of the most famous female pirate in history provides a remarkable personal odyssey from a time when women were almost powerless and at the lowest level of the social order on both sides of the Atlantic. This new biographical work fills considerable gaps in Anne Bonny's life beyond her mythology to rescue an actual person for posterity. After turning her back on everything she knew growing up in South Carolina to find a sense of personal freedom, Anne Bonny sailed the Caribbean's pristine waters during the Golden Age of Piracy in the early eighteenth century. Few accurate records exist about these law-breakers, whose lifestyles called for hanging. Fortunately, Anne Bonny was a notable exception to the rule, as she was caught off the Jamaican coast and tried by a court of law, whose records have fortunately survived. So, who was the real Anne Bonny? A heartless prostitute, a bloodthirsty psychopathic, or a compassionate woman of faith and courage? Such a fundamental question has not been adequately answered by historians for 300 years. It is now time to take a fresh look at the life of Anne Bonny to present a corrective view into not only her story but also the seldom explored, but incredibly rich, field of women's history. The Anne Bonny mythology is today popularly told in Starz channel's *Black Sails* and the video game *Assassin's Creed*.

anne bonny and mary read: *History's Famous Women Pirates: Grace O'Malley, Anne Bonny and Mary Read* Charles River Editors, 2013-10-15 *Includes historic illustrations depicting the three women and important people and places in their lives. *Includes a profile of Anne Bonny and Mary Read from the famous English pirate history *A General History of the Pyrates*. *Discusses common legends about the three women, separating fact from fiction. *Includes Bibliographies for further reading. The people who have lived outside the boundaries of normal societies and refused to play by the rules have long fascinated the world, and nowhere is this more evident than the continuing interest in the pirates of centuries past. As the subjects of books, movies, and even theme park rides, people continue to let their imaginations go when it comes to pirates, with buried treasure, parrots, and walking the plank all ingrained in pop culture's perception of them. While that explains some of the reasons Grace O'Malley's life and legacy continue to resonate, she was clearly a different kind of woman altogether. Far from being a member of an unprivileged class seeking to steal booty from any ship she could, she was both a queen and a rebel who defiantly fought to protect her home and way of life against the English. Naturally, while foreigners might remember her as a pirate and one of many famous rebels opposing the English over the centuries, Ireland has remembered her as a folk hero, and she has become the subject of all the poetry, songs, plays, and movies that come along with such a standing. 19th century writer James Hardiman may have summed up her legacy the best when he wrote, Her name has been frequently used by our Bards, to designate Ireland. Hence our Countrymen have been often called 'Sons of old Grana Weal.' One of the most famous pirates of all time, and possibly the most famous woman to ever become one, was Anne Bonny. The Irish-born girl moved with her family to the Bahamas at a young age in the early 18th century, which at that time was a hotbed for piracy by the likes of Blackbeard, but the redhead with a fiery temper would go on to forge her own reputation. After marrying a poor sailor who accepted clemency to give up piracy, Anne began a legendary affair with Calico Jack Rackam and became pregnant with his child, but that did not stop them from plundering the high seas aboard his

pirate ship Revenge, at least until they were captured by British authorities. Anne avoided execution by pleading her belly, getting a temporary stay of execution due to her pregnancy. Among all the pirates of the Golden Age of Piracy, none were as unique as Mary Read, who was one of just two known women to be tried as a pirate during the Golden Age, alongside her own crewmate (and possible lover) Anne Bonny. Like Anne, Mary Read was an illegitimate child who spent some of her childhood dressed up as and disguised as a little boy through incredibly strange circumstances. But unlike her future shipmate, Mary ultimately took a liking to it, and she continued to disguise her gender to take on roles reserved for men, including in the British army. In 1720, Mary's ship was captured by Calico Jack, who already had his lover Anne Bonny as part of his crew and now unwittingly added a second female when Mary opted to join. Together the three played a legendary role as shipmates and possible lovers while continuing their piracy around the Bahamas, only to eventually be captured by authorities in October 1720. Most of the crew was executed, but Mary was able to successfully plead the belly and thereby receiving a stay of execution. This spared her the noose, but Mary died of illness before giving birth anyway. History's Famous Women Pirates chronicles the lives and legacies of the three famous women. Along with bibliographies and pictures, you will learn about Grace O'Malley, Anne Bonny and Mary Read like never before.

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