[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325343) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325343)

Hurricane suggested this fascinating book to me called *Hubbub: Filth, Noise & Stench in England* by Emily Cockayne. She took her doctorate thesis on noise during the 17th and 18th centuries and expanded into a book on all the irritations of that period. If you *really* want to create a period-correct campsite, here are some notes from her book for your consideration. 

“The skin of seventeenth and eighteenth century citizens was irritated by disease and infestations and chafed by coarse fabrics and dirty linen.” (Cockayne, p. 83)

“Many conditions would have caused itching, including eczema, impetigo, ‘psorophthalmy’ (eyebrow dandruff), scabies, chilblains, chapped and rough skin, ‘tetters’ (spots and sores), ‘black morphew’ (leprous or scurvy skin) and ringworm. Few citizens enjoyed smooth unblemished skin. Cuts and grazes could lead to ugly and uncomfortable scabbing and unattractive scarring. In this pre-antibiotic era, skin eruptions in the forms of bulging pustules, lesions, acne and gout-induced ulcers could all have become infected, causing chronic wounds.’” (Cockayne, p. 54)

“Venereal disease was the secret epidemic that blighted the entire period. In addition to weeping sores on the lips, venereal diseases necessitated scratching in embarrassing places. Prostitutes and their clients were most frequently exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, and whores, strumpets, harlots and lechers were often given the sobriquets of ‘itchy’ and ‘pocky’.” (Cockayne, p. 55)

“Many bottoms would have itched with discomfort thanks to the presence of thread and tape worms in the digestive system. According to the numbers contemporary adverts, worms created a myriad of physical discomforts, including ‘pinching Pain in the Belly, when hungry, a stinking Breath’, vomiting, nightmares, pallidness, fever and teeth gnashing.” (Cockayne, p. 55)

“Fleas proliferated in sea ports. While lodging at the White Swan in Gravesend, William Schellinks discovered that ‘the English fleas are very aggressive’. Indeed, they were so aggressive that he forsook his bed for a hard bench.” (Cockayne, p. 56-7)

“[Thomas] Muffet remarked that fleas, whole troublesome to all, do not stink like ‘wall-lice’ (bed-bugs), and added that it is no ‘disgrace...to be troubled with them, as it is to be lowsie [lousy]’.” (Cockayne, p. 57)

“[Keith] Thomas acknowledges that full body immersion was rare, a fact partly attributable to the relative shortage of appropriate facilities. However, Thomas argues that body parts were cleaned, even if the whole body was rarely immersed. Cleaning was more often a dry process, with a rub down using a brush of pig’s hair to dislodge the lice. ‘Rub the Hair with a Napkin is to dry it from its swettiness and filth in the head’ was included among the descriptions of the barber’s work in Randle Holme’s The Academy of Amory (1688).”

“It is unlikely that soap featured much in the cleansing routine. Made from rancid fats and alkaline matter such as ashes, most cakes of soap would have been quite greasy and would have irritated the skin. The finest soaps were crafted from olive oil, and were kinder to the skin, but these were expensive and would not have been used widely.” (Cockayne, p. 60)

I'll post more of this as I get to entering it into my notes. 

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325345) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325345)

<http://www.cleaning101.com/cleaning/history/soaphistory2.cfm>

above is a link with a bit of soap history

Here is a link that discribes some of the oils that were used in some or cleaning

[http://www.aussiesoapsupplies.com.au/Oil-P...rties-p-21.html](http://www.aussiesoapsupplies.com.au/Oil-Properties-p-21.html)

Here is a more concise writing on hygiene during the centuries.

[http://www.scienceinthebox.com/en\_UK/pdf/h...-of-washing.pdf](http://www.scienceinthebox.com/en_UK/pdf/history-of-washing.pdf)

a bit of soap history from the caribbean/south america area

Da Costa Soap" used to be brought to Brazil by slaves who came from the African Coast, since around 1620, inform travelers and Portuguese chroniclers, of that time.

It used to come from an area between Ghana and Cameroon, and mainly from Nigeria, the Republic of Benin and Togo.

Although Brazil has always imported also other soaps, such as russian soap, american soap, Marseille soap (from France) or english soap - there are records in the Brazilian National Archive - the Da Costa Soap, has always been the favorite one among slaves and freedmen.

Among the iai�s, the success was not different. The texture of the skin of their mucamas was widely envied by them. They all wanted to use the same "savon" soap, in french - (after all "everything" was French - in Brazil, at the time) but they preferred a savonette, a "savon of toilette. " a toilette soapbar. And to do this the mucamas needed to change the scent of the original Da Costa Soap. How to do it? It was not that difficult.

Usually, during the night, gardens of Casa Grande (manor) in the coffe plantation farms - used to emanate diverse and delicious aromas of so different flowers. There were so many that it was difficult to pick: Jasmine? Manac�s? Rosemary? Or maybe Almecegueiras? Magnolias? Oh, ok; a few petals of patchouli .

And voil�! The mixture was then applied to the Da Costa Soap; that then yes, was appreciated by the nhanh�s. And the scented Da Costa Soap used to show up.

According to Gilberto Freyre in his universal work, "Master and Slaves", it was the Muslim slaves - due to their hygiene habits who introduced the custom of bathing in Brazil.

And after slavery abolition they began to sell such soap to the population of Brazil - in general. Traditional or scented ones. Initially, on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, then capital of the republic. And then throughout our country, Brazil.

here is another link that you might find interesting

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/xhmx76pgea1b9ka8/>

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325348) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325348)

Ok, here is a bit of more information...(can you tell I am a bit bored at the moment? 

Plentiful supplies of high quality olive oil and barilla ashes (from which they made their alkali) made regions like Castile in Spain and Marseilles in France renowned for the quality of the soap they produced. The method used throughout the Middle Ages and up to the 17th century consisted of boiling olive oil (in Mediterranean countries) or animal fats (in Northern Europe) with an extract of plant ashes and lime.

In the 16th century, three broad varieties of soap were available: coarse soap made from train oil (extracted from whale blubber), sweet soap from olive oil and speckled soap from tallow. For a while, the making of speckled soap was forbidden, not simply because it smelt so bad but because its manufacture would deplete the nation’s tallow reserves, thereby driving up the cost of candles beyond the reach of the poor.

As a result, soap was heavily taxed and became a luxury item only readily available to the rich. Eventually, market forces virtually eliminated sweet and speckled soaps, despite the difficulty of making an odourless coarse soap. Understandably, it wasn’t long before perfumed soaps were introduced from Italy.

In the early 17th century, chemists and soap manufacturers began to address the problems confronting the soap industry. Their combined efforts over the next 150 years produced an understanding of the chemistry involved, resulting in greater manufacturing efficiency, a wider variety of more fragrant and colourful solid (and liquid) soaps, and milder soaps for use on the finest lace and linens. The industry thrived.

Link to the website....http://www.open2.net/historyandthearts/discover\_science/soapmaking.html

bit on soapmaking...http://www.whitestagandfox.org/temair/handouts/Soapmaking%20Handout%20Pennsic%202002.pdf

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Spanish Louisiana - on the river Osage
* Interests:Many and varied.

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325349) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325349)

Hmmm. All this also opens up that can of worms over shaving and beards. How would one shave a blemished face such as described here? Not likely I say. Any info in there on this?

Bo

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325351) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325351)

**Artist Unknown, Probably French, 17th Century**

Object: Shaving Set (Secular Object).

Shaving set in tortoiseshell with silver mounts.

Dimensions: 25.9 x 11.5 x 8.1 cm

Acquisition: Bequeathed Mr. J Hunt, 1977

Reference: NGI.12060

[Back to Provenance Research index](http://www.nationalgallery.ie/html/research.html)

**Provenance Research**

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325352) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325352)

**1770 -** French barber JEAN-JACQUES PERRET writes a treatise called The Art of Learning to Shave Oneself (La Pogonotomie), which gives men advice for using various shaving products and equipment. His book is also the first to originally propose the idea of a "safety razor."

**LATE 1700s -** The PERRET RAZOR is actually manufactured, which is an L-shaped wooden guard that holds a razor blade in place. This will prevent one from cutting too deeply into their skin. Still, it lacks the real "safety" capabilities that everyone wants and needs, and therefore is not considered to be the first true safety razor. This is, however, the beginning of the safety razor’s evolution.

Hey from another site found this...http://www.telegraph.co.uk/arts/main.jhtml?xml=/arts/2007/03/11/botin11.xml

17th-century English life. Whether it is the techniques employed in building military earthworks, or the cost of renting a pensione in 1650s Rome, or the vogue among fashionable Restoration gentlemen for shaving their heads ('in the Turkish mode') before donning their full-bottomed wigs: cumulatively, this richness of quotidian detail provides an exhilarating sense of closeness to the past - almost of eavesdropping on the Verneys' conversations.

...so does that mean guys ya gotta shave yer heads too? ROFLMAO...

OK, did I mention I was bored.... 

from "Barber History" text ....http://books.google.com/books?id=nZ0cTwgjMIgC&pg=PA10&lpg=PA10&dq=shaving+17+th+century&source=web&ots=M6U0hU31b5&sig=nQrA9Jn6E2E\_vgSqTJ-ssFpKmUE&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\_result&resnum=10&ct=result

interesting fact on beard history....

Later on, in the 15th century most men in Europe were clean-shaven. But priests often used beards as a signal that they were convinced of the doctrines of Protestant Reformation. The longer the beard, the stronger the signal.

After the early 17th century beards were not in fashion anymore at all in Western Europe and America. In 1698 Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ordere men to shave their beards and collected even a tax on beards, to bring Russia closer to modern Europe.

OHHH OHHHH, did you know that shaving was a cause of the Ottman empire collapsing...

Yep...at least according to a Mid eastern website...

<http://www.inter-islam.org/Prohibitions/beard.html>

(ok, it stated more that the moors were accepting the standards of the West by shaving their beard, then went on to say the empire then fell...the article is trying to get the Islamic men to let their beards grow)

YES, I am really REALLY bored.. 

Ok, back to the question...

In urban circles of Western Europe and the Americas, beards were out of fashion after the early 17th century; to such an extent that, in 1698, Peter the Great of Russia levied a tax on beards in order to bring Russian society more in line with contemporary Western Europe.

**Edited October 12, 2008 by Lady Cassandra Seahawke**

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325354) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325354)

although shaving on a deck upon a rolling sea might be a bit of a challenge ey?

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325357) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325357)

In the 15th century, the beard was worn long. Clergymen in 16th century England were usually clean shaven to indicate their celibacy. When a priest became convinced of the doctrines of the **Protestant Reformation**

The **Protestant Reformation**, also referred to as the **Protestant Revolution**, was a movement in the 1...

he would often signal this by allowing his beard to grow, showing that he rejected the tradition of the church and perhaps also its stance on clerical celibacy. The longer the beard, the more striking the statement. Sixteenth century beards were therefore suffered to grow to an amazing length .

Strangely, this trend was especially marked during Queen Mary's **Mary I of England**

**Mary I** , also known as **Mary Tudor**, was Queen of England *and Queen of Ireland ...*

*reign, a time of reaction against protestant reform . At this time the beard was very often made use of as a tooth-pick case. Brantôme tells us that Admiral Coligny ...* ***Gaspard de Coligny***

***Gaspard de Coligny****, Seigneur de Chtillon, Admiral of France and Protestant leader, came of a nob ...*

*wore his tooth-pick in his beard. Queen Elizabeth* ***Elizabeth I of England***

***Elizabeth I*** *was Queen of England , Queen of France , and Queen of Ireland ...*

*, succeeding Mary, is said to have disliked beards and therefore established a tax on them.*

*here is an articles about the nature of beards...*

[*http://books.google.com/books?id=d2IMAAAAY...8&ct=result*](http://books.google.com/books?id=d2IMAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA381&lpg=PA381&dq=men+shaving+beards+in+the+17th+century&source=web&ots=jLgzAk_IUX&sig=kbj1jZ6IcuTesi_MLR9sF6hn-Z0&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=8&ct=result)

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*So it seems wearing a beard was a matter of style, where you lived, who was in power and yer finances.*

*Ummm..... are you learning more then ya ever wanted to know ta facial hairs???*

**Edited October 12, 2008 by Lady Cassandra Seahawke**

[**hurricane**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/32-hurricane/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,672 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Seattle, Washington
* Interests:Songs of a nautical nature, wine, rum, rum punch, Henry Morgan and Krimson Kat.

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325380) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325380)

Glad you liked it Mission. Everyone should read that book and it is so well referenced and footnoted it will keep those who wish to pursue absolute accuracy busy for a long time.

I particularly liked the part about the painters of the period being the PhotoShoppers of their times. That people with clef palettes or part of a missing jaw or all blistery were fixed in the paintings so the artist could sell them. Kind of changes your view of what people actually looked like back then.

I encourage everyone to read this book. Damned fine work! And thanks Mission for posting excerpts from your notes.

-- Hurricane

[**Jack Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2837-jack-roberts/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,063 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Orlando, FL

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325381) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325381)

Aye agree. Fantastic read for sure. Really puts you into the time frame and helps to get into the mind set of the time.

Highly recommended. (Not that it would account for much.)

[**Lady Cassandra Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10298-lady-cassandra-seahawke/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 350 posts

[Posted October 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325382) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325382)

ok, shuffling off...thought my quick research stuff was ok... dragg'n my cutlass behind me tip scratch'n a line in the dirt.... dejections...hanging head... ...rejections...sigh...going back to lurking.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 13, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325402) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325402)

 Capt. Bo of the WTF co. said:

Hmmm. All this also opens up that can of worms over shaving and beards. How would one shave a blemished face such as described here? Not likely I say. Any info in there on this?

Bo

Pepys says he shaved with pumice in his diary. (Think how much fun *that* would have been.) Still, if you can stand that, you would probably be conditioned to handle more wear on your face than we're used to. I have been trying to find a good reference for shaving implements from the period, but have not been satisfied with what I've come across so far. Still, I have two tortoiseshell handled straight razors in my barber-surgeon's kit. They are both flat handled, which I understand is period correct, but they also have thumb latches, which I understand may not be. (There are some websites on shaving instruments, but I've found most of them lacking in either the sort of information I want or proper authority to back them up. I am very wary of websites without proper footnotes. Note, my comments on websites are not directed at Lady Casandra, who has given us an overwhelming number of references to websites which I have not fully explored. Also note that Cockayne is restricting the subject of her book to 16th and (I believe) early/mid 17th century England and thus info on foreign soaps may not be applicable to the quotes.)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 13, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325403) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325403)

 Lady Cassandra Seahawke said:

After the early 17th century beards were not in fashion anymore at all in Western Europe and America. In 1698 Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ordere men to shave their beards and collected even a tax on beards, to bring Russia closer to modern Europe.

This agrees with a quote from the book I originally mentioned, which includes the Pepys/pumice reference.

"Male middling sorts and professionals usually displayed a smooth beard-free face. [samuel] Pepys used a pumice to remove facial hair in 1662." (Cockayne, p. 66)

[**MadMike**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1572-madmike/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 251 posts
* Location:Careened near the Gulf of Mexico
* Interests:1712 raid on Dauphin Island, Alabama.

[Posted October 17, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325841) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325841)

Soap is made from lye, not ashes. Water is poured through ashes to extract the lye, which is then boiled with rendered tallow, lard, etc. to make soap.

During the American Revolutionary War soap was part of the men's rations, equivalent to the size of a small bar.

Despite this, conditions were such that bathing was a low priority (go on a three day period trek and you'll see what I mean- I had to shower twice to get the stench of the camp fire off me).

Yours, Mike

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 17, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325846) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325846)

I am certainly no expert on soap, so I looked it up. From the Wiki entry on [Soap](http://74.125.95.104/search?q=cache:lx3yBK1gr5sJ:en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soap+ashes+soap&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us&client=firefox-a):

"**Lye**

Reacting fat with sodium hydroxide will produce a hard soap.

Reacting fat with potassium hydroxide will produce a soap that is either soft or liquid. Historically, the alkali used was potassium hydroxide made from the deliberate burning of vegetation such as bracken, or from wood ashes."

Unless I misunderstand it, it sounds like soap can be made from a chemical that comes from ashes. However, it also sounds as if the only component required was the alkali produced from the ashes -- although how this was used in the soap is not explicitly explained on the Wiki page.

[**blackjohn**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1144-blackjohn/)

* Iron Age Hero Lost at Sea
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,745 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbia, Md
* Interests:Stuff... and junk.

[Posted October 17, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325850) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325850)

While serving in the Royal Artillery I was at one point held as a prisoner of war in an American fort on the frontier. We were given the honors of war and were allowed to keep our bayonets. My sergeant made a point on maintaining military discipline, which included continually polishing the brass on the bayonet scabbards with ashes, water, and elbow grease.

[**Graydog**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5382-graydog/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 796 posts
* Gender:Polly Wanna Cracker
* Location:The Sea
* Interests:My interest is becoming a one percenter so I can laugh at the 99 percenters. HAHAHAHAHAHA, Wow, guess I made it. Yo Ho.

[Posted October 17, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325853) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325853)

 blackjohn said:

While serving in the Royal Artillery I was at one point held as a prisoner of war in an American fort on the frontier. We were given the honors of war and were allowed to keep our bayonets. My sergeant made a point on maintaining military discipline, which included continually polishing the brass on the bayonet scabbards with ashes, water, and elbow grease.

As long as the Sergeant didn't make you polish your bayonets in front of each other it shouldn't be much of an issue. 

**Edited October 17, 2008 by Graydog**

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 18, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325900) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325900)

 Mission said:

unattractive scarring.

Got that one covered and if I stick with Lilly, I am certain to cover a few of the others... 

[**LadyBarbossa**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/408-ladybarbossa/)

* Wealth Redistributor & Mischief Making
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 4,641 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:The Land Between Two Rivers, aka Iowa
* Interests:18th c Piracy to American Revolution, Victorian Thespians, Equitation, tigers, Friesians, cooking, playing my viola & music in general. Researcher of Major General Baron Johann de Kalb. LOVES the Phantom of the Opera (who's also Brethren)! Transformers, Stargate, Star Trek, Star Wars, NCIS, Bones, The X Files

[Posted October 18, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325903) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325903)

LOL... Poor Sterling.

Mission! This is fantastic info! A couple of those "plagues" being caused by a poor immune system from lack of Vitamin C or something else! Would make sense if someone wasn't getting enough food or sun or something we today take for granted. I admit, been there, done that and can relate to some of those in a manner of speaking. One may go to great lengths to find a way to cover that troubled part of the body.

Thank ye for the info though.

~Lady B

[**blackjohn**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1144-blackjohn/)

* Iron Age Hero Lost at Sea
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,745 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbia, Md
* Interests:Stuff... and junk.

[Posted October 18, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325915) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325915)

 Graydog said:

 blackjohn said:

While serving in the Royal Artillery I was at one point held as a prisoner of war in an American fort on the frontier. We were given the honors of war and were allowed to keep our bayonets. My sergeant made a point on maintaining military discipline, which included continually polishing the brass on the bayonet scabbards with ashes, water, and elbow grease.

As long as the Sergeant didn't make you polish your bayonets in front of each other it shouldn't be much of an issue. 

Ho ho!

For that, you get one of [these](http://www.instantrimshot.com/).

[**blackjohn**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1144-blackjohn/)

* Iron Age Hero Lost at Sea
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,745 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbia, Md
* Interests:Stuff... and junk.

[Posted October 18, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=325920) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=325920)

Fwiw, I've been "trying out" severe vitamin D deficiency to see what that is like.

Kids, don't do this at home.

Trust me on this one.



[**Littleneckhalfshell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4-littleneckhalfshell/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 390 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Hudson Valley, NY
* Interests:Blacksmithing, hunting, fishing, stuff.......

[Posted October 22, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=326239) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=326239)

wow, who knew I was already on the way to being truly period correct! I already have at times the ‘psorophthalmy’ (eyebrow dandruff) and now, since I do sport a beard, I hope the politicians are not students of history and don't get the idea to renew the tax on beards, after all, they seem to be ready to tax everything else! I guess that is why I turned pirate 

[**Animal**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/91-animal/)

* Buccaneer
* 
* 
* Member
* 903 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Treasure Coast, FL

[Posted December 25, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=334949) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=334949)

 MadMike said:

Soap is made from lye, not ashes. Water is poured through ashes to extract the lye, which is then boiled with rendered tallow, lard, etc. to make soap.

During the American Revolutionary War soap was part of the men's rations, equivalent to the size of a small bar.

Despite this, conditions were such that bathing was a low priority (go on a three day period trek and you'll see what I mean- I had to shower twice to get the stench of the camp fire off me).

Yours, Mike

Hey, I like the smell of a campfire!!!! Of course, that's why they call me the Animal 

Animal

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted December 2, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374284) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374284)

*I was at the Smithsonian Natural History museum on Thanksgiving and they had a special exhibit there called "Written in Bone" with a part focusing on early colonial forensics. (All of which I highly recommend.) Of particular interest was the condition of some of the bones they found and what the forensic experts had to say about them. I took loads of pics, so I thought I'd share some of the bits that connected with our hobby. (Those of you wishing to be truly PC can decide if you want to start modifying your bones or not based on this display.) This material is reprinted from the exhibit signs, gathered 11/26/09.*

"**The Pleasure of a Pipe?**

Many activities can affect the skeleton, if repeated again and again. The wear and tear of growing tobacco bent the backs of colonists, while the habit of smoking tobacco in clay pipes damaged and stained their teeth. As they clenched the pipe between their teeth, the abrasive clay of the pipe stem wore facets in the enamel of the teeth around the pipe. Eventually these facets left holes in the bite.

Nearly everyone in colonial Chesapeake, young and old, men and women, was smoking - a fact that only skeletal evidence could reveal. All of these skulls from the Patuxent Point site show well-defined pipe facets, some so deep they caused abscessed teeth."

*Now, I accidentally cut off the signs explaining these skulls, but I do know for certain that the one of the left is a youth and the one in the middle is a man. I believe the one on the right is a woman, but my memory could be playing tricks. Looks like the man had a two pipe at a time habit.*

*Some job-related bone modifications. (Imagine the what sailors might have for repeated bone alterations and proceed as you feel compelled. Or not.)*

"**Shoemaker's Femur**

Repeated muscle damage from nailing a shoe or pounding leather braced against the thigh can cause chronic bleeding in the tissue around the femur. New bone growth in the region of the hemorrhaging can create a distinctive, ectopic (abnormal) formation."

*From the descriptions in this pic:*

"(below) **Shoemaker's combination tool**

17th century Peter Scott site, James City County, Virginia

this iron tool has pliers for stretching leather and a hammer for setting shoe nails or pegs, as the shoemaker held the shoe on his leg."

"**(right) Femur with damage possibly from shoemaking**

*ca. 1600-1630s Statehouse Complex Burial Ground, Jamestown, Virginia*

The first known shoemaker in Virginia was Christopher Nelms, in 1619, he left Bristol, England, to come to Jamestown, with a contract of two years' of wages paid in advance and the promise of 70 acres of land for the third year. By 1620, a muster roll of colonists showed his untimely death."

*There was also a display on something called "tailor's notches" (in the teeth), which I would think might easily relate to sailmakers. Unfortunately, the pics are really bad and you can't even see the notches in the teeth they show very well (because the camera aperture opened for a long time in the dark room and I didn't hold the camera steady). However, I'll give you my best read on the fuzzy words in the photo and post it for reference anyhow.*

"**Maxillae and mandible of an adult female, with "tailor's notches"**

*ca. 16?? - 16?? ?? County Maryland*

**"Central maxillary incisor or a woman buried at ????? ???? plantation (?????'s Point cemetery), Virginia, ca. 1625."**

*And, lastly, an exploded skull, which has nothing whatsoever to do with period, but I thought was really cool, so I felt like sharing it.*

[**Brig**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2841-brig/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 330 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Florida
* Interests:GAoP reenactments, lace-making, reading, writing, sewing, dancing.

[Posted December 3, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374295) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374295)

You had me at "exploded skull". 

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted December 3, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374300) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374300)

Exactly what sort of skeletal bestiality is depicted in the Freaky Fishmonger's avatar this time!?!

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted December 3, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374301) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374301)

I call it "Man Arguing with Goat." The Smithsonian Natural History Museum calls it "Man Taming Goat."

[**Coastie04**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/27-coastie04/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,008 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Juneau, AK
* Interests:Nautical history, sailing (especially tall ships and my own 'Sanctioned Mistress'), shooting (of all eras and calibers), and homebrewing.

[Posted December 3, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374324) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374324)

If he were Scottish, I'd suspect a very different title.

Coastie

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted December 4, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374328) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374328)

If it were what you guys are hinting, wouldn't the goat be facing in a different direction?

I like it. In the grand scheme, I believe it represents many things. Man and bureaucracy. Man teaching child manners. Man trying to avoid falling off cliff with help of his faithful goat 'Sparky.'

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted December 4, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374344) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374344)

Could be a very well trained goat...

I once knew a guy, who knew a guy, who kept a giant sea squid trained to - - -

Well, that's a story for another thread.

Then there was the mudshark, and a vigorous circular motion

Hitherto unknown to by people in this area but destined

To take the place of the mudshark in your mythology...

[**CrazyCholeBlack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3395-crazycholeblack/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,578 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Illinois
* Interests:Everything! Historic clothing, sewing, fabric dying, cooking, mead, ale, astronomy, celestial navigation, reading, music, film making, blogging & pillaging the internet for visual inspirations.

[Posted December 4, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374369) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374369)

Here is the link to the Jamestown Society's article on the above mentioned "Writen in Bone" exhibit. It contains a few clearer photos. <http://www.jamestowne.org/Written_In_Bone.htm>

As a side note, I find that I have those "tailors notches". I have a small chip along the bottom edge of my front tooth which I recieved from sewing. Needless to say, don't try to pull a needle free from heavy canvas with your teeth 

Chole

[**Graydog**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5382-graydog/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 796 posts
* Gender:Polly Wanna Cracker
* Location:The Sea
* Interests:My interest is becoming a one percenter so I can laugh at the 99 percenters. HAHAHAHAHAHA, Wow, guess I made it. Yo Ho.

[Posted December 4, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374370) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374370)

 On 12/4/2009 at 4:51 AM, Mission said:

If it were what you guys are hinting, wouldn't the goat be facing in a different direction?

Maybe the goat is French?

[**Professor Death**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10999-professor-death/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:southwest ohio
* Interests:freemasonry
native reenacting: 17th cen., F&I war, rev war, war of 1812
jacobite, cowboy action, and pirate reenacting

[Posted December 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=374449) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=374449)

a cultured goat? goat for play? oh boy, its time for me to compose a rhyme about this scene. hmm, let me think of a good one....

[**Zingara Carmella**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11351-zingara-carmella/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 296 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Beaumont, TX
* Interests:Pirates, Gypsy life, BellyDance....and rum!

[Posted August 5, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=388239) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=388239)

 On 10/12/2008 at 11:20 AM, Lady Cassandra Seahawke said:

[http://www.cleaning1...oaphistory2.cfm](http://www.cleaning101.com/cleaning/history/soaphistory2.cfm)

above is a link with a bit of soap history

Here is a link that discribes some of the oils that were used in some or cleaning

[http://www.aussiesoapsupplies.com.au/Oil-P...rties-p-21.html](http://www.aussiesoapsupplies.com.au/Oil-Properties-p-21.html)

Here is a more concise writing on hygiene during the centuries.

[http://www.scienceinthebox.com/en\_UK/pdf/h...-of-washing.pdf](http://www.scienceinthebox.com/en_UK/pdf/history-of-washing.pdf)

a bit of soap history from the caribbean/south america area

Da Costa Soap" used to be brought to Brazil by slaves who came from the African Coast, since around 1620, inform travelers and Portuguese chroniclers, of that time.

It used to come from an area between Ghana and Cameroon, and mainly from Nigeria, the Republic of Benin and Togo.

Although Brazil has always imported also other soaps, such as russian soap, american soap, Marseille soap (from France) or english soap - there are records in the Brazilian National Archive - the Da Costa Soap, has always been the favorite one among slaves and freedmen.

Among the iai�s, the success was not different. The texture of the skin of their mucamas was widely envied by them. They all wanted to use the same "savon" soap, in french - (after all "everything" was French - in Brazil, at the time) but they preferred a savonette, a "savon of toilette. " a toilette soapbar. And to do this the mucamas needed to change the scent of the original Da Costa Soap. How to do it? It was not that difficult.

Usually, during the night, gardens of Casa Grande (manor) in the coffe plantation farms - used to emanate diverse and delicious aromas of so different flowers. There were so many that it was difficult to pick: Jasmine? Manac�s? Rosemary? Or maybe Almecegueiras? Magnolias? Oh, ok; a few petals of patchouli .

And voil�! The mixture was then applied to the Da Costa Soap; that then yes, was appreciated by the nhanh�s. And the scented Da Costa Soap used to show up.

According to Gilberto Freyre in his universal work, "Master and Slaves", it was the Muslim slaves - due to their hygiene habits who introduced the custom of bathing in Brazil.

And after slavery abolition they began to sell such soap to the population of Brazil - in general. Traditional or scented ones. Initially, on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, then capital of the republic. And then throughout our country, Brazil.

here is another link that you might find interesting

[http://www.springerl...mx76pgea1b9ka8/](http://www.springerlink.com/content/xhmx76pgea1b9ka8/)

There is another kind of soap use till now is made of coconut oil and it dates from the colonization times, very soft at the skin can be home make (I'm from Brasil)

[**AlexRoberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5043-alexroberts/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 114 posts
* Location:California San Diego
* Interests:Piracy.......

[Posted August 5, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=388241) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=388241)

Amazing how people lived. God that must of been hard and cities must of smelled terrible.

Fleas........

I know how it is to live with Bedbugs and fleas.

I'm Actually moving out of a friends house cause of it.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted March 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=397395) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=397395)

I found this comment sort of interesting. It's from Mathias Gottfried Purmann's book *Chirurgia curiosa: or, the newest and most curious observations and operations in the whole art of chirurgery*, translated into English in 1706. (I am omitting the (very) graphic description of the tumor-removal. )

"No Part of the Body is so much troubled as the Face with all Kinds of *Tumours*, as *Swellings, Spots, Freckles, Pimples, Warts, Ganglions*, and other *Exulcerations*, without mentioning the several Disasters and Maladies happening to the *Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth,* &c." (Purmann, p. 24)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
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* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted March 16, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=397521) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=397521)

Now *here's* something useful to inform your period characterization and behavior...

"This sort of *Ulcers* do also sometimes proceed from a Hurt, occasioned by a Fall, Push, or Blow in the Inside of the Nose, which after by the Patient's continual picking of it with his Fingers, keeps it always Sore and Raw..." (Purmann, p. 25)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted March 29, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=398057) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=398057)

Ah, some more fun details from Purrman for those of you who wish to accurately represent the period.

"At first 'tis only a Breaking out, or a *dry Scab*; afterward a *Ficosa* or filthy *Scald*; then a *Corrosive* Scald, and at last an *Heredetary* Scald. At first they are but *Pimples*, or small *Ulcers* in the Skin upon the Head, which are not apt to change their Colour very early, but at length grow *Yellowish*, moist, and throw out a sharp itching *Sanious* Matter, spread further and render the Skin Rough, Uneven, and causes the Hair to fall off. At length they turn to dry *Scales*, under which are abundance of *Holes*, containing filthy Matter, something less Thick and Viscous, but is now more malignant with an Increase of *Ulcers*, which at last grow Dry, Yellow, Greenish, Black and Nasty." (Purmann, p. 43)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted May 8, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=399527) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=399527)

The 'Disease'...

“*Pimples* or small *Bumps* upon the face… begin about the *Nose* and *Forehead* and from thence increase and spread further about the Face. They are white at their first Appearance and without Pain; some of which *Suppurate* [form pus], and at least emit a little white Matter if they are squeezed, others grow dry of themselves, and afterwards very *Red*, somewhat larger and bigger, and yet contain white Matter in them. These also cause no great Pain, unless they are squeezed very hard. At length having go the upper-hand, the white and red Pimples vanish and become great red Bumps and little Tumours, especially in great *Wine-Drinkers* and common *Drunkards*, and then are called *Rubra Facies*, and *Gutta Rosacea*.

The Cause of these Pimples is partly a *Hot* and *Inflamed* Blood, and Liquors [fluids in the body, not liquor as we normally think of it] thickned by a too great *Acidity*, which by the Impulse of other Liquors, is driven towards the Skin, and stopping in the small *Veins*, cause small Pimples, but if they increase and obstruct the *Glandules* of the Skin about the *Nose*, they grow into larger and redder Bumps, or small Tumours. Sour Drink and Victuals is also said to be another Cause of this Distemper.

And the cure...

The *Cartesianists* [followers of Rene Descartes, who believed the mind was wholly separate from the body – how this relates to his point, I have no idea], and especially Dr. *Dolæus* [writer of [a book on the cure of gout](http://www.amazon.com/Dol%C3%A6us-milk-diet-prefixed-William-Stephens/dp/1170664024)] say, that in the *Fat* Parts of the Body, and especially in the *Face*, where the small Vessels abound with Spirits and Nutrimental Juices, there may easily happen an Extravasation [leakage of a fluid] of such Juices of the Skin, which coagulating there, produce Pimples, Blisters, Morphew [a scaly eruption], and Bumps in the Face, and spread all over it.” (Purmann, p. 96)

“Pimples, at first being commonly like the Skin in Colour, and without Pain, the Patient seldom looks after the Cure of them; but when they grow bigger, *Redden*, spread all over the Face and disfigure the Countenance, then they begin to enquire after a Cure, and sometimes ‘tis too late. Bu if there be any Hopes, make use of the following Water which I have used with Effect.

*Rx Aqu Flor. Fabar. Spermat. Ranarum and {dram}iij. Solant Rosar and {dram}ij. Pulp. Citron. Sagill. Salomon Lill Alborum {ounce}jfs Ol. Tartar. per deliqu {dram}iij. Sacchar. Saturn Tinct Benzoin ana {dram}ifs Boracis Venet. Cerus. lot. ana {dram}j. Mercur. deleas {dram}js. m. f. L. a mixture*

[This above appears to contain Mercury, but it may not. There was a plant they called mercury that is not, in fact, the metal we think of when we see the term. Since I haven't found a translation for 'Mercur. deleas', I can't say what this is exactly.]

Remember to shake it very well as often as you use it, and washing the Face with it, give it time to dry in of it self. If any think the following better, they may use it.

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*Rx. Unguent Rosat Alabast ana {dram}j Flor Sulph. {dram}j Lact Sulph {scruple}v Sace Saturn Ocul Cancr ppt ana {dram}ifs Ol. Rosar Tart per deliqu ana q s m ad Liniment formam* [Note: the reprinting of this prescription was very hard to read and may not be completely correct as written here.]

This Medicine was a long time kept as a great Secret, in the Possession of Dr. Michael at Lipzick.” (Purmann, p. 98-9)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted July 17, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=401827) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=401827)

I thought this was sort of vivid in its description. It's from John Atkins' *The Navy Surgeon*:

“But to return: There is still a farther Inconvenience attends *Heat* and *Moisture*, in such warm Countries as *Guiney* and the *West-Indies*, and contributes to the Sickness of a Ship’s Company, and that is, their being productive of infinite Numbers of Insects, (*ab his oriuntur cuncta cuobus,*) Ants especially who raise Hills in *Africa* to eight or ten Foot high, Garisons that will devour a

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dead Sheep in a Night’s Time: Of these we get Variety, and numberless Commonwealths on Board with out Woods, as also Cockroaches, Maggots, and Flies of various Species.

I shall not pretend any of these to be the malignant Species that blight and destroy Plants, or effect Murrain in Cattle, or Plague among Men, according to Dr. *Bradley*; but this I may be confident in, that by nesting themselves in infinite Numbers among dry Provisions, they prey on the Heart and Substance of it, and so make them less Salutary and fit for Nutriment. Salt and Heat does the same by wet Provisions; especially *Irish* Meat most used in the *West Indies*, being half eat up as we call it, with Salt, in a few Months after landing there, giving room to Complaints and Sickness.” (Atkins, Navy Surgeon, p. 355-6)

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[Posted May 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=408904) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=408904)

I was watching the DVD extras for some recent movie set in the 1970s and the set decorator or someone like that was noting how much effort they went to 'recreate' the 70s and how difficult and, in some cases, expensive it was to find this and that prop for the set. Some of it had to be recreated because they either couldn't find or didn't want to pay for the original stuff. And I thought to myself...but I remember the 1970s! It wasn't that long ago! That stuff should be easy to find!

Some of it is, but some of it isn't. I think it was on this forum where we discussed how we think antiques are better made because they have survived for so long. And yet, what has survived for so long is the better made, and usually more expensive, items. All the day-to-day cheap stuff falls apart over time and gets thrown away without another thought. So maybe the 1970s isn't that easy to recreate for a movie.

And then we try to recreate a time period from 300 years ago, with whatever documentation we can scrounge up.

I've said it before, but I'll bet we'd be lucky to get half of it correct. As many surgical accounts as I've read and I still keep learning things I had fixed in my mind are not completely correct. This isn't to say we utterly fail, because I think we get better and better over time, but it is amazing how much more there always seems to be.

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[Posted October 3, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=415084) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=415084)

Here's a fun quote for you. It's from *Master Johann Dietz, Surgeon in the Army of the Great Elector and Barber to the Royal Court*, which was translated by Bernard Miall in 1923 from the German version of Dietz's memoirs. Dietz was born 1665 and died in 1738. At this point in his career he was serving as a surgeon on a Dutch whaling vessel. I figure this to be in the 1680s.

"No one may ease himself on board ship; it may be that he is very ill; he must nevertheless get up and make his way to the gunwhale, with one hand holding on to his breeches and the other gripping a rope, even though the ship is rolling and pitching under full sail: a practice which at one time caused me the greatest anxiety, until I obtained permission from the captain to use the built-in privy in his cabin. Now and then, however, it drenched me most unpleasantly, so that I came out wet and filthy; since when the vessel suddenly flung its bows into the air and the stern plunged downwards the salt water spouted up through the hole; so that I had to make use of the privilege with caution." (Dietz, p. 127)

[**Captain Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2317-captain-jim/)

* Captain Jim for Captain!
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,254 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Off the coast of Tampa Bay (Unfortunately, inland from the coast)
* Interests:I'm 57, formerly a wildlife ecologist and biologist, now a stay-at-home dad. I grew up on the west coast of Florida, where Anna Maria Sound and Tampa Bay were my playground. My interests include, but are not limited to cannon, black powder arms, history, fishing the flats, sailing, fine wood working, flint gun building, hunting, good gun dogs. Above all, my wife and children.

[Posted October 3, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=415086) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=415086)

Salty bidet...with sharks!

[**Coastie04**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/27-coastie04/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
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* Member
* 1,008 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Juneau, AK
* Interests:Nautical history, sailing (especially tall ships and my own 'Sanctioned Mistress'), shooting (of all eras and calibers), and homebrewing.

[Posted October 4, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=findComment&comment=415088) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/13430-do-you-want-to-be-truly-period-correct/&do=reportComment&comment=415088)

At least the occasional stern head geyser would wash out the pipe...