

DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

By WILBORNE HARRELL and HEYWOOD ZIEGLER, JR.

Editor's Note: This is the third and final article relating the adventures and exploits of pirates, particularly North Carolina's famous freebooters who sailed our waters in the early 18th century. The first told the story of Blackbeard and Stede Bonnet; the second gave an account of the lives of Mary Read, Anne Bonney and Mary Ann Blythe, North Carolina's unusual and unique women buccaneers. This final story gives a few sidelights on buried treasure—a necessary adjunct to piracy.

I had riches when I sailed, when I sailed,
I had treasure when I sailed, when I sailed;
I had riches galore,
And treasure evermore,
I had riches when I sailed,
—From an old pirate ballad.

When the subject of piracy is broached, it follows that buried treasure, sunken Spanish galleons, plate ships bearing riches to Spain, and cached or secreted gold and jewels would be the next thought to enter your mind. According to Ken Krippene, authority on pirates and buried treasure, there is a total of more than 260 million dollars worth of lost or buried treasure scattered about the world. Recently more than 18 million dollars in pirate treasure have been recovered in the United States alone. And many more millions are waiting for some lucky finder.

It is not unlikely or too far-fetched to assume that a goodly portion of this lost pirate treasure may be buried somewhere on the shores of the Albemarle Sound or the banks of the Chowan River. It is known that Edward Teach or Blackbeard, having some sort of cooperative agreement with Governor Eden, sailed his ship into these waters, it is almost a certainty he cast anchor at some time in Edenton Bay. And some of our shores and sand banks were desolate enough to form good pirate hiding places.

At the period Blackbeard operated, the early 1700's, much of the loot was in the form of perishable commodities, such as silks, spices, tea, rum, molasses, hides and indigo. That undoubtedly accounts for the fact that very little gold, silver bullion, coins and jewels have been found. But treasure is buried on our shores—enough to pique the cupidity of any treasure seeker. As late as 1928, on Plumb Point, in Beaufort County, one of Blackbeard's treasure chests was unearthed . . .

One warm moonlight night in the year 1717—the exact date is not known—a pirate brig nosed its way slowly into the Pamlico River and turned her prow toward Plumb Point, a narrow neck of land. The brig had sailed in from the sea through Ocracoke Inlet, made her secretive way across Pamlico Sound and was now on the final lap of her voyage. Slowly and carefully she surged forward, then casting anchor, her sailors made fast the sails and a small boat was quietly put overside.

In the boat were seated four persons, two sailors with kerchiefs about their heads were seated at the oars, and in the stern sheets sat a man and a woman. The man was big, swarthy and blackbearded, wearing a scarlet coat with lace at the wrists, and a wide, white-plumed hat. He was armed; he held a cocked pistol on his knee, and his left hand hovered not far from the two other weapons he carried—a wicked-looking knife and a handsome, ornate-hilted sword.

The woman seated beside him, insofar as could be ascertained in the moonlight, was beautiful. She was dressed in male togs, and was also armed, wearing a heavy silk sash loaded with silver-mounted pistols and knives. The moonlight glinted sharply from the silver mountings. At her side, the woman wore a long, beautifully rapier. Both the man and woman were heavily booted, their feet and legs encased in high doeskin boots.

The man was Edward Teach, o

Blackbeard, and the woman was Mary Ann Blythe, notorious woman pirate, and Teach's consort and partner in piracy. In the bow of the boat could be discerned dimly the outlines of chests and boxes—evidently bearing treasure.

The night was humid and still, and bullfrogs on the marshy banks filled the air with their dismal croakings. Rhythmically the oars dipped into the water, propelling the boat toward the sandy shore. Occasionally an inadvertent knock of the oars against the oarlocks would resound startlingly loud on the quiet night, eliciting a restless movement or frown from the big, black-maned man in the stern sheets. The occupants of the boat did not speak.

Soon the boat slid softly and gratefully onto the beach, and jumping out into the shallow water, the sailors dragged her farther ashore so the man and woman could descend from the boat dryshod. During all this, Blackbeard did not for a single moment relinquish his grip on his pistol.

Blackbeard and Mary Ann stepped ashore and the two sailors dragged the heavy chests and boxes from the boat, grunting from the exertion. Lugging the heavy chests between them, they carried them upshore and set them down. Pulling a piece of parchment from his pocket, Blackbeard began to pace off distances, pausing occasionally to note it down on the parchment. Mary Ann watched him steadily, but said nothing. The two sailors, having returned to the boat for shovels, were standing idly by, but watched Blackbeard with a mixed look of uncertainty and fearful expectancy.

Blackbeard, halting before a cleared space, jabbed a stick into the ground, and said laconically, "Dig here."

For the space of an hour or more no sound could be heard but the croaking of the frogs and the slithering, sibilant scraping of the digging shovels. The pile of sand thrown up by the shovels grew bigger and the hole in the earth grew deeper, the sailors pausing every now and then to flick off the perspiration that trickled down their faces from beneath damp kerchiefs.

At length, the hole was completed. The sailors glanced at Blackbeard who nodded his head almost imperceptibly at the chests. The sailors, stepping forward, dragged the heavy chests and boxes, with more grunting, to the edge of the hole. One of the men lowered himself into the hole, and received the chests as the other passed

Smokey Says:



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them down to him. Blackbeard stood quietly by and watched the men work. When the chests had been finally stowed in the bottom of the hole, he spoke again, "Fill it up."

The two sailors fell to shoveling, and again the thump, thump of the soft sand was the only sound that mingled with the frogs' external croaking.

Blackbeard glanced at Mary Ann, who was standing intently watching the hole being gradually filled. A faint smile touched his lips.

The sailors gave a final pat to the sand with the shovels and turned questionally to Blackbeard, who pointed silently with his pistol in the direction of the boat. "Shouldering the shovels, the sailors made off in the

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We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our many friends for their deeds of kindness and expressions of sympathy shown us in the recent death of our beloved husband, brother and son. Also for the beautiful floral tokens and for use of automobiles.

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Report Shows Rural Consumption Of Milk

Cow Ownership Most Influential Factor Says Professor

Cow ownership is by far the most influential factor in encouraging fluid milk consumption among rural people, according to a survey recently completed by Walter P. Cotton, associate professor of agricultural economics at North Carolina State College and the Experiment Station.

Cow-owning families, he reveals, drink three times as much whole milk as those who own no cows, and five times as much skim and buttermilk.

On the other hand, consumption of evaporated milk among cow-owners is one-tenth as much as that of non-cow-owners.

These facts are reported in a new bulletin, "Consumption of Dairy Products in Rural North Carolina," issued this week by the Experiment Station. Copies are now available either from county agents or from the Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh. The publication is issued as Bulletin No. 372 of the Experiment Station.

Cotton, author of the bulletin, discusses the percentage of cow ownership by rural families, compares rural and urban consumption, and explains the effects of factors influencing use of dairy products in rural homes. Included in the 30-page bulletin are explanatory charts and tables detailing results of the special study completed early this year. The author prepared the report af-

ter interviewing nearly 400 North Carolina rural families. His latest booklet is a companion work to an earlier one, "Consumption of Dairy Products in Urban North Carolina."

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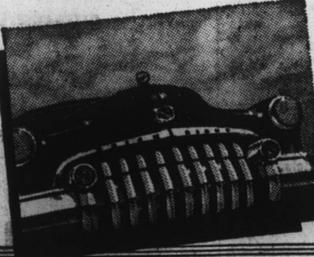


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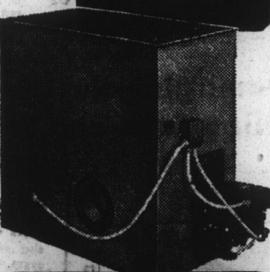
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