**[Oscar Henry](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/19316-oscar-henry/" \o "Go to Oscar Henry's profile)**

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 42 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Cocoa, FL
* Interests:Scuba Diving, Commercial Diving, Brewing Beer, and being a Pyrate.

[Posted November 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=411956) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=411956)

while at work this evening i started thinking about old style pocket books and wallets then the thought occurred to me, where did 18th century mariners keep their money?... was it in a pouch tied to their belt, or was it a cloth wallet of some sort, i tried looking for information but came up empty handed, what do yall think or know about this?

[**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 November 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=411960) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=411960)

I believe the Gunnister man had a knit drawstring purse. Just a bag, really. A small knitted bag.

[**Dutchman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6150-dutchman/)

* Has anyone seen my cousin?
* 
* 
* Admin
* 1,773 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:tidewater virginia

[Posted November 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=411969) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=411969)

many accounts of coins and jewels sewn into clothing seams and liners for safe keeping

[**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 November 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=411971) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=411971)

You guys are just being silly. Everyone knows that Pyrates kept their money in large iron-bound chests conveniently buried on nearby beaches. 

[**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 November 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=411972) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=411972)

This is one of the most common ways that men and women alike carried money in the 17th and 18th centuries. These little knit coin purses were so common that the term 'cut purse' dates all the way back to the mid 14th century. Have knife, will profit.

[**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 February 22, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413404) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413404)

OK, new question, just where did they tie these purses off at? They would almost certainly be tucked into clothing somewhere.

[**oderlesseye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2503-oderlesseye/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member

[Posted February 27, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413500) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413500)

We can eliminate around the neck,ankles,above the knee, harr even the ears. > \*

So me thinks like any one would.. a hidden pocket,eerr around the Waist. Say Did they have Money belts back then >

actually on a more serious note...Eye dont think most had much money at all except some coins.. for

the Bartering system was more intact back then. Occasionally ..Eye use a Crown Royal bag with draw strings..

**Edited February 27, 2013 by oderlesseye**

[**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 February 27, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413502) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413502)

 On 2/22/2013 at 5:33 PM, Mission said:

OK, new question, just where did they tie these purses off at? They would almost certainly be tucked into clothing somewhere.

Agreed.

As mentioned above, the term cutpurse dates back to the 14th century, a time of different fashions and habits.

As unearthed in another thread, the Gunnister man's purse was found inside his breeches, as in a pocket (<http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/19078-tied-to-me-belt/?p=413414>)

As to barter, I have my doubts as to how far any seaman fresh off ship would get without coin or scrip in the local tavern.

Have we any accounts with which to further illuminate the subject?

[**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 February 27, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413505) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413505)

While not exactly what we think of as bartering, there are accounts of 'pawning' from the Golden Age forward. The profession of Pawnbroker has been around over 300 years, and there are mentions of sailors and Captains pawning goods before and after journeys abroad. Even ship owners and men of station would pawn goods to secure a crew or buy goods against a long journey. The idea is so common place that it carries over into nautical fictional.

[**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 February 28, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413515) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413515)

We had a discussion on bartering a while back and I can't seem to find it. I know because I brought up the comments in Woodes Roger's book about the men trading all their clothing in a warm port for fruit and such and they wound up making those men clothing out of sail cloth when they got near the Horn. There were also some comments by Edward Barlow about how the Bo'sum (I think it was the Bo'sun) sold clothes to men for a high price on the ship, totting it up against their wages before making landfall and the men turned around and sold the clothes on land for far less than they paid just to get enough ready cash to buy drinks in town.

[**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 February 28, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413521) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413521)

 On 2/28/2013 at 10:46 AM, Mission said:

We had a discussion on bartering a while back and I can't seem to find it. I know because I brought up the comments in Woodes Roger's book about the men trading all their clothing in a warm port for fruit and such and they wound up making those men clothing out of sail cloth when they got near the Horn. There were also some comments by Edward Barlow about how the Bo'sum (I think it was the Bo'sun) sold clothes to men for a high price on the ship, totting it up against their wages before making landfall and the men turned around and sold the clothes on land for far less than they paid just to get enough ready cash to buy drinks in town.

Aye! This last is exactly what I meant, and what brings us back to the topic at hand: where did they keep their money?

Ill gotten gains must be made liquid somehow. So, first they are fenced for cash, and then the cash spent. As opposed to walking into the tavern with a bolt of silk and talking the publican into a trade, which I expect was far less common to have happened.

Now, don't get me wrong here: I am not disputing Eye. Aye! Barter was more common then than now. But, to come into a port town with your share of the spoils, what are you going to do? Haul the goods around with you from tavern to whorehouse to bed? Now then, where would you be keeping all that then? Not tied around your belt I reckon.

Aye! William! Pawnbroking is an old and venerated profession. And, aye, it is not the same as barter but more akin to to fencing goods, save that you stand a chance to redeem your goods. Aye! No doubt you'll be back in port with the money to redeem them in short time, a wee short time indeed.

**Edited February 28, 2013 by Quartermaster James**

[**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 February 28, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413523) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413523)

Actually we have two topics here: Land practice and practice at sea. At sea I would imagine they would keep it in their sea chest if they had one. Or would they distrust their fellows so much that they carried it on their person at all times?

[**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 1, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413529) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413529)

I've read that the pirates kept the spoils in common chests and divided it when they made landfall or broke up their crew or in similar circumstance. (Except Blackbeard. He marooned half his crew so he could make the common chests a little less common.)

As for where they kept it, probably in their pockets, possibly in a coin purse, somewhere handy, possibly protected. (If I wear a coat over a waistcoat, I find the waistcoat pockets are somewhat protected. It's where I carry my coins.)

You've worn period garb; where would you put it?

Or do you mean saved funds? I don't have the impression that most pirates saved much money. (We thoroughly thrashed that dead horse in [pirates the savers?](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18584-pirates-the-savers/?hl=savers) Even the nearly impossible to convince to change his opinion Swashbuckler 1700 gave up on it. At least as of this posting, he had. )

[**oderlesseye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2503-oderlesseye/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,126 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:San Diego, Ca. (North Park) me cove !
* Interests:Oderlesseye is a mutinous two bit sand dollar with a thirst for adventure. Sailing on tall ships, firing black powder weapons, and sword fighting.. I most love to entertain the public in piratical skit presentations that involve all of the above. My name is befitting of my position on board as that of the look-out. Some ask what’s the meaning of the name Oderlesseye...It is simple really.. When Eye am aloft, ye can’t smell me...But it’s spelled wrong some exclaim! Hey now! What pirate can spell? - is my retort!
I have been an active member of the pirate community since 2005. I consider myself a fan of living history in the Golden Age of Piracy. As a child I , like the lot of ye, loved the old time pirate movies with Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks. Long live Long John Silver !
Inspired by them, Eye created a Pirate Ninja Movie called "Treachery and a Dead Mans Promise" Available on YouTube.
Being a pirate, as it turns out, is multi-dimensional. For me, a lifestyle has been carved out of it. There is a six foot tall skeleton pirate in a make shift hide out called Dead Mans Cove behind my house. The walls are painted giving the impression you are in a sea cave. There is a mural of a pirate coming ashore in a long boat at the mouth of the cove. Believe me, it is a great place to enjoy rum now and again!
Exploration into all things piratical have led me to being an attempted escapee from the Governors noose to impersonating a judge in the Anne Bonnie and Mary Read trial held in Pirates In Paradise.. As Oderlesseye, my one on one impression to patrons is as one whom barley escaped the flames of the ship we took when the powder magazine blew with the booty in me hands from the Captains quarters.. The tale explains the soot on me face, the tattered clothing, and the burnt tricorn, as I hand out a gold coin or two. I hate them plastic ones and I know kids appreciate the metal coins even more so.
When an event is slated for a historical time line presentation to the public, I do not do these things mentioned above. Rather, I share about what is a grape shot or how a flintlock works. I ware clothing that is more closely representing the era in these cases. I am still updating me togs (Period Kit) as I learn more thru fellow pirates and sources like the Pyracy Pub.

So far, there have been many exciting moments of adventure the world of PIRACY has afforded me. From standing on a bar top with Pirates Charles singing to me in New Orleans to shooting cannons ( Ships Guns for you PC Pirates!), on the tall ship Spirit of Dana Point. Cheers from a crowd during a show as last man standing on the Treasure chest proclaiming to an excited crowd ITS MINE! THE BOOTY IS MINE ! YARR ! ~ These things and the notoriety that comes with being a pirate has me hooked! Whats More Is the greater bonds of friendships that have been forged with those whose course finds me at such events, sharing the same love and passion of the Life within the pirate/reenactment community. To Them Eye take me hat off and offer a tot of Rum! Cheers mates!

[Posted March 4, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413549) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413549)

"You've worn period garb; where would you put it?"

Sometimes the Answer stares ye in the face!

Glad you said that Mission .

**Edited March 4, 2013 by oderlesseye**

[**DSiemens**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20816-dsiemens/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 61 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Denver Colorado
* Interests:Ships, Ships in bottles, Pirates, Guns, cannons, history

[Posted March 11, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413571) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413571)

I haven''t researched this much but I would imagine they would keep money in their chests at sea. Last thing you want is your purse to go falling into the ocean while your adjusting the rigging on the top gallants. I do think they were some what more trusting then but at the same time they had stricter rules for stealing as well. Seem's like I remember the pirate code punishment for stealing on board was punishable by marooning or being shot. They just didn't mess around. Also I know they had locks back then. Would they have kept there trunks locked up?

[**Brit.Privateer**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3204-britprivateer/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Member
* 246 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:North Carolina
* Interests:Atlantic World Maritime History during the Colonial Era. I specialize in early provincial era (1680-1740) and do quite a bit with pirate history.

[Posted March 11, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=findComment&comment=413574) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18965-where-did-they-keep-their-money/&do=reportComment&comment=413574)

To answer the original question:

 On 11/1/2012 at 10:35 PM, Oscar Henry said:

...where did 18th century mariners keep their money?

While there are other options, and they have already been discussed on this thread, here is another one for your consideration:

PROB 32/58/121

"A true and perfect Inventory of...John Matthews late of the Burrough of St Ives in the County of Cornwall Marriner deced..."

in the list of his possessions and their value, the first thing listed is:

"his **Purse Girdle** and wearing Apparell,15 shillings"

Date at the bottom of the document for when this was written is 2 July 1714

The emphasis in the quote above is mine.

As for obtaining money, barter, and trade - I can attest to period documents referring to pawn shops and sailors using them in several documents (as mentioned above). Even British Navy Lieutenants use the pawn shop. There was a huge market during this period for second hand clothing. This is how the lower class got their hands on nicer clothing (otherwise they couldn't afford it, and manufacturers of clothing/tailors had yet to start making large amounts of more basic and cheaper versions of popular fassions (though there are some attempts, printed cottons from India often playing a role)). Sailors are recorded selling their clothes to the point of being made part of their characature for the GAOP period. Why did they? Sometimes, they were stuck in a port and didn't have any other means of obtaining money for getting home. Other times, it was to get a drink down in Shadwell at the old drinking establishment. And other times, as referrenced by others already, it was to obtain things from natives in foreign lands, including food. But I feel like I'm getting off topic with the clothing discussion.

For obtaining money, it became harder as you got into colonies and marginal regions. Eventually, this is why colonies tried for paper script, but that is its own barrel of issues. Also, this is why non-British coinage was accepted in British colonies.

Also, as others pointed out, we have to specify the question here. Which one are we trying to answer:

>Where did common sailors keep their money on their person (this is the one I tried to answer)?

>Where did common sailors store their money for safe keeping?

>Where did pirates keep their money on their person?

>Where did pirates store their money for safe keeping? How did division of plunder influence this?

Hope something here helps you all in answering your question.