**[Swashbuckler 1700](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/" \o "Go to Swashbuckler 1700's profile)**

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted March 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407496) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407496)

So what descriptions there is sailors, pirates or common men's bad language? There is some pre hanging swearing but what about other...

Also would officers or other punish for it? I know that (I live Finland BtW) in 17th century Finland (was then part of Sweden) cursing was punished by small penalty (probaply since government needed to get money) but about other countries or aboard ship? I believe that no one would bother.....

Oh and those execution curses would be fine too...

[**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 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407501) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407501)

Just read the General History and you'll find all sorts of examples. (Except most of them look like "G---- D------!" With a bit of imagination you can piece it together though. (For example, in this case, the missing words would read "Goofy Dog!") )

We had a really neat list of period insults to use during Searles Raid of St. Augustine in 2010. You can find links to pdf's of them in my Surgeon's Journal of the even on [this page](http://www.piratesurgeon.com/pages/searles10/searles10_ch5.htm). (The links to them are a few paragraphs in on that page.)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407502) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407502)

Seamen were noted for their profanity - William Snelgrave wrote, for example, "*the execrable Oaths and Blasphemies I heard among the [pirate] Ship’s Company, shock’d me to such a degree, that in Hell it self I thought there could not be worse; for tho’ many Seafaring Men are given to swearing and taking God’s Name in vain, yet I could not have imagined, human Nature could ever so far degenerate, as to talk in the manner those abandoned Wretches did.*"

It would be wrong, however, to assume that it was not restricted or punished. Some Elizabethan privateering articles included the clause: "*Whosoever do talk any beastly or filthy talk at his meat, he shall have a cobkin* [beating] *of his mess… whosoever do swear or blaspheme the name of God at cards, dice, or at his meat, shall pay a penny for every oath to the poor man’s box*". And Woodes Rogers had "ferrules" made to "*punish Swearing, by which we found the Men much cured of that Vice*".

In Henry Teonge's diary he mentions two incidents of people swearing. In the first, the potty-mouthed louts had iron marline spikes tied in their mouths until they were bloody. In the second (on a different ship) a seaman was tied in the rigging for "*an hour, and had* speculum oris *[over to you Mission] placed in his mouth for saying to a seaman in the Captain’s hearing: 'Thou liest, like a son of a whore.'*".

Tracking down what pirates actually said when they swore is difficult because observers often preferred to no repeat it verbatim, but in surviving records there are plenty of "Damn you" and "God damns", and a couple of insults such as "son of a bitch".

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407503) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407503)

 On 3/26/2012 at 4:33 PM, Mission said:

We had a really neat list of period insults to use during Searles Raid of St. Augustine in 2010. You can find links to pdf's of them in my Surgeon's Journal of the even on [this page](http://www.piratesurgeon.com/pages/searles10/searles10_ch5.htm). (The links to them are a few paragraphs in on that page.)

I transcribed it here. I think I have them all correct.

GREETINGS AND TITLES:

Good Morrow, Master or Mistress

God gi' god-den, goodman (good evening)

Fare you well, Parson Rishard.

Give your worship good morrow.

God be wi' you, good wife (woman).

How now (where are you going).

An't please your worship.

Are you well, master?

I see you have been fortunate since last we met.

Prithee (I pray you)

(name) you be early abroad.

I pray you

It fortuned me to meet

Dawlin (Darling)

Good day to 'ee, Master.

Sharpish in't it.

Fellow (equal or companion)

To morn

Mawther (girl)

Bor (neighbor)

Goody (wife or nurse)

In the even' (evening)

OATHS FOR LADIES:

Faith (indeed)

Marry (to be sure)

Marry gypeey

Gemini

Lud

Lord

La

OATHS FOR MEN:

Bastard

Bugger

Claybrained

Clodpoll

Confound you or it

Cuds

Dandypratt

**Egad** - 1670s, I gad, a softened oath, second element God, first uncertain; perhaps it represents exclamation ah.

Faith (indeed)

**Gadzooks** - See zooks

God Almighty

Fegs

'Ot rot me

Hell and the devil confound

You

Yirads

Gad's my life

Lord

B'Gad

Damn

I'faith

Lud

'Odso

'Odslife

Faggins

Zoodlikes

Yah! (cr of defiance)

Rip me

Burn my vitals

Hellsteeth

Beggar me

Rot my vitals

The devil

Devil taw it

Mother of God

God's death

By God's dines

Gar - God e.g. Begar! by Gar!

By the masking

'Slight (God's light)

Snoggers

'Sdeath

'Sbud

'Sprecious (God's precious)

Stap me vitals

'Steeth

'Slife (God's Life)

Stap me

'Sbody (God's Body)

'Stooth

'Sooth

'Sblood (God's Blood)

'Wounds

Zlife

Zleds

**Zounds** - c.1600, oath of surprise or anger, altered from (by) God's wounds!

Zoons

**Zooks** - as in gadzooks'. 1690s, from some exclamation, possibly God's hooks (nails of the cross) or even God's hocks. Cf. godsookers (1670s). The use of Gad for God (cf. [egad](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=egad&allowed_in_frame=0)) is first attested 1590s. Among other similar phraseological combinations (all from 17c.) were gadsbobs, gadslid, and gadsniggers; in all of which the second elements are sometimes said to be mere fanciful syllables.

ORDERS, COMMANDS, EXHORTATIONS:

Cheerly, good hearts

Bestir

Fall to't yarely

Come hither, sirrah!

Have a care (be prepared)

Forsooth

I'll be sworn

By my troth

 On 3/26/2012 at 5:09 PM, Foxe said:

In the second (on a different ship) a seaman was tied in the rigging for "*an hour, and had* speculum oris *[over to you Mission] placed in his mouth for saying to a seaman in the Captain’s hearing: 'Thou liest, like a son of a whore.'*".

I say 'son of a whore' all the time. I'll have to watch myself at events.

[**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 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407523) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407523)

 On 3/26/2012 at 5:32 PM, William Red Wake said:

I say 'son of a whore' all the time. I'll have to watch myself at events.

Yeah, but you're a pirate Quartermaster. From what I've been reading, they 'vapoured' and swore rather freely and without much consequence.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407529) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407529)

Extra credit for timely use of the word 'vapoured'. 

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* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
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[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407530) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407530)

I love the word 'vapoured.' I came across it in the Roberts account and have been using it freely ever since.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407533) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407533)

Have license to vapour, will vapour.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407553) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407553)

I hind it really interesting that hello was not older than 19th century.... but interesting swearing stuff. I wonder that there is not "bloody \*\*\*\* or other stuff like that but is good to remenber that all words are not written down....

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407556) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407556)

BTW this is oftopic but how old is the "aye"? It seems to be midle english but do you have other info?

Oh I found this [http://answers.yahoo...14154216AAt3FBu](http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080914154216AAt3FBu) so it is atleast from 16th century....

**Edited March 27, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407557) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407557)

[aye (1)](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=aye&allowed_in_frame=0) "assent," 1570s, of unknown origin, perhaps a variant of I, meaning "I assent;" or an alteration of M.E. yai "yes" (see [yea](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=yea&allowed_in_frame=0)), or from [aye](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=aye&allowed_in_frame=0) (2) "always, ever."

[bloody (adj.)](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=bloody&allowed_in_frame=0) O.E. blodig, adjective from blod (see [blood](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=blood&allowed_in_frame=0)). Common Germanic, cf. O.Fris. blodich, O.S. blôdag, Du. bloedig, O.H.G. bluotag, Ger. blutig. It has been a British intens. swear word since at least 1676. Weekley relates it to the purely intensive use of the cognate Du. bloed, Ger. Blut. But perhaps it ultimately is connected with bloods in the slang sense of "rowdy young aristocrats" (see [blood](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=blood&allowed_in_frame=0) (n.)) via expressions such as bloody drunk "as drunk as a blood." Partridge reports that it was "respectable" before c.1750, and it was used by Fielding and Swift, but heavily tabooed c.1750-c.1920, perhaps from imagined association with menstruation; Johnson calls it "very vulgar," and OED writes of it, "now constantly in the mouths of the lowest classes, but by respectable people considered 'a horrid word', on par with obscene or profane language."

The onset of the taboo against bloody coincides with the increase in linguistic prudery that presaged the Victorian Era but it is hard to say what the precise cause was in the case of this specific word. Attempts have been made to explain the term’s extraordinary shock power by invoking etymology. Theories that derive it from such oaths as “By our Lady” or “God’s blood” seem farfetched, however. More likely, the taboo stemmed from the fear that many people have of blood and, in the minds of some, from an association with menstrual bleeding. Whatever, the term was debarred from polite society during the whole of the nineteenth century. [Rawson]

Shaw shocked theatergoers when he put it in the mouth of Eliza Doolittle in "Pygmalion" (1914), and for a time the word was known euphemistically as "the Shavian adjective." It was avoided in print as late as 1936. Bloody Sunday, Jan. 30, 1972, when 13 civilians were killed by British troops at protest in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 27, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407575) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407575)

 On 3/27/2012 at 1:10 PM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

I hind it really interesting that hello was not older than 19th century

There is a myth that "hello" was not used until the invention of the telephone, but in fact that's not the case. "Hello" goes back at least to the early 19th century, and variant forms of the words go back much further than that: "illo" is used as a greeting by Shakespeare in Hamlet (1603), and "Hollo" is in Titus Andronicus (1594). "Hilla" dates to the first half of the 15th century.

[**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 28, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=407588) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=407588)

And of course, "hella" originated from the streets of San Francisco in the Hunters Point neighborhood in the 20th century. It is commonly used in place of "really" or "very" when describing something. (What?)

[**Wicked Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11047-wicked-jim/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 91 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:pittsburgh, pa
* Interests:Pyratin

[Posted April 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408002) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408002)

this is a GREAT thread! more...more...

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

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

[Posted April 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408010) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408010)

"vapoured" I like it. I must start using it in normal conversation.

Then I watch for the confused looks.... 

One of late I've been inclined to use is "debased". I like that one.... " Vapoured and debased people they are, those pirates."

oooh sounds so..... period..... 

**Edited April 4, 2012 by Jack Roberts**

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408030) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408030)

I scolded Tracy for vapouring around the children. She laughed. Vapouring is her new favorite word.

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

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408031) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408031)

I've started a trend. (Actually, Charles Johnson and his wooden-legged pirate have started a trend.)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
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* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
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Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408033) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408033)

And I, this morning, have found an example of proper pirate swearing.

In 1720 Bart Roberts wrote to the Governor of the Leeward Islands about a man imprisoned there. The original letter has been lost, but a contemporary copy exists in which Roberts entreats the Governor to treat the prisoner "as a man and not as a C...". Whatever letters followed the C were expurgated by the copyist, but I think we can all guess what they were.

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[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408040) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408040)

 On 4/5/2012 at 11:06 AM, Foxe said:

And I, this morning, have found an example of proper pirate swearing.

In 1720 Bart Roberts wrote to the Governor of the Leeward Islands about a man imprisoned there. The original letter has been lost, but a contemporary copy exists in which Roberts entreats the Governor to treat the prisoner "as a man and not as a C...". Whatever letters followed the C were expurgated by the copyist, but I think we can all guess what they were.

(feeling myself stupid) What it can mean there is many words with "c" at the beginning ? (feeling myself stupid)

**Edited April 5, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Wicked Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11047-wicked-jim/)

* Deck Hand
* 
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* Member
* 91 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:pittsburgh, pa
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[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408043) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408043)

...CONVICT? It fits the situation, no? Can we assume the prisoner has not yet had his day in court? I have the VERY bad habit of looking on the brighter side.... 

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* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
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[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408050) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408050)

 On 4/5/2012 at 0:19 PM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

(feeling myself stupid) What it can mean there is many words with "c" at the beginning ? (feeling myself stupid)

Don't feel bad, I don't know what the hell he's on about either. I'm sure it will seem very obvious to us after he gives more insight.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408052) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408052)

Forum rules prevent me from posting the answer (that and my English sense of decorum).

[**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 April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408054) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408054)

How about like c\_ \_ t. (Which is the only swear word I can think of that starts with a c. Somehow that sounds like a later era swear word, though. Plus it doesn't make sense in this context.)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408060) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408060)

Really? "Don't treat me like a C..." is an oft-heard phrase on this side of the pond (often from people I'm gently correcting).

And it's most certainly a period word... at least 13th century. From old Norse.

[**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 April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408061) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408061)

No kiddin'? Shock me blue.

[**Wicked Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11047-wicked-jim/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 91 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:pittsburgh, pa
* Interests:Pyratin

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408064) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408064)

 On 4/5/2012 at 4:51 PM, Mission said:

Shock me blue.

is THAT period? great expression either way

[**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 April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408066) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408066)

THAT is Mission-speak. But I'm running us OT, so I'd better stop now. Sacrebleu! (Itself a term that may date all the way back to the 12th c.)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408069) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408069)

I thoroughly recommend checking out the poetry of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, for a true insight into naughty words of the late 17th century. Or indeed some of the ballads of the age. For example:

Portsmouth's Return, 1682

Our Monarch's whore from France is come

Since Vandom's Bugg'ring Tarse

Has fallen foul on Crequy's Bum,

Instead of Portsmouth's A\*\*e

So great affront would make one run

From such a wicked place

Where A\*\*e has had such honour done

And C\*\*t in such disgrace

Now she's return'd bright as the Sun

So sparkish & so fair

And brought great Charles a butter'd Bun

A present from Navarr:

She had not gone, but to contrive

New fashions for the Court;

Both how to Dress, and how to Swive,

And to improve that Sport

Buckley obligingly has brought

Both for herself, and Friends,

New swinging Dildoes, richly wrought

With Satin & Velvet ends:

With Furling water, to draw't up streight,

And Rowels to heighten delights

New-fashion'd Springs, to Scour her Twat

From slimy sperm, & whites.

Now Nelly you must be content

Her grace begins her Reign

For all your Brat, you may be sent

To Dorset back again

Your Hagged Carcase yeilds no delight,

As Grafton of late has said

Nor Jennings, nor betraying Knight

Can bring you to Charles's Bed

Portsmouth has play'd so damn'd a trick

Mazarine is sore distrest

She's taken to herself his Pr\*\*k

Bought Dildoes for the rest

But Stallion Pilty swears by C\*\*t

He'll F\*\*k with all his might

For to avenge the great affront

And set his Dutchess right

[**Wicked Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11047-wicked-jim/)

* Deck Hand
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* 
* Member
* 91 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:pittsburgh, pa
* Interests:Pyratin

[Posted April 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408070) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408070)

SCANDALOUS mate! 

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408085) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408085)

 On 4/5/2012 at 6:25 PM, Foxe said:

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Our Monarch's whore from France is come

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Bought Dildoes for the rest

But Stallion Pilty swears by C\*\*t

He'll F\*\*k with all his might

For to avenge the great affront

And set his Dutchess right

it seems that f\*\*k is that old hmmmm....

Damnation is swearing not allowed here? \*\*\*\*\*

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408103) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408103)

From GHoP in section of Black Bart

" .... Sutton used to be very prophane; he happening to be in the same Irons with another Prisoner, who was more serious than ordinary, and read and pray'd often, as became his Condition; this Man Sutton used to swear at, and ask him, what he proposed by so much Noise and Devotion? Heaven, says the other, I hope, Heaven, you Fool, says Sutton, did you ever hear of any Pyrates going thither? Give me H—ll, it's a merrier Place; I'll give Roberts a Salute of 13 Guns at Entrance...."

[**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 April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408105) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408105)

That is *some* poetry! With a bit of updating, John Wilmot could do the comedy circuit in America.

I had to look this one up because it sounded clever. (Alas, it really isn't IMO.): tarse (obsolete) - the penis

In medical books, it's often called the 'yard.'

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408106) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408106)

 On 4/5/2012 at 3:25 PM, Foxe said:

Forum rules prevent me from posting the answer (that and my English sense of decorum).

Englishman. I would like a hint if you have any time to spare between the tea times 

**Edited April 6, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408110) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408110)

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:05 AM, Mission said:

That is *some* poetry! With a bit of updating, John Wilmot could do the comedy circuit in America.

I had to look this one up because it sounded clever. (Alas, it really isn't IMO.): tarse (obsolete) - the penis

In medical books, it's often called the 'yard.'

One of my favourite quotes from a period court case: "he thrust his yard into my fundament"

SB1700, it rhymes with hunt, and if you have it in Finnish it's probably called the 'K' word.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408111) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408111)

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:53 AM, Foxe said:

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:05 AM, Mission said:

That is *some* poetry! With a bit of updating, John Wilmot could do the comedy circuit in America.

I had to look this one up because it sounded clever. (Alas, it really isn't IMO.): tarse (obsolete) - the penis

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One of my favourite quotes from a period court case: "he thrust his yard into my fundament"

SB1700, it rhymes with hunt, and if you have it in Finnish it's probably called the 'K' word.

I see

what that a pirate court case?

(you may never know what they did)

I have always thought that Gaop people would be more religious and would not swear very much but I was wrong ( damn I have often too clean vision of history)

**Edited April 6, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408114) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408114)

Both rude or playful...

**SLUT**. c.1400, "a dirty, slovenly, or untidy woman," probably cognate with dialectal Ger. Schlutt "slovenly woman," dialectal Swed. slata "idle woman, slut," and Du. slodder "slut," but the ultimate origin is doubtful. Chaucer uses sluttish (late 14c.) in reference to the appearance of an untidy man. Also "a kitchen maid, a drudge" (mid-15c.; hard pieces in a bread loaf from imperfect kneading were called [slut's pennies](http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=slut%27s%20pennies&allowed_in_frame=0), 18c.). Meaning "woman of loose character, bold hussy" is attested from mid-15c.; playful use of the word, without implication of loose morals, is attested from 1660s.

*Our little girl Susan is a most admirable slut, and pleases us mightily.* [Pepys, diary, Feb. 21, 1664]

**BULLY.** c.1737, a supposed or pretend Husband to a Whore; also a huffing Fellow, a pretended Bravo, but a Coward at the Bottom.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
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* Gender:Male
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408116) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408116)

**Approach** as in Approachable wanton or to know carnally.

**Bachelor's Wife**, Whore

**Bachelor's Baby**, Bastard child (1672)

And, not a swear word at all, but too interesting not to mention. **Aqua-bob**, an icicle (1704)

Interesting enough, the word **'ain't'** is attributed to Cockneys of London before 1701.

[**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 April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408119) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408119)

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:57 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:53 AM, Foxe said:

One of my favourite quotes from a period court case: "he thrust his yard into my fundament"

SB1700, it rhymes with hunt, and if you have it in Finnish it's probably called the 'K' word.

I see

what that a pirate court case?

(you may never know what they did)

While we may not know, remember the discussion on that nearly useless book *Sodomy and the Pirate Tradition* that Burg couldn't find any evidence of such. He would have been all over such a court case. He might have written a whole series of new books on that case alone given that he managed to write the first one without any solid proof at all.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408120) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408120)

 On 4/6/2012 at 0:09 PM, Mission said:

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:57 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:53 AM, Foxe said:

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The one who said that could be woman...

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
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Shooting pirates.

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408128) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408128)

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:57 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

I see

what that a pirate court case?

(you may never know what they did)

Sadly for Barry Burg, it was not a pirate case (though I seem to recall it featured in his book somewhere). Unsurprisingly, it was a sodomy case.

 Quote

I have always thought that Gaop people would be more religious and would not swear very much but I was wrong ( damn I have often too clean vision of history)

Much of our view of the past is tempered by the very prudish Victorian ideals of the 19th century. We imagine that filth and obscenity are a modern phenomenon because our great-grandparents wouldn't have stood for it. But if you get back beyond the mid-19th century you'll find all sorts of lewdness, swearing, public nudity, bawdy songs and poems etc.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted April 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408129) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408129)

 On 4/6/2012 at 2:25 PM, Foxe said:

 On 4/6/2012 at 9:57 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

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Actual I know that prudish Victorian ideals are more 19th century stuff but still. I have know it but not understand it too clearly....( the idea of old times as religious and clean time is not correct) I actually have make the same point somewhere but indeed good that you help me reminding that since I so often forget things. I am not lying I have thought same way but I still would believe those times more clean...

Since this is still historical I dare to hint this here and there is whatnot and notting prudish

search "18th century naval naughtiness" in google

**Edited April 7, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Dirigoboy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/7680-dirigoboy/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 17 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Norumbega, just shy of the Maritimes
* Interests:history, militaria collecting, background artist for historical film, the sea, wooden ships, living history, watering a new interest in the pirate era.

[Posted April 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=408211) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=408211)

I'm reading George Choundas's book "The Pirate Primer," (2007) and have found it quite interesting. All sorts of good stuff in there. Among the things he covers, are: Oaths, Epithets, and Curses----curse meaning a curse being placed upon someone or thing.

Curses include:

be damned to you with all my heart

be off to hell

blast you

blast your deadlights

blast your eyes

blind you

bloody end to you

bone-rot you

burn and blast your bones

a curse on you

a curse out of Egypt on you

damn you to the depths

devil burn you

eat that what falls from my tail

go to the devil when you please

God rot your bones

gut you for a ..........

hang you

here's a black passage to you

may every curse ever cursed light on and blast you

od rot the \_\_\_\_of you

od rot your bones

plague and perish you

a plague on your scurvy head

[**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 25, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=409452) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=409452)

Ha ha. This is a rather cutting remark from Hugh Ryder's introduction to his book *New Practical Observations in Surgery Containing Divers Remarkable Cases and Cures*:

"If any Zoile or Mome will be making Grimaces, and carping, my regard of them shall be less than of those small Insects, which let alone would spoil the best meat, if not corrected with a Fly-flap."

Zoile appears to be French for 'a wicked and envious critic'. Mome means 'A dull, silent person; a blockhead."

One can only wonder at what sort of device was used to kill flies (the meaning of a fly-flap) during this period. No doubt someone will produce examples. 

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

[Posted May 25, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=409453) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=409453)

 On 3/28/2012 at 8:33 AM, Mission said:

And of course, "hella" originated from the streets of San Francisco in the Hunters Point neighborhood in the 20th century. It is commonly used in place of "really" or "very" when describing something. (What?)

Hella is an abrreviation of "Helleva"/"Hell of a" but has now expanded into usage where such isn't quite a literal replacement. A common usage is Hellaflush for wheel (rim/tire combos) fit very flush to the wheel well lip. You see it on decals on the back of said vehicle even.

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted May 25, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=409454) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=409454)

Quebecois curse words tend toward the sacrilegious as well. I don't know if it extends as far back as couer du bois, but it sure seems like a 17th century thing...

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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* 
* Member
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* Location:Europe
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[Posted August 24, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=410696) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=410696)

From Rn articles of war 1661 [http://www.british-h...rquery=articles](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=47293&strquery=articles)

***"The public Worship of God. 1. That all Co[m]manders Captaines and other Officers att Sea shall cause the publique Worshipp of Almighty God according to the Liturgy of the Church of***

[***England***](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=47293&strquery=articles) ***established by Law to be solemnly orderly and reverently performed in theire respective Ships And that prayers and preachings by the respective Chaplaines in holy Orders of the respective Ships be performed diligently and that the Lords Day be observed according to Law.***

***Swearing, Drunkenness, &c.***

***2. Every person and persons in his Majesties pay using unlawfull and rash Oathes Cursings Execrations Drunkennes Uncleannes or other Scandalous Actions in derogation of Gods Honour and corruption of good manners shall be punished by Fine Imprisonment or otherwise as the Court Martiall shall thinke fitt."***

and thinking Barry Burg now

. Here is an interesting rule. Think that always that what was banned was done, sometimes, otherwise they wouldn't have punishments for it. E.G There is no " don't bring pink elephants aboard" rule since there were no need for that.

***"32. If any person or persons in or belonging to the Fleet shall commit the unnaturall and detestable sin of Buggery or Sodomy with Man or Beast he shall be punished with death without mercy."***

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted December 11, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=412437) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=412437)

From our loved General history (Black-Bart's crew aboard prize ship Samuel):

*" They tore up the Hatches and entered the Hold like a parcel of Furies, and with Axes and Cutlashes, cut and broke open all the Bales, Cases, and Boxes, they could lay their Hands on; and when any Goods came upon Deck, that they did not like to carry aboard, instead of tossing them into the Hold again,threw them over-board into the Sea; all this was done with incessant cursing and swearing, more like Fiends than Men.They carried with them, Sails, Guns, Powder, Cordage, and 8 or 9000 l. worth of the choicest Goods; and told Captain Cary, That they should accept of no Act of Grace; that the K— and P—t might be damned with their Acts of G— for them; neither would they go to Hope-Point, to be hang'd up a Sun drying, as Kidd's, and Braddish's Company were; but that if they should ever be overpower'd, they would set Fire to the Powder, with a Pistol, and go all merrily to Hell together."*

[**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 11, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=412438) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=412438)

Ah, glad you dug this up. I found something while I was reading in Key West for you in *The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts* on page 376, but hadn't the time to put in here:

"I began to think I was got on Board a Pirate, for there was such swearing, cursing, &c. that it would have made a sober Man's Hair stand on End; and I was too weak to be able then to do much, having daily a Fever and Ague, and the Captain, poor Gentleman! almost in as bad a Condition, having also an Ague, tho' not so frequently. The Mate hove the Lead to sound, but we were out of Soundings: The Folks then swore, *They would not heave up the Anchor; or if they did, they would not lay a Hand on any thing to work in her; they did not know what the Design was*; and a thousand other such Speeches, attended with thundering Oaths and Curses, such as Ignorance, joined with arrogant Sawciness, is wont to produce; tho', at the same Time, it was the Negroes that did in a Manner all the Labour."

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted December 11, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=412439) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=412439)

That was Interesting Mission.

Here from *"The history of the pyrates: containing the lives of Captain Mission. Captain Bowen. Captain Kidd ... and their several crews" (1728)*

There is enough swearing I think. But I think this might be one of those romantic addition to the real story added by the writer

*"I can't pass by in Silence, Capt. Bellamy's Speech to Capt. Beer.* ***D—n*** *my* ***Bl—d****, says he, I am sorry they won't let you have your Sloop again, for I scorn to do any one a Mischief, when it is not for my Advantage;* ***damn*** *the Sloop, we must sink her, and she might be of Use to you. Tho’,* ***damn ye****, you are a sneaking Puppy, and so are all those who will submit to be governed by Laws which rich Men have made for their own Security, for the cowardly Whelps have not the Courage otherwise to defend what they get by their Knavery; but* ***damn ye altogether: Damn*** *them for a Pack of crafty Rascals, and you, who serve them, for a Parcel of hen-hearted Numskuls. They villify us, the Scoundrels do, when there is only this Difference, they rob the Poor under the Cover of Law, forsooth, and we plunder the Rich under the Protection of our own Courage; had you not better make One of us, than sneak after the* ***A—s*** *of these Villains for Employment? Capt. Beer told him, that his Conscience would not allow him to break thro’ the Laws of God and Man. You are a devilish Conscience Rascal,* ***d—n ye****, replied Bellamy, I am a free Prince, and I have as much Authority to make War on the whole World, as he who has a hundred Sail of Ships at Sea, and an Army of 100,000 Men in the Field; and this my Conscience tells me; but there is no arguing with such sniveling Puppies, who allow Superiors to kick them about Deck at Pleasure; and pin their Faith upon a Pimp of a Parson; a Squab, who neither practices nor believes what he puts upon the chuckle-headed Fools he preaches to.—The pyrates wanting neither Provision nor Water, and the Whidaw's Damage being repaired, they past their Time very jovially. One of the Crew had been a Stroler, a Fellow who had pass'd thro’ a great many real as well as fictitious Scenes of Life,"*

I find the name "Beer" rather amusing....

**Edited December 11, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted January 9, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=412844) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=412844)

Source: *Pirates and Buccaneers of the Atlantic Coast* by Edward Rowe Snow

here some nice stuff

Governor Benjamin Fletcher of New York wrote about Thomas Tew who was asking for privateering commission in 1694:

***“I wished in my mind to make him a sober man, and in particular to cure him of a vile habit of swearing”***

William Atkinson, was detained by mutinous William Fly (or Fry) in 1726 , because of his superior navigational skills. Here is Fly’s message to the forced pilot

***“Look ye, Captain Atkinson, it not that we care for your company, God damn ye, God damn my soul, if you don’t act like an honest man, god damn ye, and offer to play any rogue’s tricks, by God damn ye, and God sink me, but I will blow your brains out; God damn me if I don’t. Now Captain Atkinson, you may pilot us wrong, which god damn ye, would be a rascally trick, by God, because you would betray men who trust in you; but, by the eternal Jesus you shan't live to us hang’d…. If you will be a villain and betray your trust, may God strike me dead, and may I drink a bowl of brimstone and fire with the devil, if i don’t send you head-long to hell, God dam me…”***

**Edited January 9, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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* Member
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[Posted January 9, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=412846) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=412846)

 On 1/9/2013 at 11:49 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

Source: *Pirates and Buccaneers of the Atlantic Coast* by Edward Rowe Snow

here some nice stuff

Governor Benjamin Fletcher of New York wrote about Thomas Tew who was asking for privateering commission in 1694:

***“I wished in my mind to make him a sober man, and in particular to cure him of a vile habit of swearing”***

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***“Look ye, Captain Atkinson, it not that we care for your company, God damn ye, God damn my soul, if you don’t act like an honest man, god damn ye, and offer to play any rogue’s tricks, by God damn ye, and God sink me, but I will blow your brains out; God damn me if I don’t. Now Captain Atkinson, you may pilot us wrong, which god damn ye, would be a rascally trick, by God, because you would betray men who trust in you; but, by the eternal Jesus you shan't live to us hang’d…. If you will be a villain and betray your trust, may God strike me dead, and may I drink a bowl of brimstone and fire with the devil, if i don’t send you head-long to hell, God dam me…”***

The "blowing the brains" out was apparently a rather common threat

From Johnson's book (how I love these digital collection <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/17001>)

***" IT was proved against this Prisoner, by Captain Trahern and George Fenn, that he was one of those Voluntiers who was at the Attack and Robbery of the Company's Ship, called the King Solomon: That he bully'd well among them who dar'd not make any Reply, but was very easy with his Friends, who knew him; for Moody, on this Occasion, took a large Glass from him, and threatned to blow his Brains out, (a favourite Phrase with these Pyrates) if he muttered at it"***

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted June 10, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=414221) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=414221)

I have, I think, posted this before but not here so:

from ***The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts. 1726* Robert wrote how pirates "greeted" him**

***"He [pirate Russel] immediately call'd me, saying "You dog! You son of a b\*\*\*! You speckled-shirt dog"***

**Edited June 10, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted November 21, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=415295) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=415295)

In his book "The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd" Richard Zacks said about cursing

*"Pirates cursed a lot and often wore wild outrageous clothes. On shore, for instance, in Boston, in 1691, shoemaker William Smith, was overheard saying to his wife, "God damn you!, the Devil rot you!, and "Pox take you". For this, he was sentenced to two hours in the stocks. When William Snelgrave was captured by pirates off the coast of Africa, he was astounded by the "execrable oaths and blasphemies [which] shocked me to such a degree that in Hell itself I thought there could not be worse." One pirate captain in his cups, vowed: "If we swing our grappling hooks onto the clouds and attack Heaven itself, I'd aim my first shot at God.""*

The author also wrote

*"A member of Bartholomew Roberts crew was being led to the gallows in Cape Coast Castle off West Africa. David "Lord" Symson recognized a woman's face in the crowd, one Elizabeth Trengrove, a passenger on a ship they had captured. "I have lain with that bitch three times," bragged the unrepentent pirate, "and now she has come to see me hanged."*

But who was the captain who said "If we swing our grappling hooks onto the clouds and attack Heaven itself, I'd aim my first shot at God."? The author does not say

[**RoyalJames**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20921-royaljames/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 63 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:Pirates

[Posted November 21, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=findComment&comment=415296) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18622-swearing-among-pirates-alike/&do=reportComment&comment=415296)

 On 11/21/2013 at 2:06 PM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

But who was the captain who said "If we swing our grappling hooks onto the clouds and attack Heaven itself, I'd aim my first shot at God."? The author does not say

I don’t recall that from Snelgrave, is that from the second edition perhaps?

But, it is almost identical to what Bucquoy later heard Taylor say. From the German edition: “Könnte man Gott im Himmel bestürmen, ich täte den ersten Schuss auf ihn“ which I believe would translate to “If you could attack God in Heaven, I would take the first shot at him“