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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.2](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.2)) ·

[Posted December 31, 2005](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159370) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159370)

In the "Whips" thread Lady Seahawke posted this:

 Quote

well, women were on ships more often then most might believe.

...which sparked off a revival of another thread... Both of which got me thinking about the fact that I don't recall a decent discussion about women on ships during the GAoP.

So, we've got Anne Bonny and Mary Read obviously, and I recall the story of Anne Chamberlayne who was aboard her brother's ship during one of the battles in the English Channel in the 1690s - a story attested to by contemporary monument to her.

How many other verifiable examples (ie, supported by evidence) of women working aboard ships (as opposed to passengers, which is a whole different thing) are there between, say, 1600 and 1750. How many were pirates?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=edit)

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

([IP: 209.78.171.146](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.78.171.146)) · · 

[Posted December 31, 2005](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159407) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159407)

This is something that I was talking about the other night..... OK most of this is out of period....

During the Americam Civil War, there were documentable cases of women that fought , and died, and no one knew they were women untill after they were dead.. Ok and then there was "Stage Coach Charley... So there have been women that did pass as men.

There was also a time (I'd have to go look it up) when many Union/Yankee officers had aids that were a little too nice looking (thier wives and lovers) in camp. An order went out from the Army telling to send them home (ok not an exact quote) BUT No one was "fooled" about these female "soldiers" everyone knew they were women....

When I did American Civil War reenacting, we had the "ten foot rule" unfortunatly IF there was a woman that could "pass"..... heck she fooled me..... BUT I don't think so..... both sides had a lot of ...ergh... curvy soldiers..... Life in a military camp leaves some room to get away with concealing thier sex.... but life aboard a ship, in such tight quarters..... makes me wonder if Bonny and Mary realy did "pass" or if Pyrates and Sailors didn't care.....

Hey... it's open to debate..... I did some make-up for a woman as a joke for the Clampers..... and she fooled everyone there......

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159407)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159407_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.119.180](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.119.180)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159509) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159509)

Some more bits for you (if my computer doesn't crash for a fourth time...)

**Some dubious ones (without checked sources):**

Catherine Lincken (1721)?

A ballad written in 1690 by seaman John Curtin describes a woman who was discovered disguised as a man in the crew of the 72 gun vessel "Edgar".

A gentlewoman petitioned the Queen for payment for serving on the ship St Andrew dressed in men's clothing and taking part in a battle against the French in the summer of 1691.

Ann Mills served in a dragoon regiment aboard HMS Maidstone in 1740

**Some genuine bits:**

Hannah Snell served as a Marine for several years until 1750

"...on Thursday morning last they began to play very hot on the *Duncannon* frigate riding in the midst of that harbour. One shot whereof happened to fall into her powder room, where a woman was with a candle, whose head being struck off, the candle is supposed to have fallen into the powder; but whether by that accident or no is uncertain, the vessel was blown up." *Earl of Inchiquin to the House of Lords, July 19, 1645*

"And whereas the women now entertained on board as nurses take up a great deal of room and, in the opinion of the captain and surgeon, are rather an inconvenience than otherwise, we conceive they may be discharged, and men employed in their stead." *Admiral Byng to Daniel Furzer (Surveyor of the Navy), January 24, 1704* (Byng had already written on January 10th "...they have done little or no service in the last year, but are continually drunk as often as opportunity would permit - and then very mutinous". Two days after the letter first quoted however the number of women on the Hospital Ship in question was increased by five "helpers" and three launderesses as the ship was ordered to the Mediterranean station.)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

One interesting point about all of this is the difference between the women who went to see openly as women, and those who disguised themselves as men in order to do so.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159509)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159509_menu)

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

([IP: 65.78.123.159](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.78.123.159)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159513) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159513)

Ed, let's not forget Grania Mhaille ("Grace" O'Malley), the Irish thorn in good Queen Bess' side. We know she was real because there are English accounts of her petitioning Elizabeth I for the right to raid enemy (read: Spanish) ships off the Irish coast. The problem is that she'd sometimes raid English ships too if the pickings were slim. So Bess kept having to call her in and lock her up and teach her a lesson.

There are some tales (mostly from Morgan Llywellen's novels) that indicate she dressed as a man, but nothing in the real historical record (or even the Irish legends about her) indicate that she didn't dress as a woman. She was the owner of her ship and that doesn't even confirm that she sailed on it herself, quite frankly.

The fact that Grania gets protrayed as a breeches-wearing pirate at Ren Faires should not be mistaken for fact...

Patrick, to add to your argument from a time period closer to the GAoP, there are numerous well-documented accounts of women fighting in the American Revolution -- at first dressed as young boys and then openly dressed as women. The Continental Line was just too short of man-power to refuse "women-power". And there are even cases of women drawing veterans' pensions from the government -- not as widows, but as veterans themselves.

Now, that being said, America had a tradition by that point of not exactly behaving as England would have. So we must ask ourselves if women did this in England in the GAoP.

My take is that there probably were cases of women dressing as men and making their way aboard pirate ships. But we probably know about the few cases because they were so very rare and unusual.

And anyway, who on earth would want to wear breeches and look like a boy when you could wear fabulous girl clothes?!?! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159513)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159513_menu)

[**Hawkyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/407-hawkyns/)

* Curmudgeon With A Cannon
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 1,330 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:New Haven Colony
* Interests:cannon, swords, cannon, wenches, cannon, muskets, cannon, pistols, cannon, re-enacting, cannon, rum, cannon, living history......... Did I mention cannon?

([IP: 68.54.127.5](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.54.127.5)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159521) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159521)

Well, while not exactly a pirate, let's not forget Moll Frith She dressed as a man and was quite the talk of London in the early 17th C. I'm not sure, though, that she's not the exception that proves the rule. Being so notorius as to have books written about her, and being one of the few criminals of London that is still known by name from that period, I'd have to sy that she is far beyond the norm, even for then.

Here is the info from the Newgate records.

[http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/etext/n...wgate/frith.htm](http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/etext/newgate/frith.htm)

Hawkyns



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159521)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159521_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159528) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159528)

Lady Killigrew — 1530-1570, Atlantic.

Mrs. Peter Lambert of Aldeburgh, Suffolk — late 1500s.

Elizabetha Patrickson — 1634.

Jacquotte Delahaye — 1650s-1660s, Caribbean buccaneer

.

Anne Dieu-le-veut — 1660s, Caribbean buccaneer.

Anonymous Indian Pirate Queen — 1680s, Arabian Sea.

La Marquise de Frèsne — late 1600s, Mediterranean.

Maria Lindsey (fictional?) — early 1700s, Canadian East Coast.

Anne Bonny, aliases Ann Bonn and Fulford, possibly also Sarah Bonny — 1719-1720, Caribbean.

Mary Read, alias Mark Read — 1718-1720, Caribbean.

Mary Harvey (or Harley), alias Mary Farlee — 1725-1726, Carolina.

Mary Crickett (or Crichett) — 1728.

Rachel Wall — 1780s, New England Coast.

Maria Cobham (fictional?) — Atlantic. (this is listed because the sources cannot disprove or prove as being RL or just a legend)

Sadie the Goat — 1800s, New York State.

Catherine Hagerty —1806, Australia and New Zealand.

Margaret Jordan — 1809, Canadian East Coast.

Cheng I Sao (Ching Yih Saou) — 1810s, South China Sea, commanded either five or six squadrons consisting of 800 large junks, about 1,000 smaller vessels, and between 70,000 and 80,000 men and women.

Gertrude Imogene Stubbs — alias "Gunpowder Gertie, the Pirate Queen of the Kootenays", 1898-1903, Kootenay Lake and river system of British Columbia, Canada.

those are some of the ones I have found .... I took out those the academic sources thought were more fictional then not, and took out those without the date and where they plundered.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159528)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159528_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.119.180](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.119.180)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159532) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159532)

The reason I didn't include Granuille originally is twofold: firstly I arbitrarily set a time limit on the quest of 1600-1750 so she was a little early; and secondly, for the reason you touched on, that it's not certain to what extent her piratical activities took her to sea - she was certainly head of the O' Malley clan's pirate business, but exactly what role she played is unclear.

Of course, the parameters I set are arbitrary so there's no need to stick to them. I plumped on those dates for a couple of reasons: relevance to the GAoP; and to avoid having to wade through the staggeringly large number of women who seem to have gone to sea in the 19th century.

I think you're absolutely right about the clothing issue too. In that photo you look gorgeous but I don't fancy the girl on the right much...

Word of warning: The Newgate calendar has the appearance of being a primary source document, or at least a digest of primary sources. However, it was not compiled until the middle of the 18thC, making it well out of date for the earlier stuff it records, and its facts are often way out. Best to treat it a bit like Johnson - good for background stories, but don't trust the details too far. In fact, it's probably less reliable than Johnson IMHO.

**Edited January 1, 2006 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159532)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159532_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.119.180](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.119.180)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159537) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159537)

A handful of those are still fictional I'm afraid Lady Seahawke:

**Lady Killigrew** really existed (there were several of them in fact), but she did not actually engage in piracy herself. Many books list her and tell her story, but they seem to be based on an early misinterpretation. She was certainly *involved* with piracy, but there is no evidence that she actually went to sea. The court records dealing with the raid on a ship in Falmouth Harbour with which she is most usually credited make it clear that she did not take an active part in the raid itself, only the hiding and distributing of the loot. (Incidentally, the court records also prove that the Killigrews were involved in one of the comparitively few genuine cases of buried loot - half a dozen chairs.)

**Mrs. Peter Lambert** of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, was also *involved* in piracy, but only as a fence for her husband. She also helped to spring him from prison when his bragging landed him in trouble with the new authorities.

**Maria Lindsey** (fictional?) — early 1700s... and... **Maria Cobham** (fictional?) — Atlantic... are the same person. Although it is impossible to *prove* beyond doubt that she is fictional the likelihood is that she was, and it is certainly impossible to prove that she was a pirate, or that she even existed. Not one single part of her story checks out against the historical record. The fullest account of her life (and her husband's) comes from Gosse's "Pirates who's who", and subsequent versions are just rehashing the Gosse version. Gosse, as ever, offers no source for his information beyond a "memoir" of Eric Cobham's which has conveniently disappeared since. Several points in the Cobham story can be completely disproven, throwing massive doubt on the story as a whole. There is not one shred of evidence in support of the story.

**Gertrude Imogene Stubbs** — alias "Gunpowder Gertie" is quite definitely fictional. She was invented by Canadian storyteller Carolyn McTaggart for a children's treasure hunt around Kootenay Lake.

Quite a few of the others appear on several lists of female pirates, but without any more information offered or sources to look at, so we just can't tell whether or not they were real. Whether they were real or not, without further information there's not a lot to be learned from them sadly.

Glad to see you didn't include Charlotte de Berry or Elizabeth Shirland in the list :)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159537)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159537_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159541) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159541)

ok, I hesitate to add much more because again I have my notes on this and like a dodo, I didn't write down the names of the books...sigh...and can't get to them as right now my library has stuff stacked up in front of some of the bookcases. I can't move everything because of my back. But, here are some information on female privateers...

Take it as you will

Flora Burn — 1741, American East Coast.

Sarah Bishop — 1778-1780, this New Yorker was forced to join the crew of a British privateer during the Revolutionary War.

Mary Anne Talbot, alias John Taylor, on a French privateer — 1793-1794.

Several black women (probably slaves) were cooks onboard the Duke, a British privateer — early 1800s, Pacific.

Anonymous female commander of French privateer La Baugourt — 1805, West Indies.

Anonymous French female privateer — 1811.

I will continue to hunt through my notes for the wherefores of the information....

This above was a list was put together by Joan Druett and John Richard Stephens, with some contributions from Christine Lampe, Ken Kinkor,

Richard Pennell, Sara Lorimer, Tony Malesic, and Andreas Schultz.

<http://womenshistory.about.com>

Here are some more about women ...

Ann Chamberlyne was a female tar who joined her brother's ship crew in 1690 and fought the French at Beachy Head. A plaque in her memory at All Saints Church Cheyne Walk in London used to exist, but it was destroyed in WWII during a bombing raid.

Anne Chamberlyne - From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

From the BBC online....

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/fact...4\_prog10a.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/factsheets/makhist/makhist4_prog10a.shtml)

Hannah Snell (1723-1792) was born in Worcester and went to live in London with her sister. She became pregnant by, married and was later abandoned by one James Summs. The child died and, so the story goes, while masquerading as a man Hannah was pressed into service in the Army. She joined the Marines, sailing to India and fighting against the French at the siege of Pondicherry. She was badly injured there, treating her groin injury herself so that she would not let her sex be known. She then joined the Navy and served for another ten months. She returned to London in 1749 and eventually revealed her true identity, to the amazement of her shipmates. She also let the press know and became a celebrity, even going on the London stage and singing patriotic songs until the public were bored by her. She petitioned the Duke of Cumberland for financial support and eventually won a pension for life, though some time later she was found selling buttons having come back down in the world.

The printer Robert Walker published her biography, The Female Soldier or The Surprising Life and Adventures of Hannah Snell, in 1750 and the book was highly successful. Hannah lived for a further 40 years, was married twice and had two sons. In 1791 she was admitted to the lunatic asylum, Bedlam, and six months later she died. The accuracy of her story has sometimes been called into question but the essential details would appear to be correct.

David Cordingly says that more than 20 women are known to have served at sea between 1650 and 1815, including 'William Brown', a young black sailor who spent 12 years in the Navy climbing aloft to set the sails on battleships of the Napoleonic era. Mary Lacy served as a carpenter and shipwright on board Navy vessels for many years from 1759, using the name of William Chandler. Mary Patten, a merchant captain's wife in the 1850s, was forced to take command of her husband's ship as it rounded Cape Horn when he fell ill.

They gave a listing of books on the subject of women in the age of sail...

Ok, from the Historical Maritime Society...http://www.hms.org.uk/

Richardson, the Gunner of the TROMP in 1800 took his wife with him on a cruise to the West Indies. He originally felt this was not suitable due to the terrible disease problems in their destination, Martinique. However, "after some entreaty I gave my consent, especially as the Captain's, the Master's, The Purser's and the Boatswain's wives were going with them: the Sergeant of marines and six other men's wives had leave to go."

You need to read the rest of the article to see that quote from the same article.

As early as 1587 the printed regulations forbade women on board ship and the threat of severe punishment was proposed for those who contravened the order. However from then on written sources hint that the rule was ignored, and that for the next 250 years women were glimpsed on board but only as shadowy figures flitting around below decks.

Also, ....Although women were on board they rarely appeared but we do know that when the HORATIO struck a rock in 1815 and all hands were called to the pumps five women appeared to help.

and again,

Those present at the Battle of the Nile (1798) certainly petitioned to be awarded the commemorative medal claiming they had served a gun during the fight. John Nicol, who served in the powder magazine of the GOLIATH at the Nile kept abreast of what was happening in the heat of action by consulting the women and boys who carried the cartridges. "Any information we got was from the boys and the women who carried the powder. The women behaved as well as the men ... I was much indebted to the Gunner's wife who gave her husband and me a drink of wine every now and then ... Some of the women were wounded and one woman belonging to Leith died of her wounds. One woman bore a son in the heat of the action: she belonged to Edinburgh ..." After Trafalgar (1805) Jane Townshend of the DEFIANCE applied for her medal "presenting strong and highly satisfactory certificates of her useful services during the combat".

Also, let's not forget not only did they dress as men but some took names as men which might account for little mention...such as...

William Brown, a black woman who spent a dozen years aboard British warships as a topman (which, involving setting the highest sails while balanced on a swaying foot rope 30 metres or more above the deck, was about the most dangerous job going), eventually promoted to captain of the forecastle. According to London's Annual Register, September 1815: "Her features are rather handsome for a black ... She exhibits all the traits of a British tar and takes her grog with her late messmates with the greatest gaiety."

Ok, go to the above link and read the rest of the article.

ok, here is some more...

Fanny Campbell was among the first captains to take private craft into service against the British during the American Revolution. Some months before the war began, this young woman from Lynn, Massachusetts, went to sea disguised as a man, serving as second officer on an English merchant brig, the Constance. Her reasons for this had nothing to do with either politics or trade but were entirely personal. She had recently learned that her childhood sweetheart, William Lovell, was in jail in Cuba; he had escaped from a pirate ship, which had captured the ship he served, and was himself charged with piracy. Fanny Campbell signed on aboard the Constance with the idea of taking straightforward Yankee-style action to free her man.

Seafaring Women

By Dr. Linda Grant de Pauw

Excerpted with permission of the author from "Seafaring Women"

Peacock Press,

another from the above same article.

Sarah Bishop of Long Island, New York, was the victim of a British raiding party in I778. Rape had become an everyday event in the war zones; when Bishop was taken aboard a British privateer, she became a member of the crew with certain additional duties. Although she handled the wheel and stood watches, she was also expected to be a communal sex object. Eventually she and the captain of the privateer came to an understanding, after which she was strictly the captain's woman.

and oh, ever wonder where the phrase.."Shake a leg" comes from

The day began with the boatswain's mates rousing the men with the shout, "Show a leg! Out or down!" A smooth leg or a woman's stocking identified a female, who would be left to sleep. The possessor of a hairy leg, however, had to hit the deck or the lashings of the hammock would be cut, tumbling him down. The officers would then do what they could to get the sailors to perform the tasks that must be done even in port - maintaining the ship, exercising at the guns, and getting ready for the coming voyage. The wives might spend the day mending their husbands' clothing., but most of the women had no useful work to do and passed the time drinking and fighting.

lots more stories of women in the age of sail at....http://www.navyandmarine.org/ondeck/1800seawomen.htm

Hey does anyone have this book, Wiesner, Merry E. 1952- "Battle Cries and Lullabies: Women in War from Prehistory to the Present (review)"

Journal of World History - Volume 12, Number 1, Spring 2001, pp. 196-198

I can only get an excerpt from it...but part of it is...This study is not solely one of women in the military, however, but, as its subtitle suggests, of all the various roles women have played in war. The chronological sweep suggested by the subtitle is also completely accurate, for the book begins in Neolithic times and ends with a chapter looking at current civil wars around the world and peacekeeping forces, such as those of the United Nations.

ECCCCKKKK...UGH, I don't have rights to some of the academic sites that I use to have....ok, will have to make some phone calls and see if I can get them back.

Ok, sniffle back to some other items...that might be of interest of early 19th century...ok, ok, not the age of pyraty but, if'n it happened in the early 19th, it happened in the 18th, etc...IMHO not a far-fetch leap, especially since some of the above...

Women were often aboard the chunky sloops and schooners that carried coastal cargo, as well as more glamorous clippers and other large windjammers. And when they were, the ships were called ''hen frigates.'' On board, women reared children, acted as hostesses (if the ship carried passengers) and, although they were generally not responsible for feeding the crew, often coached the cook and supplemented bland meals with their own specialties. According to the wife of Capt. Alonzo Follansbee, ''Madam's duties are studying navigation, reading, keeping the ship's signals in repair and walking decks with the captain.'' If a captain and first mate died, a woman's navigational skills often saved her and the ship.

Well, the above is part of a review from

First Helpmates The letters and journals of seagoing women tell startling tales.

First Chapter: 'Hen Frigates

'http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/07/26/reviews/980726.26morrist.htm

It gets into various things such sex and the complaints women had about ummm, ok this post might be read by young ones so I will stop there.

But back to earlier times....

A marriage license between Margaret and Peter Rudolphus, a merchant trader in New Amsterdam, was published on October 19, 1659, and they had one daughter baptized Maria the following year. As most Dutch women did, Margaret kept her maiden name, and by 1660 was active in mercantile business under the name of Hardenbrook. She began her career as a business agent representing Dutch Merchants trading with New Netherlands. When her husband died in the summer of 1661, she assumed his trading activities, which was predominantly shipping furs to Holland in exchange for Dutch merchandise. Within the next two years she became a shipowner, calling her new fleet ship Margaret. In 1662 she remarried, to a Frederick Philipsen, who with her late husband's money expanded his own merchant trade. Meanwhile, Margaret traveled frequently between New Netherlands, and New Amsterdam at this time for her own trading business.

More at the below link

and please note it is from an academic site.

[http://beatl.barnard.columbia.edu/students...ll/philipse.htm](http://beatl.barnard.columbia.edu/students/his3487/cantrell/philipse.htm)

1812, Lucy Brewer concealed her female identity and enlisted in the Marines as George Baker. She served the U.S.S. Constitution in its winning battle during the War of 1812.

# 1856, Mary Ann Patten (1837-1861) was the first woman to navigate a clipper ship. At the age of 19, Patten took over navigation of the ship which had left New York City because its captain, her husband, became seriously ill with tuberculosis.

those above are from...

Citations come from, Women's Firsts , Caroline Zilboorg, ed., Detroit: Gale Research, 1997.

Ok, this is from the book "Women Sailors and Sailors' Women" haven't gotten it yet, but it looks interesting...

Author David Cordingly gives us a lesser known piece of women's history in Women Sailors & Sailors' Women. Cordingly writes of women and the high seas in the 18th and 19th centuries, a subject about which there's a surprising amount to tell......Cordingly is also the author of an acclaimed history of piracy and for 12 years was on staff at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England. He clearly knows something of the lives of sailors; his knowledge, interest and good research are evident. He includes first person accounts from ship records and journals which makes the stories of Women Sailors & Sailors' Women vivid and fun.

so have any of you heard of David Cordingly????

Ok, have to put something back in from the early 19th century...to interesting not too, and also, the word pirate appears in the text...

Coogan has a fine eye for the way people try to anchor a life that's being swept along by wind and currents, such as the happy practice of investing a child born at sea with the middle name of "Seaborn" or "Woodhull," and the sad practice of carrying a dead infant home in a jar of alcohol for baptism and burial in consecrated ground.

Coogan, a native of Cape Cod who spent nearly 30 years on the faculty of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, uses public records and letters and diaries to build brief chapters about the experiences of a dozen 19th-century wives who chose to accompany their captain-husbands on sea voyages. The dangers—loneliness, pirates, illness, storms, frequent sightings of drunk and/or naked men, and the errant wave that sweeps a boy away from his mother and overboard, "his little face and hands [visible] just above the water" as he disappears in the ship's wake

Sail Away Ladies: Stories of Cape Cod Women in the Age of Sail, by Jim Coogan '66 (Harvest Home, 2003 and 2005)

Ok, this is getting a bit long. But one item to note as stated above, those women that took to dressing as men on the ships were also taking a man's name in order to sign aboard. Something to think about...how many went down on a ship them being listed as a man when in reality they were women????

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159541)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159541_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159543) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159543)

<http://www.lothene.demon.co.uk/others/women18.html>

Here is a site that lists a number of females that took up the gun in defense of country and/or ship...lists under 17th and 18th century...again take it as you will.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159543)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159543_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159546) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159546)

The first opportunities for women to find roles at sea during war, without resorting to disguise, were as nurses. Formal Healthcare for sick and injured seafarers began in the mid 18th Century. Each ship had to have a sick bay and a surgeon. Repeated skirmishes and campaigns had also made a network of hospital ships necessary in the heyday of British naval power.

During Nelson’s command of the Royal Navy 1794–1805 there is evidence of women being aboard the ships,

from ....Nursing in the Royal Navy

[http://www.plimsoll.org/SeaPeople/womenand...sea/womenandwar](http://www.plimsoll.org/SeaPeople/womenandthesea/womenandwar)

also from the same site but different page ...http://www.plimsoll.org/SeaPeople/womenandthesea/theearlydaysofwomenatsea/Womenindisguise.asp

Mary Lacy was one of those women who fortunately decided to tell her fantastic story giving us a detailed picture of life as a sailor aboard a warship. In 1759 she went to sea in men's clothes as William Cavendish apprentice carpenter, the ship she joined was involved in the Seven Years War between Britain and France. In 1763 she decided to become a shipwright's apprentice based Portsmouth Dockyard and gained her certificate in 1770 despite being discovered and confessing she was a woman to two male colleagues who surprisingly swore to keep her secret. However, rheumatoid arthritis meant she was no longer able to work in such a physically demanding environment and in order to gain a pension she revealed her identity as Mary Lacy and not William Chandler, as she later called herself. Her petition was sucessful and she retired publishing her story under the title 'The History of the Female Shipwright'

Ok, some more in the 1800's...1852 to be exact...yes, I know not age of pyracy...but you will see why you might be interested...

In 1852 the Birkenhead under the command of Captain Robert Salmond, began her career as a troopship, ferrying troops to the Channel Islands and Lisbon and visited the Cape. Early in 1852 she once again left on what was to be her last journey for the Cape Colony.

Text by: John Gribble

Maritime Archaeologist

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

P O Box 4637 Cape Town 8000

Tel: +27 (021) 462 4502

Fax: +27 (021) 462 4509

Name of Ship: Birkenhead

Command: Captain Robert Salmond

Design Stats 64m long displacing 1918 tons. and 11.3 m wide.

Date of Wreck: February 26, 1852 at 02h00.

Depth of Wreck: 21-meters

Site of Wreck: Danger Point South Africa

Impact to Sinking: 25 minutes

Passengers: 638 -Ship Crew, Soldiers, Women and Children

Casualties: 445 men went down with the ship. All the women and children were saved.

Manifest: Military stores, Horses, £300,000 in gold coins (never recovered).

Historical Relevance: Set the precedent of "Women and Children First" as naval protocol throughout the world.

<http://www.overberg.co.za/birkenhead/the_ship.htm>

In 1731 the first ‘Regulations and Instructions’ were printed and they stated that women were not allowed to be at sea without the orders of the Admiralty. Many women did sail on the ships without permission and this was unnoticed unless it was officially reported. This meant that if they died their deaths were seldom recorded.....Some sailors did not like the women to be on the ships and believed they used the precious fresh drinking water for washing instead of the seawater. There was also a superstition that women were bad luck at sea and brought storms to the area. Sometimes the sailors would throw the women overboard in an attempt to make the storms subside.

[http://www.questacon.edu.au/html/assets/pd...en\_On\_Board.pdf](http://www.questacon.edu.au/html/assets/pdf/Women_On_Board.pdf).

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159546)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159546_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159548) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159548)

The Rambling Female Sailor

(circa 1830)

Ballad printed by W. Fordyce,

Newcastle,England

Come all young people far and near,

And listen to my ditty,

At Gravesend lived a maiden fair,

Who was both young and pretty.

Her lover he was press'd away,

and drowned in a foreign sea,

which caus'd this maiden to say,

I'll be a Female Sailor.

This maid she was resolv'd to go

Across the foaming ocean,

She was resolv'd to let them know

How she could gain promotion.

With jacket blue and trowsers white,

Just like a sailor neat and tight

The sea it was the heart's delight

of the rambling Female Sailor . . .

From stem to stern she'd boldly go,

She brav'd all dangers, fear'd no foe,

But soon you'll hear the overthrow

Of the Rambling Female Sailor.

This maiden gay did a wager lay,

She would go aloft with any,

And up aloft she straight did go,

Where times she had been many.

This maiden bold--ah, sad to tell,

She missed her hold and down she fell,

And calmly bid this world farewell!

Did the Rambling Female Sailor.

This maiden gay did fade away

Just like a drooping willow,

Which made the sailors for to say

Farewell, young faithful Willy.

When her snow-whitebreast in sight

became, She prov'd to be a female frame,

And Rebecca Young it was the name

Of the Rambling Female Sailor . . .

On the river Thames she was known full well,

Few sailors could with her excel

One tear let fall as the fate you tell,

Of the Rambling Female Sailor

From the site "30 Jane Tars"

<http://www.aboutnelson.co.uk/30janetars.htm>

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159548)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159548_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.149.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.149.163)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159560) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159560)

At sea Admiralty regulations forbade the carrying of women, however as with many regulations this was often ignored. Estimates vary as to the numbers of women actually at sea with the fleet, but the wives of important members of the ships company, such as the gunner and the carpenter were often found on board ship. Children were also at sea, the youngest boy at the battle of Trafalgar was just eight years old, and his nine year old friend had been born at sea.

<http://www.nelsonsnavy.co.uk/broadside2.html>

Son of a gun(ner) perhaps is where the saying comes from where the women gave birth on the ships? Yes???

ok, another from BBC...

The presence of the women was largely hidden, for official purposes, as they were not paid or fed by the Navy, and therefore were not entered onto the ships' muster books. However other records, such as order books written by ships' captains, refer to their existence, as do memoirs and records of courts martial.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/trafalgar...n\_navy\_02.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/trafalgar_waterloo/women_nelson_navy_02.shtml)

DETERMINEE,24. (Taken by REVOLUTIONAIRE in 1799. Wrecked 1803) 1801 Capt. J.C. SEARLE, Lisbon. 1802 Capt. SKENE, Spithead. 1803 Capt. Alexander BECHER. he sailed from St. Helen's on the evening of 4 January for Dublin to enter seamen.

Capt. BECHER received orders at Spithead on 23 March 1803 to carry a detachment of the 81st regiment to Jersey and they were all embarked by the afternoon of the following day. No pilot was available at Spithead so he sailed in company with AURORA hoping to obtain one either at Cowes or Yarmouth. DETERMINEE anchored at Cowes over night but Capt. BECHER received no answer to his signals for a pilot and the following morning he followed AURORA to the Needles where he sent an officer ashore. His efforts were unsuccessful and they sailed through the Needles hoping to obtain a pilot at Guernsey or off the Jersey coast. Since he was unable to obtain any answers to his continual signals he decided to follow in AURORA's wake. Just before half past four on Saturday the 26th Capt. BECHER attempted to bring his ship into the wind at the same place as AURORA five minutes earlier but scarcely had the mainbrace been belayed than she stuck broadside on to a sunken rock near Noirmont Point on the western side of St. Aubyn Bay where she was immediately bilged and started taking in water. To save her falling into deep water the captain immediately ordered both anchors to be let go.

The large cutter was soon launched and people crowded in to it ignoring pleas by the captain to allow the women and children on first. At this point the ship fell on her beam ends and many were thrown into the water. The captain reached the mizzen-top after being immersed for ten minutes. From the rigging and masts he and most of the others were rescued by the boats of AURORA and CAMILLA over the next three and a half hours in a six knot tide. The captain first reported that a midshipman and a seaman belonging to DETERMINEE were lost, together with ten soldiers, two women and three children from the 81st regiment and a woman and child from the sick bay, but a later count showed that forty had been drowned.

At a court martial held on board GLADIATOR in Portsmouth on 5 April, Capt. BECHER, his officers and crew were honourably acquitted of all blame for the loss.

<http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/D1.HTM>

The family of Dr. Charming, on their way from France to America, not long after the commencement of the war, were attacked by a privateer. During the engagement that ensued, Mrs. Channing remained on deck, handing cartridges, with encouraging speeches to the crew, and assisting the wounded. When the colors of the vessel were struck, she seized the pistols and side-arms of her husband, and flung them into the sea, declaring that they, at least, should not be surrendered to the enemy.

<http://www.americanrevolution.org/women58.html>

other parts of the world.

The first island which revolted according to Bubulina's memoirs, was Spetses, 3 April 1821. Bubulina was a very rich woman who contributed with all her money and ships to the war. She immediately sailed for Nafplion to join the revolutionaries and blockaded it from the sea side. Psara followed and raised the flag with the cross. The sailors from Psara with their ships sailed to Macedonia, Thessaly and to the coast of Mikra Asia to raise the local populations. Their captain Nikolis Apostolis, attacked to the small ottoman fleet to the harbour of Smyrna and arrested 4 ships with 450 soldiers.

[http://members.fortunecity.com/fstav1/1821.../struggle5.html](http://members.fortunecity.com/fstav1/1821/fort1821/struggle5.html)

ok, I think that is all for today....



Though I am still trying to find the reference where on Captain asked for compensation to a woman for her act of bravery during battle, where the reply was (paraphasing here a tad) ...we can't because if we give it to her then we would have to give it to all the others and the Admiralty can't afford it.

OK, yes I read it...I know I did, (facts of this nature I have proofed to have an uncanny memory for) ...DAMN IT.... I just have to find it. Yes, I have it in book form, but have also seen it on the web....so... It may take me while but I will.

**Edited January 1, 2006 by Lady Seahawke**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159560)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159560_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=159579) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=159579)

OK, there was a very specific reason why I suggested a cut-off point of 1750, and wanted to avoid getting into the Napoleonic and 19thC women at sea, and this quote illustrates it to a certain extent:

 Quote

Ok, sniffle back to some other items...that might be of interest of early 19th century...ok, ok, not the age of pyraty but, if'n it happened in the early 19th, it happened in the 18th, etc...IMHO not a far-fetch leap, especially since some of the above...

From the closing years of the 18th century onwards the records show a huge explosion in the number of women apparently at sea. There must be a reason for this massive increase. It might be that simply more were discovered, but that is a completely unsatisfactory answer: why should the women of 1800 be less adept at concealing themselves than the women of a century earlier? It might be that the records are more complete, but we know that in most respects the naval records of 1700 are just as complete as those of 1800, so why should the records of women at sea be particularly different? No, the answer must be that there are more records of women at sea in that later period simply because there **were** more women at sea than previously. We cannot, therefore, say "since it happened in the early 19th century then it probably happened in the GAoP", it just doesn't hold true.

One might ask why there should be more women at sea in the later periods, and I believe the answer is twofold. The second half of the 18th century, and the opening part of the 19th was a period of ENORMOUS change, particularly in a social context. The revolutionary fervour which gripped Europe and America led to changes in the way that women were viewed and the way they viewed themselves. Olympe de Gouges' 1791 "Declaration of the Rights of Women" was a seminal document, probably the first true feminist manifesto, and its readership was so wide that the words of a butcher's daughter led her to political stardom, controversy and the guillotine. The place of women in the world was changing so it is not surprising to find more of them at sea - it was just an insignificant symptom of the new world.

The other reason is simply that the Revolutionary period, and the Napoleonic period which followed it saw a massive increase in the number of ships and seamen at sea. During the Napoleonic wars, for example, the Royal Navy had as many as 147,087 men in service at one time, whereas during Queen Anne's war that number never rose above 47,647. Even if the *proportion* of women at sea had remained constant, one should expect a significant increase in the sheer number.

For those reasons I think it is folly of the highest sort to apply 19th century information to the early 18th century.

However, even if we remove any references post-1750, and remove those where it seems unlikely the person was actually at sea herself, or was at sea only as a passenger you have still provided some wonderful examples, particularly the fleet instructions. Thanks.

**Some more examples**

In 1678 a seaman of *HMS Bristol* "had twenty-nine lashes with a cat-o'-nine tails, and was then washed with salt water, for stealing our carpenter's mate's wife's ring." (*Henry Teonge's diary*) Since the ship was at Spithead at the time there is a high chance that the incident of the theft actually took place ashore, but I thought you'd all like the flogging info anyway.

In 1666 Sir John Mennes (Controller of the Navy) complained that there were too many women onboard ships "...as many petticoats as breeches" (Medicine and the Navy, vol. II: Keevil, Lloyd and Coulter; p.91)

In 1693 a RN squadron reached Newfoundland where a settler bought "one of the officers' misses" for the sum of £100 (*Sergison Papers*

<*Bangs head on table*>There were 6 regiments of Marines raised in 1702, and 6 regiments of "soldiers for sea-service". Each regiment consisted of 10 companies and they remained in service until 1713. 3 men in every company were allowed to take their wives to sea (*Byng Papers*). Since there were 120 companies that suggests that at least 360 women were at sea in Royal Navy ships during Queen Anne's war.

(**The negative stuff - feel free to ignore**)

Incidentally, whoever wrote the Nursing in the Royal Navy page hadn't done their stuff. We've already seen examples of women openly at sea long before the mid-18th century, and in a nursing capacity from at least the beginning of the century. If we believed that site we'd have to conclude that there were no women openly at sea during the GAoP.

Also, while I have the utmost respect for many of the scholars previously mentioned - David Cordingly, Richard Pennell, Joan Druett, Ken Kinkor, Tony Malesic et al - I would beware of trusting Andreas Schultze or Linda Grant de Pauw too much. Schultze is responsible for the propogation of the ridiculous Elizabeth Shirland story, and de Pauw has claimed truth in Charlotte de Berry's story. Neither are prepared to share sources when requested.

**Edited January 1, 2006 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=159579)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_159579_menu)

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,078 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

([IP: 24.106.16.72](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.106.16.72)) · · 

[Posted January 3, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=160407) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=160407)

Foxe

Charlotte De Berry = Fiction?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=160407)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_160407_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 3, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=160451) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=160451)

Yeah absolutely, her story was written in 1836 for a series of cheap shocking paperbacks by a guy named Edward Lloyd.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=160451)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_160451_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 4, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=160830) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=160830)

On Grace O'Malley being a pirate herself rather than just a ship owner:

Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, described her as "a most famous feminine sea captain"

And Lord Justice Drury of Limerick called her "a great spoiler, and chief commander and director of thieves and murderers at sea in this province"

In 1577 she was captured while taking part in a raid.

So, the evidence suggests that unlike Lady Killigrew, Grace O'Mally took an active part.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=160830)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_160830_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 7, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=161963) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=161963)

**And some more**

Catherine Lincken appears to be real, I've found quotes from her trial documents in 1721 - though I've not yet managed to find out what she was on trial for. One of the interesting things about her is that her testimony answers one of the questions which crops up from time to time: apparently she used "a leather-covered horn through which she urinated and fastened against her nude body"

In 1692 Narcissus Luttrell MP (who calls a kid Narcissus?) note in his diary that "A gentlewoman has petitioned the Queen, setting forth that the last summer she served in man's clothes on board the *St Andrew*, which was engaged in the fight with the French, and producing a certificate thereof, she quitted herself well, she desired something be given to her." It is unclear whether this woman had deliberately disguised herself in order to go to sea, or was aboard the ship quite legitimately and adopted men's clothes as more practical in order to help out in an emergency, as Anne Chamberlyne had done. Unfortunately, nothing more is known about this woman, even her name.

According the the autobiography of Phinea Pett (the shipbuilder) when the *Anne Royal* was wrecked in 1637 the master's wife and another woman were among the drowned.

In 1674 it was reported that the captain of the *Ruby* had entered two of the crew's wives into the pay books under men's names so that he could pocket their pay himself - it was strictly understood that when wives accompanied their husbands to sea they received no pay and no food, whatever they needed was provided by their husband.

Incidentally, I think that

 Quote

Several black women (probably slaves) were cooks onboard the Duke, a British privateer — early 1800s, Pacific.

is probably a mistake. Several black women were taken aboard the *Duke*, Woodes Rogers' ship in which he circumnavigated between 1708 and 1711, while they were in the Pacific. That makes it a GAoP era reference.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

It seems to me that women at sea during the GAoP fall into four major categories:

**Sea-women**: Those women who were actually at sea for legitimate reasons, and under their own steam. Principally this includes the nurses and launderesses of the hospital ships.

**Lower-deck wives**: the wives of seamen and petty officers were often tolerated at sea, but had no official presence. No provision was made for their food or sleeping arrangements, their names were not recorded in ships' books and they had no pay or reward for any services they performed. Although prostitutes were sometimes taken aboard ship they were usually turned off once the ship set sail out of home waters, and their presence was not officially tolerated.

**Officers' wives and passengers**: When officers took their wives to sea, or when ladies of quality were given passage aboard ships, they received their own space (though officers' wives had to share their husbands' cabins), and it is likely that some stock of food was privately laid in for them before the voyage began - though as private stock it did not go through the ships' books.

**Women in disguise**: This seems to be the most insignificant group. Although there are examples of women in men's clothing during the GAoP, particularly helping at the guns or fetching powder during engagements, this seems to have been out of expedience. The number of women who actually disguised themselves as men before going to sea seems small (so far we've got 3: Bonny, Read, and Lincken for the GAoP). It might be argued that more did the same but were never discovered, and though this may well be the case we have to ask why? If a woman wished to follow her husband to sea then it was not impossible for her to do so without having to undergo the hardship of living like a man. The fact that so many women were discovered disguised at sea a century later, but so few were during the GAoP suggests that even though there may have been one or two who were completely successful the numbers were pretty small.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

This isn't strictly relevant, but I cannot leave this discussion about ships and women without putting this quote in. I finally managed to track down a copy of Ned Ward's *The Wooden World Dissected* (1706) today, and it includes this passage on the identification of ships as female:

 Quote

But that sage hit it best undoubtedly, who compared a Ship to a woman. Not for that both are of the Female Gender; not for that she is very apt to be leaky; not for that her pump-dale smells strongest when she has the soundest Bottom; but chiefly because her Rigging and Fitting forth, is always worth double her Carcase. She is commonly in her Dishabille, till the time she appears at *Spithead*, and there she looks more charming than a painted Whore in a Side-Box



**Edited January 7, 2006 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=161963)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_161963_menu)

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

([IP: 65.78.123.159](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.78.123.159)) · · 

[Posted January 7, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=161966) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=161966)

 Foxe said:

On Grace O'Malley being a pirate herself rather than just a ship owner:

Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, described her as "a most famous feminine sea captain"

And Lord Justice Drury of Limerick called her "a great spoiler, and chief commander and director of thieves and murderers at sea in this province"

In 1577 she was captured while taking part in a raid.

So, the evidence suggests that unlike Lady Killigrew, Grace O'Mally took an active part.

Go Grania! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=161966)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_161966_menu)

[**Red-Handed Jill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1541-red-handed-jill/)

* Smart-Ass Smarmalade Canuck
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 3,319 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:On the shores of the Bay of Saint Francis
* Interests:Fighting with pointy objects (sword, knife, boarding axe, tomahawk - for over thirty years), firing cannons and other black powder implementia, sailing, playing the bodhran and ukulele, sailing, building things, sewing pirate garb, sailing, figuring out new recipes that use RUM, tasting said recipes...

([IP: 12.40.180.17](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=12.40.180.17)) · · 

[Posted January 9, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=162471) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=162471)

 Quote

The number of women who actually disguised themselves as men before going to sea seems small (so far we've got 3: Bonny, Read, and Lincken for the GAoP). It might be argued that more did the same but were never discovered, and though this may well be the case we have to ask why? If a woman wished to follow her husband to sea then it was not impossible for her to do so without having to undergo the hardship of living like a man.

You're assuming that a woman wouldn't have a reason or desire to go to sea for the same reasons as a man would, particularly since the laws at the time made it difficult for her to earn a decent living on her own. Although I agree that the difficulties of disguising one's sex in such close-quarters as a ship would discourage most women, I'm guessing that most of the women who served went undiscovered. Or, how many of these women could have been thrown overboard by a superstitious crew (women being supposedly bad luck on ships and all) and their deaths recorded as accidents or casualties of war (and listed with their male name so as to avoid the stigma of bad luck)? Or have been killed in a melee or storm and their body washed overboard before they could be examined and discovered as women? At any rate, I think it's a safe bet that as with most things, the women who were documented were just the tip of the iceberg.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=162471)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_162471_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.146.56](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.146.56)) · · 

[Posted January 10, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=162718) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=162718)

La Maupin, 17th century French swordswoman, adventuress (including onboard a ship) and opera star, was like something out of a novel by Dumas or Sabatini, except for two things. First she was real, and second few authors would have attributed her exploits to a woman…..

Gilbert, interestingly enough, claims "No one therefore saw anything strange in the masculine clothes and conduct of our heroine", due to the fact that "a good number of women did as she did." I find this, too, a bit surprising. I suspect that the truth lies somewhere in the middle between Clayton and Gilbert's versions of things.

<http://www.eldacur.com/~brons/Maupin/LaMaupin.html>

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Oddly enough, Vincentio Saviolo in his 16th century manual on fencing, includes a large section on women fencers. He titles this section "The Nobility of Women" and concludes it with stories of highly educated women, and one woman who designed her own castle. He says he is writing in order to encourage women to try whatever they think they would like to do, instead of feeling limited by their sex……………

There were many women who took warfare very seriously and seemed to enjoy it quite a bit. Several of them could even be called professional soldiers. Mention of these individuals is rare, but they can be found in accounts from men who either admire them, or who find them an oddity. One historian of the 19th century wrote:

"... the feminine spirit of combativeness, which is nothing else at bottom but a blustering kind of coquetry, spread far and wide in Europe from the fifteenth century onwards. From that date on, it produced among the fantastic sex many strange tricks in mimicry of the hectoring ways of men."………..

Some women were sailors. Around 1571 (the battle of Lepanto) there was a woman by the name of Mar�a la Bailadora (the dancer) who served aboard Don John's galley Real. She had follewed her lover, dressed as a man. This exciting account of the battle between the Real, and the Turkish Sultana shows her valor and bravery in the face of battle: "Mar�a la Bailadora was nimbly over the side - some asserted afterwards that she was the first - and on the deck of Sultana was seen to kill her Turkish antagonist with one sword thrust.

Lots more information …and listed sources… at

[http://www.florilegium.org/files/COMBAT/Wo...Battle-art.html](http://www.florilegium.org/files/COMBAT/Women-Battle-art.html)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ok, guys I know you REALLY want to know that only a handful of females was able to stand up to the life. I understand it...in my humble opin

ion and probably more then a few other females... know that you want the rough life of the sea to be a bastion of male endurance. But, hate to say it...but women have done it...as women have done male dominionated jobs through out history.

But when it is all said and done...in the final analysis...We were there.

HUZZAH!

M'fellow lasses...I be buy'n so sail on up ...the kegs tis a popp'n.



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=162718)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_162718_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 81.78.216.171](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=81.78.216.171)) · · 

[Posted January 10, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=162764) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=162764)

 Quote

Ok, guys I know you REALLY want to know that only a handful of females was able to stand up to the life. I understand it...in my humble opin

ion and probably more then a few other females... know that you want the rough life of the sea to be a bastion of male endurance. But, hate to say it...but women have done it...as women have done male dominionated jobs through out history.

Let's not turn this into a sexism thread eh? It brings the whole level of the conversation down and defeats the object of good research.

Given that I have provided numerous examples of women at sea I consider your remarks quite offensive.

I'm an historian, not a sexist. We have agreed, I hope, that while there are MANY exmples of women disguising themselves as men to go to sea during the later eras there are considerably fewer examples from the GAoP period. I'm not interested in anything except examining why this might be. As I stated before, there are several possible reasons: it is extremely unlikely that it is due to there having been more discovered, or due to better records being available. I believe, very strongly and based solely on the available evidence, that the reason we have fewer examples is that there were fewer women doing during that earlier period.

I can accept that the number of women discovered in disguise at sea was probably smaller then the number actually at sea (though of course there's no way of proving it), but by that token we are still faced with the problem that there were fewer known examples from the GAoP - leading to the reasonable conclusion that there were in fact fewer women in disguise at sea during the earlier period.

 Quote

particularly since the laws at the time made it difficult for her to earn a decent living on her own

Sorry, but I don't agree with that statement, there were many many ways for women to earn their living during the GAoP. The idea that women could either be prostitutes or wives is one of the most common misconceptions - there were plenty of trades open to women.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Now, let's get back to the real research of finding examples of women at sea, either in disguise as men or legitimately as women. Let's keep it to the right era, let's keep it to women at sea (the fact that in the 16thC women engaged in the fashionable pursuit of fencing does not show there were women at sea in the GAoP) and let's keep it to proper evidence.

:)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=162764)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_162764_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.131.159.84](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.159.84)) · · 

[Posted January 10, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=163018) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=163018)

Quote"Let's not turn this into a sexism thread eh? It brings the whole level of the conversation down and defeats the object of good research. Given that I have provided numerous examples of women at sea I consider your remarks quite offensive."



Sorry you can't take a bit of good naturedly kidding...

Gezzzsh....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=163018)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/#elControls_163018_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 84.9.145.135](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=84.9.145.135)) · · 

[Posted January 11, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=163218) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=163218)

Sorry, I guess the difficulty with text only conversation is that the fine nuances of inflection go unnoticed and one tends to take things at face value.



[**hitman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1015-hitman/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 720 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sardis Ga
* Interests:women, booze,books,tobacco,tall ships.hot rods and other monstrocities

([IP: 148.63.212.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=148.63.212.65)) · · 

[Posted January 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164390) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164390)

Does any one else have that strange feeling of dejavue



<http://pyracy.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=884>

Hate to keep dragging up these old threads for ye mates but this one has much of what we have covered and some info that has yet to be touched in this thread. It also has me making the "women had no choice argument" and being proven quite wrong(at least to my own satisfaction) by Foxe and Hawkyns (not much suprise there) Also Lady Seahawk I pointed out in one of my posts in the older thread that the Admiralty had declined to issue medals to women that had been at the battle of the Nile something that had apparently been quite openly discussed at the time and was wondering if this could be a mistelling of your Lady sailor receiving pay (I picked up this praticular bit of trivia from the History channel so I would be most intrested in anything you have from a solid source on the matter.)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164390)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164390_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.231.169.149](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.231.169.149)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164480) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164480)

One thing that about the lasses in breeches. If'n they be go'n to sea as a participant and not as a passenger, it would make sense for her to be wear'n breeches and not a petticoat. Think about mov'n about the ship, climb'n the rigg'n etc. doing it in men's clothing would be safer and more comfortable. So, even if she didn't need to hide her identity, she would be in men's clothing more for convenience then anything else. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164480)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164480_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164481) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164481)

I'm not quite sure I get what you're driving at 

If a woman went to sea without having to disguise herself, as a "participant" as you put it, then what would she be doing climbing the rigging?

The evidence we've so far collected - with the exception of Grace O'Malley - of women openly at sea during the GAoP era has them far removed from the sailorly activities like climbing rigging.

Unless you've got some more evidence to add?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164481)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164481_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.232.99.123](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.232.99.123)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164496) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164496)

Quote ..."The number of women who actually disguised themselves as men before going to sea seems small (so far we've got 3: Bonny, Read, and Lincken for the GAoP)"

Well, using a bit of logic here...in regard to Bonny and Reed...considering that when they were caught, they both pleaded their bellies...ie, they were verifiably pregnant it would seem that ummm, some bloke(s) (Calico most likely) at least knew they were female. Don't you think. So, was it they were hiding their identities from the crew? (ah, being the ship was tight quarters...being a twosie or threesie they may ALL have been very quiet in the thoes of passion. AH yep that could be uhhuh ) or from their victims? (so, that if'n when they were ready they could possibly merge back into society when they were ready. But, then testimony from some of the female victims cites that they could tell the two were female even in the men's clothing because fullness of their breasts. Tell me was the crew blind? )or did they use men's clothing more for comfort.

Anyway, have a great day!!! 

**Edited January 15, 2006 by Lady Seahawke**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164496)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164496_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164498) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164498)

Ah, got you. We're talking about Bonny and Read!

According to the testimony of two Frenchmen at their trial "when they saw any vessel, gave chase, or attacked, they wore men's clothes; *and at other times, they wore women's clothes*" (my italics)

Now, there are several possible reason for the change. Possibly they wore men's clothes in battle to protect their identities from their victims - but proclamations issued *prior* to their capture mention them by name so that is unlikely. Perhaps they changed clothes because men's clothes were more practical - this is quite likely, but it does then suggest that during the day to day running of the ship the women played little part.

If women were joining ships' crews disguised as men then we'd expect them to be in breeches, practicality or no. If women were joining ships' crews without disguising themselves, where's the evidence?

To be honest, I still don't quite get the point you're trying to make? 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164498)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164498_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.232.99.123](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.232.99.123)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164513) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164513)

No you don't have me there... ...HEY, them hiding their identities wasn't my quote.... and I think we have seen that Bonnie, Read and Lincken weren't the only three.

Now the question is did they wear women's clothing while on the ship or perhaps scouting out a village for a raid? And how about the story of the one that saved her lover by challenging one of the other pirates to a duel, distracting him by pulling open her shirt...and shooting him. Legend, perhaps, but most legends have a basis in fact. So how much fact vs legend is this story...that is a question.

OH, my point...my point is it is interesting to me. :) because, according to how they were dress could, IMHO, have implications as to how much a part of the crew a female would/could have been and in turn, how much they were accepted and how common it was.

As far as the idea of the number and names reported, well, I do be asking again a bit of logic...were the male scallywages we know of the only tars going on account? Of course not, there were hundred to thousands of them during the GoAP. So, just because we don't have names of females does not mean they weren't on board.

:) :)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164513)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164513_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164519) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164519)

Okaaay, I think I'm beginning to understand...

 Quote

I think we have seen that Bonnie, Read and Lincken weren't the only three

Actually, I think we have seen that they were the only three we've yet had presented here who were women aboard ships in an illegitimate way during the GAoP.

 Quote

Now the question is did they wear women's clothing while on the ship or perhaps scouting out a village for a raid?

I must confess that I don't know about their dress when scouting out villages for raids (anyone know of any instances when Bonny and Read *did* raid villages?) but we do know what they wore on ship. During battle or the chase they wore mens clothes, at other times they wore women's clothes.

 Quote

And how about the story of the one that saved her lover by challenging one of the other pirates to a duel, distracting him by pulling open her shirt...and shooting him. Legend, perhaps, but most legends have a basis in fact. So how much fact vs legend is this story...that is a question

I suspect the origin for this particular legend is this passage from Johnson's General History:

"...*it happened that this young fellow had a quarrel with one of the pirates, and their ship then lying at anchor, near one of the islands, they appointed to go ashore and fight, according to the custom of the pirates. Mary Read, was to the last degree uneasy and anxious for the fate of her lover... she took a resolution of quarreling with this fellow herself, and having challenged him ashore, she appointed the time two hours sooner than that when he was to meet her lover, when she fought him at sword and pistol and killed him upon the spot.*"

No mention of bared breasts, which smack very much of a later addition. Incidentally the old "legends must come from somewhere" argument is balls IMHO. Legends must come from somewhere, but that needn't be history need it?

 Quote

my point is it is interesting to me.  because, according to how they were dress could, IMHO, have implications as to how much a part of the crew a female would/could have been and in turn, how much they were accepted and how common it was.

That's an interesting point, and one worth exploring. Getting back to my earlier division of women at sea during the GAoP into 4 groups we can look at the roles played by each group in terms of being "crew" members.

For the first three categories ("Sea-women", "Lower-deck wives", "Officers' wives and passengers") we are fortunate to have a certain amount of information actually about them, and the consensus is that they didn't really play much of a part in the management of the ship. In times of emergency, such as in battle, they certainly helped out where they could, running ammunition about, helping with the wounded etc., but they don't really seem to have taken much of an active role in the day to day sailing of the ship. Unless evidence to the contrary appears it is reasonable to assume that these women dressed in their normal, female, attire.

For the fourth category ("Women in disguise") we can only look at the three examples we have. Bonny and Read we know only wore men's clothes during battle, so it is a not-unreasonable assumption that whatever work they did during other times it was not stuff which was too impeded by their female clothes. Catherine Lincken disguised herself full time and took her place as a male member of the crew - we can assume therefore that she did everything her male colleagues did. Other women who may have disguised themselves with more success were probably in the same boat as Catherine Lincken (no pun intended).

 Quote

As far as the idea of the number and names reported, well, I do be asking again a bit of logic...were the male scallywages we know of the only tars going on account? Of course not, there were hundred to thousands of them during the GoAP. So, just because we don't have names of females does not mean they weren't on board.

I've offered nothing but logic and evidence We know the names of thousands of pirates, many more than you probably think, we know the names of tens (even hundreds) of thousands of other seamen. Of course, some of those names might well have been women who were successful at disguising their sex, but as we have already been over more than once, they were almost certainly of significantly smaller numbers during the GAoP than later periods, and we only have two proper examples from which to draw evidence and conclusions (hey, we could exercise our imaginations but that would fall into the category of "making stuff up").

Now here's some more logic for you. The reason we know of Bonny and Read, the reason they are so famous, is because they were so unique for their time. If there were lots of women running round in breeches aboard ships we'd know about them, and there certainly wouldn't be the fuss made over Bonny and Read by their contemporaries.

Earlier on you claimed (apparently as a joke) that we were going out of our way to disprove women on ships during the GAoP. I gotta be honest, it now feels like you're determined to prove large numbers of women running round being sailors during the period, and the evidence **just doesn't support that**. If you want to throw in some more relevant evidence then I'm sure everyone would be really pleased to see it (me most of all), but based on the evidence so far gathered there's plenty of evidence for women on board ships in female clothing in more passive roles (and active roles under special circumstances), and evidence for a small number of women taking more active roles and dressing as men. Now, we can speculate all we like if it'll make you feel better, but it ain't history.



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164519)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164519_menu)

[**Lady Seahawke**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/791-lady-seahawke/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 757 posts
* Interests:M'ship is "Siren's Resurrection" along with wit m'mates ships' "Jaguar's Spirit" and "Red Vixen"

([IP: 4.232.99.123](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.232.99.123)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164524) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164524)

quote "Now here's some more logic for you. The reason we know of Bonny and Read, the reason they are so famous, is because they were so unique for their time. If there were lots of women running round in breeches aboard ships we'd know about them, and there certainly wouldn't be the fuss made over Bonny and Read by their contemporaries."

Perhaps they are famous in the same way as Morgan, Calico and others are famous, because, they were successful in pyracy, and feared. I am not trying to prove that there were huge numbers, I am stating that they were more common then some would think and that is all.

Ok, I will probably be out of this conversation for a bit as I am sitting in here in HUGE AMOUNT OF PAIN. I just re-injured my dang back. So tis back to a prone position for me... at least for a while.



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164524)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164524_menu)

[**Red-Handed Jill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1541-red-handed-jill/)

* Smart-Ass Smarmalade Canuck
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 3,319 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:On the shores of the Bay of Saint Francis
* Interests:Fighting with pointy objects (sword, knife, boarding axe, tomahawk - for over thirty years), firing cannons and other black powder implementia, sailing, playing the bodhran and ukulele, sailing, building things, sewing pirate garb, sailing, figuring out new recipes that use RUM, tasting said recipes...

([IP: 69.104.80.122](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.104.80.122)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164526) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164526)

My point as well. I never meant that the ships were teeming with women disguised as men; I meant, as with many things, that there were more than were documented. I don't think there were lots of disguised women at sea during the GAOP or afterwards, with the additional hardship and stress of disguising oneself added to the hardships of being a sailor, but I think it's a safe bet that a number of women were able to pull it off and were successful - meaning we wouldn't have read about them being WOMEN at sea.

In the case of Mary Read, from the accounts I read, she went undetected at first. The man she challenged was apparently unaware she was a woman - that could have prompted the story of her baring her breasts at him after she had him down and close to death.

And in terms of my own experience being a woman who has done a number of jobs that were considered masculine, I can tell you that back in the day when I cleaned sewers and storm drains (using a Vactor - you've probably seen them: large trucks with tanks on the back and hoses on the tops) oftentimes, I was mistaken for a young man, even though I was 5'4" (163 cm) tall and weighed 110 lbs (50 kg). The fact that I wore a yellow rubberized jumper and coat which disguised my figure may have been a factor, but I think a lot of it was that people were just expecting me to be a man.

**Edited January 15, 2006 by Red-Handed Jill**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164526)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164526_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.123.43](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.123.43)) · · 

[Posted January 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=164541) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=164541)

well, without wishing to sound too dogmatic... Bonny and Read were hardly likely to be remembered simply for their success! Seriously though, the nature of their notoriety at the time makes it clear that the main point was that they were women. Calico Jack is probably only really well known because of his association with Bonny and Read... but that's a whole different thread.

OFF TOPIC BIT!! I too suffer from a really bad back at times (combination of a youthful sporting injury and adult crash between a van and my bicycle). I don't know if you get them in the US, or if they have the same name, but I have found that a Lifa vest just takes the edge off the pain. It doesn't cure it, but it makes me mobile on days when I couldn't otherwise walk.

Jill, I quite agree that there were probably a few women at sea during the GAoP whose disguise was good enough that they were never discovered. Had Mary Read quite while she was ahead, for example, we'd never have heard of her. For various reason though I do seriously believe that the number of them was considerably lower than in later periods.

I also believe most strongly that there were probably more women at sea legitimately as women during the period than is generally thought.

:)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=164541)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_164541_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.116.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.116.238)) · · 

[Posted February 6, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=169522) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=169522)

Just outside the GAoP, but close enough to be *maybe* relevantish, and certainly of interest in itself.

From the *Ipswich Journal*, May 21 1748.

 Quote

Bristol May 14th.

Last Tuesday a remarkable discovery was made about one of his Majesty’s ship’s, The *Prince Edward* in Kingsroad, a person who went by the name of John Davidson having drank freely became passionately fond of his messmate which occasioned him to suspect something, having informed his officer and on due examination by the ship’s surgeon he was discovered to be of the female sex and confessed to having been three years in the Privateers Service in which she was so successful as to be entitled to £150 prize money.

As well as being an interesting piece on female tars it also gives us a bit of an insight into attitudes towards homosexuality amongst seamen of the time.

**Edited February 6, 2006 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=169522)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_169522_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 70.157.195.40](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.157.195.40)) · · 

[Posted February 6, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=169526) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=169526)

 Quote

Perhaps they are famous in the same way as Morgan, Calico and others are famous, because, they were successful in pyracy, and feared

Bonny, Read and Rackham were anything but successful. Quintessential two-bit crooks of their time, really. They are only of note today because Johnson wrote of their sensational capture & trial, which is far more noteworthy than their actual crimes.

 Quote

John Davidson having drank freely became passionately fond of his messmate which occasioned him to suspect something,

The wording in this passage is a bit confusing, but I sort of took it to mean that the amorous sailor found himself wondering why the heck he was getting all hot and bothered over his messmate...and thinking that perhaps his \*feelings\* were telling him something that his eyes missed, he reported the matter to the surgeon who quickly discovered "hey he's a chick!"

I'd like to know what happened afterwards. Obviously she was immediately dismissed, but I bet she was pretty popular thereafter.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=169526)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_169526_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.116.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.116.238)) · · 

[Posted February 6, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=169528) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=169528)

It is a bit ambiguous isn't it. I took it to mean that John Davidson was the woman who, having drunk too much and forgotten herself, started making advances on an unnamed messmate, and the messmate reported the incident.

I guess it was the phrase "went by the name of..." that made me think that was, kinda implies that Davidson was the woman's alias.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=169528)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_169528_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 70.157.195.40](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.157.195.40)) · · 

[Posted February 6, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=169533) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=169533)

Ah! That's it - you're right! I think your interpretation is much more plausible.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=169533)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_169533_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.136.77.177](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.136.77.177)) · · 

[Posted August 21, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=214275) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=214275)

Going back to that great long list of women pirates posted earlier here (and originating, I believe, from Fren Canyon Press's website) I'm now in a position to add some information about Elizabeth Patrickson of 1634.

The good news is that unlike many of the women of the list she did genuinely exist and was tried for piracy, the bad news is that really calling her a pirate is a bit of a stretch.

"William Patrickson and Elizabetha his wife, in the Thames near the City Bridge did take one hundred pounds English money, and various goods; and upon Henrico Marten a Doctor of Law, did comit piracy, robbery, and murder, between the first and second hours on the 10th day of March 1634".

Robbing a vessel on the Thames might techincally be piracy, but it doesn't really place Mrs Patrickson at sea.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=214275)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_214275_menu)

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

([IP: 141.129.1.98](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=141.129.1.98)) · · 

[Posted August 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=215963) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=215963)

 kass said:

And anyway, who on earth would want to wear breeches and look like a boy when you could wear fabulous girl clothes?!?! 

AMAZING WORK THERE, KASS!!!!

Just wanted you to know that...

Interesting thread about women upon ships. I must admit that I am not educated enough upon this subject to interject, but there have been several eye opening accounts listed here that make me want to dash to the library for further studies. I thank you all…

By the way...why is it that English women have the reputation of being lazy (or drunk) in this time period?!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=215963)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_215963_menu)

[**Calico Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/953-calico-jack/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 126 posts
* Location:Port o' Halifax, New Scotland...

([IP: 10.0.3.254](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=10.0.3.254)) · · 

[Posted August 31, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=216201) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=216201)

A quick note as regards "which clothes did they wear?"

Yes, admittedly, this is once again stealing notes in part from later periods [but my focus is admittedly on the 1812 period, with the Lafittes et al], but here is:

Whilst Grania "Grace" O'Malley may have been noted as famed for "shaving her head" and leading from the fore [even being once captured on a boarding action], those ladies aboard later, Naval vessels were more of a mixed bag:

Thanks to those aboard Victory at Trafalgar, there are a number of accounts of that ship and that battle. Not only do we know that several individuals were \_born\_ aboard those vessels during the battle [thus a strong acknowledgement of the Warrants' wives aboard ships], but we know for certain and by name of at least a couple of Warrant Officers' wives aboard Victory herself.

One, the wife of a Gunnery Officer, switched to men's slops during the battle of Trafalgar so as to act as Powder Monkey [and then as Loblolly Boy]. This suggests that (a) outside the battle she did \_not\_ wear slops, and that ( during the battle, even though everyone knew she was a woman, she dressed and acted the part of a Ship's Boy.

No, this does not guarantee any such occurance during the Great Age of Piracy, but it does mean that those pirates active during the War of the American Revolt and the War of 1812, and the Napoleonic era, do have this to fall back on, should the ladies wish to dress the Boy's role...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=216201)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_216201_menu)

[**Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4957-misson/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,001 posts
* Gender:Male
* Interests:Who me?

([IP: 75.128.81.170](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.128.81.170)) · · 

[Posted June 23, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=317575) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=317575)

I thought this was interesting. It's from *Barlow's Journal* by Edward Barlow, edited by Basil Lubbock:

"[1666-7]...and the next day we [the *Monk*, commanded by Capt. Thomas Penrose, serving at this time as a BRN vessel in the second Anglo-Dutch War] came into Falmouth, for our commander, being a Cornishman, had the liberty to go in for two days to see some friends and to settle some things, for his **wife being aboard along with him that winter** [Emphasis mine] we went for 'Hamborow', she died on board of our ship when we lay in 'Grimesby' Road in the Humber, and was buried on shore at 'Grimesby' Church." (Barrow, p. 132-2)

Curious Note: I think Lubbock puts quotes around locations and names that he knows Barlow has misspelled, although I'm not entirely sure. If so, he misses some - Barrow refers to Sir Christopher Minns and Mines when it should be Myngs, around whose name there are no quotes. Still, he does this repeatedly for names I know are misspelled, so that's my guess. If anyone knows different, I'd love to hear about it. (Even more curiously, I know for a fact Lubbock has changed non-Name and Location spellings because he uses the original journal wording as the captions to reproduced drawings from Barlow's Journal. In those captions, it's just like all the other original documents from period - wild, irregular and phonetic to the extreme - yet the regular text of the book is not that way.

**Edited June 23, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=317575)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_317575_menu)

[**Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4957-misson/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,001 posts
* Gender:Male
* Interests:Who me?

([IP: 75.128.81.170](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.128.81.170)) · · 

[Posted June 24, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=317631) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=317631)

Ah, now this *is* interesting. It alone may explain much. From *Barlow's Journal* again:

"[1669]And about four or five days afterward, we arrived in 'Tangere' Road, and coming to an anchor, we found a frigate there called the *Princess*, which had been at 'Lisborne', and they told us how one of the King's ships was burnt in the river of Chatham by accident; for the gunner lying on board and having his wife on board, and it being the same winter that we were in the Straits, and it being cold weather, they having in the cabin a chafing-dish of coals along with them to warm themselves by, and going to bed and leaving them (the coals) carelessly in the night, they took fire in the cabin and set the ship on fire, and so the ship called the *Defiance* was burnt, the King losing a good ship through the means of having women on board and to be pleased with what they want, they being such ----- evils, doing more harm than good wheresoever they come." [Note: I suspect the left out word was 'damned' although it's just a guess on my part. I have seen swear words left out of materials by reprinted editors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before.] (Barlow, p. 171)

This sort of thing (if not this event alone) may well have led to the rumor that women were bad luck on ships. I know from John Keevil's book Medicine and the Navy 1200-1900: Volume II – 1640-1714 that the Navy was always short on money and the somewhat capricious loss of one of His Majesty's ships would not have pleased Him. Of such things rumors could well be made. It is interesting that even the gunner could bring his wife on board a BRN ship in 1669, though, isn't it?

**Edited June 24, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=317631)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_317631_menu)

[**Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4957-misson/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,001 posts
* Gender:Male
* Interests:Who me?

([IP: 64.241.37.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.241.37.140)) · · 

[Posted June 28, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=318037) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=318037)

Yet another reference from Barlow, this one from a merchant ship going to the East Indies, the *Expedition* in 1670:

“…we had three med dead, and one that had a wife aboard, her husband dying the same night we came to anchor at the island.” (Barlow, p. 183)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=318037)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_318037_menu)

[**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

([IP: 64.12.116.16](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.12.116.16)) · · 

[Posted July 1, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=318187) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=318187)

Always interesting whatis found apparently.

Aye, apparently, from my understanding, in the late 18th and early 19th... women were aboard even British Naval vessels. Maybe just one woman aboard but still.

I can see women traveling for sure. I don't see any reason why not at least. Considering ships were the only means of transportation from Europe to anywhere else in the world or vice versa.

I've heard of Conquistadoras, women disguising themselves not only for ship duties but for war and even just for the hell of it or criminal activities.

Granted though... They may have been a small minority. And granted, didn't last all that long on their tour of duty I'm sure.

But how believeable can some women be in portraying it properly? No matter what part of the era?

That is some awesome info there. Granted, no question at times of women on board (as a minority, known or unknown, depending upon the Articles of the ship would be my guess)... but sometimes would be interesting to know their dress. Some info I've come across made no mention of their attire. And some would mention too little of what they did on board, too.

~Lady B



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=318187)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_318187_menu)

[**Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4957-misson/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,001 posts
* Gender:Male
* Interests:Who me?

([IP: 24.231.217.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.217.242)) · · 

[Posted July 1, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=318198) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=318198)

Well, they were allowed on board as nurses and laundresses until the BRN decided that was a bad plan.

“In 1703 nurses and laundresses were assigned to the British fleet and paid at the same rate as seamen. Recruited from seaport towns, these women often were the wives of sailors. However, women aboard the vessels caused discipline problems and were the source of much discontent and friction among the crew. Later they were replaced with male nurses, the reason for the policy change given by the navy being the predilection of the women for drink.” (Zachary B. Friedenberg, Medicine Under Sail, p. 25)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=318198)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_318198_menu)

[**Raphael Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/9117-raphael-misson/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 449 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Period Surgery. Designing Stuff. Creating Stuff. Positions of power without title.

([IP: 64.241.37.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.241.37.140)) · · 

[Posted September 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368560) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368560)

This is interesting, coming from someone heavily involved in preparing medicine chests and young Surgeons for the East India merchant ships (and later the British Royal Navy itself) during much of the middle 17th century. He's explaining how to make laudenum.

"Hee that intendeth any part of this composition for women, must forbeare the muske and ambergrece, and use with it rather foure graines of good castroium, I meane in that one dose he intends to give the women; *but in this I digresse from my scope of the Sea-practise, where women in long voyages are rare creatures*." (John Woodall, *The surgions mate*, p. 230) [Emphasis mine.]

The voyage to the Caribbean was considered a long voyage, incidentally.

**Edited September 13, 2009 by Raphael Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368560)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_368560_menu)

[**Ransom**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2401-ransom/)

* It's Going on Your Permanent Record
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,177 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:The pirate wasteland of Southern OR.
* Interests:I belong to the Barn Owls Writers Group. My husband and I live on 20 acres with four cats, and a two horses, Delight and Apollo — used to have longhorn cattle, sheep, but no more. Our 28' Tollycraft is moored in Charleston harbor. She has no sails, but dreams of being a schooner.

I like to ride my horse doing Medieval gaming, and now mounted archery, and trail course challenges. I also garden, read, do artwork, write, make beaded jewelry for my Website "Found in the Ruins", and go on antique/junk crawls with my husband of 20+ years. I am somewhat of a costume making junkie. Now I make pyrate and steampunk costumes, as well as SCA costumes and horse bardings, and am having WAY too much fun....

([IP: 69.59.202.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.59.202.66)) · · 

[Posted September 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368589) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368589)

Interesting that the BRN would accuse the women of having a "predilection to drink" considering what the average sailor drank during the period.

 [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2)

 [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368589)

 [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=2#elControls_368589_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 64.85.223.172](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.85.223.172)) · · 

[Posted September 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368597) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368597)

It would seem that from the Admiralty view and the common theme of Naval or ground force commanders, the leadership would use anything but the truth for an excuse for getting rid of the women. You really don't expect the Admiralty to admit their seamen aren't absolutely disciplined now do ya? I wouldn't think that an official report would read; "our men are out of control, and fighting daily over the attention of the women, and the women are getting all the pay and extra rations of drink in exchange for favors." Wouldn't look good in the Court of the King/Queen, and speaks low of the ability of the commanders. No loyal Briton would ever admit of inability to keep order among his troops or sailors. 

Bo

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368597)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368597_menu)

[**Ransom**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2401-ransom/)

* It's Going on Your Permanent Record
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,177 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:The pirate wasteland of Southern OR.
* Interests:I belong to the Barn Owls Writers Group. My husband and I live on 20 acres with four cats, and a two horses, Delight and Apollo — used to have longhorn cattle, sheep, but no more. Our 28' Tollycraft is moored in Charleston harbor. She has no sails, but dreams of being a schooner.

I like to ride my horse doing Medieval gaming, and now mounted archery, and trail course challenges. I also garden, read, do artwork, write, make beaded jewelry for my Website "Found in the Ruins", and go on antique/junk crawls with my husband of 20+ years. I am somewhat of a costume making junkie. Now I make pyrate and steampunk costumes, as well as SCA costumes and horse bardings, and am having WAY too much fun....

([IP: 69.59.202.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.59.202.66)) · · 

[Posted September 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368599) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368599)

My suspicions were, that the accusation of excess drinking among the women was simply a convenient excuse to get rid of the ladies. Apparently, it worked.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368599)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368599_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.149.57.91](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.149.57.91)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368610) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368610)

 On 9/13/2009 at 7:47 PM, Capt. Bo of the WTF co. said:

It would seem that from the Admiralty view and the common theme of Naval or ground force commanders, the leadership would use anything but the truth for an excuse for getting rid of the women. You really don't expect the Admiralty to admit their seamen aren't absolutely disciplined now do ya? I wouldn't think that an official report would read; "our men are out of control, and fighting daily over the attention of the women, and the women are getting all the pay and extra rations of drink in exchange for favors." Wouldn't look good in the Court of the King/Queen, and speaks low of the ability of the commanders. No loyal Briton would ever admit of inability to keep order among his troops or sailors. 

Bo

Quite the opposite! Admiralty correspondence is full of complaints about the unruliness of seamen.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368610)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368610_menu)

[**LadyBrower**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10561-ladybrower/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 582 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Walden, NY
* Interests:Sewing, Crochet, Knitting, Reading, Cooking, Baking, Yoga, Kickboxing, Bellydance, Guitar Hero, Rockband

([IP: 69.206.131.239](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.206.131.239)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368612) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368612)

 On 7/1/2008 at 8:11 AM, Misson said:

Well, they were allowed on board as nurses and laundresses until the BRN decided that was a bad plan.

"In 1703 nurses and laundresses were assigned to the British fleet and paid at the same rate as seamen. Recruited from seaport towns, these women often were the wives of sailors. However, women aboard the vessels caused discipline problems and were the source of much discontent and friction among the crew. Later they were replaced with male nurses, the reason for the policy change given by the navy being the predilection of the women for drink." (Zachary B. Friedenberg, Medicine Under Sail, p. 25)

Interesting... It says "In 1703..." is it specific to that year, or was this already an accepted practice? Also, how much later were they replaced?

Also, would such a practice be employed on a pirate vessel? Say, having a wife aboard as a cook, nurse or laundress? Is there any evidence to support this?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368612)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368612_menu)

[**Raphael Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/9117-raphael-misson/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 449 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Period Surgery. Designing Stuff. Creating Stuff. Positions of power without title.

([IP: 24.231.217.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.217.242)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368616) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368616)

You have all the information I found. I figure it is better than no information. My understanding is that female nurses on ships was an extremely short-lived practice, though.

As for GAoP pirate vessels, I have only found a few person accounts and none of them mention women on pirate ships (Philip Ashton is the only one that comes immediately to mind for true GAoP.) There are several privateer accounts - Dampier, Edward Cooke, William Funnell, Woodes Rogers, Bartholomew Sharp, Lionel Wafer et al, but none of them mention women on board as I recall - or I'd probably have posted it here.

Much of what you read in the *General History* seems to have come from court accounts. They always talk about interviews with prisoners, but that seems to have been less important to the substance of the text than the court transcripts from what I've read. (Ed, please correct me if I'm wrong.) The only two true GAoP female pirates I can think of are the famous Bonny and Read who were on the same ship. And they were both hiding their sex, suggesting it was not generally acceptable. (If they weren't, I might still suggest it was because that ship had gradually acquired a different standard based on the way the account reads.)

**Edited September 14, 2009 by Raphael Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368616)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368616_menu)

[**Ransom**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2401-ransom/)

* It's Going on Your Permanent Record
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,177 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:The pirate wasteland of Southern OR.
* Interests:I belong to the Barn Owls Writers Group. My husband and I live on 20 acres with four cats, and a two horses, Delight and Apollo — used to have longhorn cattle, sheep, but no more. Our 28' Tollycraft is moored in Charleston harbor. She has no sails, but dreams of being a schooner.

I like to ride my horse doing Medieval gaming, and now mounted archery, and trail course challenges. I also garden, read, do artwork, write, make beaded jewelry for my Website "Found in the Ruins", and go on antique/junk crawls with my husband of 20+ years. I am somewhat of a costume making junkie. Now I make pyrate and steampunk costumes, as well as SCA costumes and horse bardings, and am having WAY too much fun....

([IP: 69.59.202.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.59.202.66)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368632) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368632)

Might the lack of documented cases of women on ships, other than as cooks, etc, be for the fact that they dressed, worked and acted like men in order to not be detected? Much as female soldiers of the period, who were not discovered until they either got pregnant, or were wounded and a doctor discovered their true gender. Read and Bonny are mainly famous because they got caught. I suspect there were probably more women serving on ships that were never detected, but I doubt there were very many. The life was a hard one for men, and it would be doubly so for women, and I imagine trying to hide the fact that you were female would be even harder on a ship, where you had zero privacy, than it would be on land.

**Edited September 14, 2009 by Ransom**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368632)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368632_menu)

[**Raphael Misson**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/9117-raphael-misson/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 449 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Period Surgery. Designing Stuff. Creating Stuff. Positions of power without title.

([IP: 24.231.217.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.217.242)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368637) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368637)

 On 9/14/2009 at 1:32 PM, Ransom said:

Might the lack of documented cases of women on ships, other than as cooks, etc, be for the fact that they dressed, worked and acted like men in order to not be detected? Much as female soldiers of the period, who were not discovered until they either got pregnant, or were wounded and a doctor discovered their true gender. Read and Bonny are mainly famous because they got caught. I suspect there were probably more women serving on ships that were never detected, but I doubt there were very many. The life was a hard one for men, and it would be doubly so for women, and I imagine trying to hide the fact that you were female would be even harder on a ship, where you had zero privacy, than it would be on land.

It might. But the only proof we have for this is that there were some disguised female soldiers (Who? How many? Were they GAoP? How does behavior among soldiers relate to behavior on ships?) and the Bonny and Read story. It's generally not prudent to make rules from exceptions.

**Edited September 14, 2009 by Raphael Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368637)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368637_menu)

[**Silkie McDonough**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2754-silkie-mcdonough/)

* Proprietress of the Sealkies Hide
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,695 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:I have been a Virginian for 2 months now. LOVING it.
* Interests:Music, vocalizing, Irish balads. I love to draw, I do pencile portraits/detail drawings for barter and sale. The link in in my signature. Ireland, its history and culture. Sewing garb, mostly for myself. The arm of a strong gentleman round my waist.

Unfortunately, I don't do nearly enough of any of a these.

([IP: 68.39.137.227](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.39.137.227)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368639) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368639)

 On 9/14/2009 at 1:32 PM, Ransom said:

Might the lack of documented cases of women on ships, other than as cooks, etc, be for the fact that they dressed, worked and acted like men in order to not be detected? Much as female soldiers of the period, who were not discovered until they either got pregnant, or were wounded and a doctor discovered their true gender. Read and Bonny are mainly famous because they got caught. I suspect there were probably more women serving on ships that were never detected, but I doubt there were very many. The life was a hard one for men, and it would be doubly so for women, and I imagine trying to hide the fact that you were female would be even harder on a ship, where you had zero privacy, than it would be on land.

I would think it would be imposable for a woman on a ship. Once a woman hits puberty there is no hiding the fact. How would one explain her period?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368639)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368639_menu)

[**Ransom**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2401-ransom/)

* It's Going on Your Permanent Record
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,177 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:The pirate wasteland of Southern OR.
* Interests:I belong to the Barn Owls Writers Group. My husband and I live on 20 acres with four cats, and a two horses, Delight and Apollo — used to have longhorn cattle, sheep, but no more. Our 28' Tollycraft is moored in Charleston harbor. She has no sails, but dreams of being a schooner.

I like to ride my horse doing Medieval gaming, and now mounted archery, and trail course challenges. I also garden, read, do artwork, write, make beaded jewelry for my Website "Found in the Ruins", and go on antique/junk crawls with my husband of 20+ years. I am somewhat of a costume making junkie. Now I make pyrate and steampunk costumes, as well as SCA costumes and horse bardings, and am having WAY too much fun....

([IP: 69.59.202.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.59.202.66)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368642) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368642)

Oh, I know. I wasn't thinking of it as a rule, since there is no way to know, and no documentation. I guess it was more a case of me speculating out loud, sort to speak. 

(And yes, I also know that speculation is not documentation. LOL )

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368642)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368642_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.149.57.91](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.149.57.91)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368647) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368647)

The information in the *General History* comes from four main sources: newspaper accounts; other printed matter such as trials; (probably) verbal interviews\*; and (most certainly) the author's imagination.

\*various possible interviewees have been suggested. It seems likely that they included John Atkins (surgeon of HMS Swallow), and imprisoned pirates Walter Kennedy, Thomas Jones, William Ingrams, Brigstock Weaver; and possibly Woodes Rogers, though some of the bits about Rogers in the book are wrong so there is some doubt.

I believe I gave some information on the 1703 RN nurses on p.1 of this thread.

For other good GAoP accounts you might enjoy William Snelgrave, Richard Hawkins, George Roberts, Robert Drury, John Lazenby. None of the above mention women on ships, and Snelgrave(?) reckoned that it was a general rule amongst the pirates he mingled with not to allow women aboard.

Towards the very end of the GAoP (1728ish) Mary Harvey and Maria Crichett were tried for piracy in colonial Vice-Admiralty courts. In neither case were they involved in ocean-going piracy, but stealing vessels from the shore.

Also, this is a point that I have raised before but I think it might be important: Bonny and Read were **not** discovered to be women when they were captured, it was known they were women all along. Outside the *General History* there is no suggestion that they were ever *disguised* as men, only that they wore men's clothes when necessity of battle dictated.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368647)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368647_menu)

[**RedJessi**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10342-redjessi/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 419 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:SoFla
* Interests:Costuming, social sciences, comic books

([IP: 65.6.182.98](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.6.182.98)) · · 

[Posted September 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368669) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368669)

To Offer a bit more on Grace O'Malley, her clan had been known to sail the west coast of Ireland for about 3 centuries prior to her taking the helm. The family's reputation was "InvincibLe on land and sea".

When her father, Owen Ui Maile, died, he had no son of age so Grainne took over the whole fleet. This is might be why there is some confusion as to whether or not she was aboard a ship, since she couldn't be aboard more than one at a time. She was married to Donal O'Flaherty when she was 15, and had 2 sons and 1 daughter by him before he died. She then married her first husband's nephew (Richard de Burgh - whom she later divorced), allowing her to remain a princess of the O'Flaherty clan. She had a son by him and of her children, I believe 3 are said to have been born at sea.

She was known for plundering Spanish ships around Clare Island and for collecting tolls from every vessel that passed within 30 miles of the coast of Connaught (where she lived in Carrickhooley Castle, where it was rumored the that her ships were moored at the edge of the penninsula the castle was built upon, with cables that ran from each ship's bow through a window in her bedroom so no movement could be made on her fleet that she wasn't aware of)- including french smugglers. There are accounts that say it was the availability to French brandy and regular pay matched with her foul mouth and colorful threats that kept her crew loyal.

Cheng I Sao (Ching Yih Saou) in my book is named as Shi Xianggu. The pirate fleet she commanded began under the leadership of Zheng Yi, her husband - and once they were married they each commanded the fleet as equals. Which is where Zheng Yi Sao comes from, as it translates into "Wife of Zheng Yi". They not only controlled the South China Sea, but also the Guangdong economy. There are also rumors that there was a third person romantically linked to their marriage - a boy named Zhang Baou who became her second husband after the death of the first. Anyway, this is around the time they helped band several fleets together (seven different pirate leaders were involved) to create the confederation.

Further, from what I've read, women at sea was not unusual in the lower classes in china in the late 1700's/early 1800's. In 1809, Xianggu's fleet captured Richard Glasspoole, an officer from tan East India Company ship - the Maquis of Ely - and held him and 7 other crew members for ransom from September to December. Glasspoole kept a diary of his time as captive and described the conditions on the junks as "filthy" with rats bred for food along with a diet of rice and caterpillars. Pirates were only allowed to have women on board if they were married to them - but some of the men has as many as 5 wives.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368669)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368669_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 64.85.210.101](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.85.210.101)) · · 

[Posted September 15, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368740) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368740)

 On 9/14/2009 at 2:54 AM, Foxe said:

 On 9/13/2009 at 7:47 PM, Capt. Bo of the WTF co. said:

It would seem that from the Admiralty view and the common theme of Naval or ground force commanders, the leadership would use anything but the truth for an excuse for getting rid of the women. You really don't expect the Admiralty to admit their seamen aren't absolutely disciplined now do ya? I wouldn't think that an official report would read; "our men are out of control, and fighting daily over the attention of the women, and the women are getting all the pay and extra rations of drink in exchange for favors." Wouldn't look good in the Court of the King/Queen, and speaks low of the ability of the commanders. No loyal Briton would ever admit of inability to keep order among his troops or sailors. 

Bo

Quite the opposite! Admiralty correspondence is full of complaints about the unruliness of seamen.

Well then I stand corrected. (but I'll bet they still won't pull over and ask for directions!!! )

Bo

**Edited September 15, 2009 by Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368740)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368740_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.149.57.91](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.149.57.91)) · · 

[Posted September 15, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=368774) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=368774)

 On 9/15/2009 at 10:35 AM, Capt. Bo of the WTF co. said:

Well then I stand corrected. (but I'll bet they still won't pull over and ask for directions!!! )

I suspect that half the time complaints about unruly seamen were an officer's insurance against FUBARs. 

On the day the *Mary Rose* sank, for example, pretty much the last recorded statement of Vice-Admiral Carew was a complaint about his ungovernable crew...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=368774)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_368774_menu)

[**capn'rob**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10470-capnrob/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 535 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Morehead City, NC
* Interests:Cruising, power or sail. Music and Maritime History. Pilaging, Plundering and General Mayhem!

([IP: 98.99.68.166](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=98.99.68.166)) · · 

[Posted November 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=373165) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=373165)

 On 1/1/2006 at 10:11 AM, kass said:

Ed, let's not forget Grania Mhaille ("Grace" O'Malley), the Irish thorn in good Queen Bess' side. We know she was real because there are English accounts of her petitioning Elizabeth I for the right to raid enemy (read: Spanish) ships off the Irish coast. The problem is that she'd sometimes raid English ships too if the pickings were slim. So Bess kept having to call her in and lock her up and teach her a lesson.

There are some tales (mostly from Morgan Llywellen's novels) that indicate she dressed as a man, but nothing in the real historical record (or even the Irish legends about her) indicate that she didn't dress as a woman. She was the owner of her ship and that doesn't even confirm that she sailed on it herself, quite frankly.

The fact that Grania gets protrayed as a breeches-wearing pirate at Ren Faires should not be mistaken for fact...

Patrick, to add to your argument from a time period closer to the GAoP, there are numerous well-documented accounts of women fighting in the American Revolution -- at first dressed as young boys and then openly dressed as women. The Continental Line was just too short of man-power to refuse "women-power". And there are even cases of women drawing veterans' pensions from the government -- not as widows, but as veterans themselves.

Now, that being said, America had a tradition by that point of not exactly behaving as England would have. So we must ask ourselves if women did this in England in the GAoP.

My take is that there probably were cases of women dressing as men and making their way aboard pirate ships. But we probably know about the few cases because they were so very rare and unusual.

And anyway, who on earth would want to wear breeches and look like a boy when you could wear fabulous girl clothes?!?!

### If we can go back a bit further, Queen Bhudica of the Celts, after the death of her husband, rallied the Celts against the Romans and were quite sucsessful for a brief time. Her daughters led beside her. The Romans forces were reenforced, of course, bringing the conquoring of the Celts but for a while they stood again[angelgal918](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10666-angelgal918/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 74 posts

([IP: 65.190.52.3](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.190.52.3)) · · 

[Posted May 23, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=400244) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=400244)

"How Can A Woman Hide Herself on a Cramped Ship" argument:

in reference to a period, one must remember that it is possible to just stop having one due to malnutrition. However, in the case of Mary Read having this issue and going undetected, this dismenorheah ( I believe that's the term) relates to infertility, which she obviously didn't have according to Johnson. I'm no nutritionist, but it seems that the poor diet may have related to a less noticeable period. I mean, besides the "peeing off the boat" and such, can you really tell when she's on her period? And you gotta remember: how many times a day are these gals changing clothes? Not often, and once the bosom is bound and the hips stop swaying noticeably, it becomes more feasible for us chicks to disguise ourselves. A little grease, bound raggedy hair, and you're set.

While clothing has always delineated the sexes, we must remember that sexual division of labor as relating to society became far more pronounced in the Victorian era, and in reference to cross-dressing especially, it wasn't so much frowned upon in the eras leading up to the GAoP. Brush up your Shakespeare, folks: *Twelfth Night, As You Like It,* and the stage culture of the day all had women playing boys, men playing women, and so on. As it developed in the Victorian period, this era is not quite so concerned with moral issues of gender, homosexuality, etc. That is not to say that it was **openly** practiced, but it was accepted that gender was a possible play-thing in some arenas.

The only moment I would think would be awkward would be use of the "head" while it was still geographically "a head" on the boat.

st the tyranny of Rome.

[**angelgal918**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10666-angelgal918/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 74 posts

([IP: 65.190.52.3](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.190.52.3)) · · 

[Posted May 23, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=400244) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=400244)

"How Can A Woman Hide Herself on a Cramped Ship" argument:

in reference to a period, one must remember that it is possible to just stop having one due to malnutrition. However, in the case of Mary Read having this issue and going undetected, this dismenorheah ( I believe that's the term) relates to infertility, which she obviously didn't have according to Johnson. I'm no nutritionist, but it seems that the poor diet may have related to a less noticeable period. I mean, besides the "peeing off the boat" and such, can you really tell when she's on her period? And you gotta remember: how many times a day are these gals changing clothes? Not often, and once the bosom is bound and the hips stop swaying noticeably, it becomes more feasible for us chicks to disguise ourselves. A little grease, bound raggedy hair, and you're set.

While clothing has always delineated the sexes, we must remember that sexual division of labor as relating to society became far more pronounced in the Victorian era, and in reference to cross-dressing especially, it wasn't so much frowned upon in the eras leading up to the GAoP. Brush up your Shakespeare, folks: *Twelfth Night, As You Like It,* and the stage culture of the day all had women playing boys, men playing women, and so on. As it developed in the Victorian period, this era is not quite so concerned with moral issues of gender, homosexuality, etc. That is not to say that it was **openly** practiced, but it was accepted that gender was a possible play-thing in some arenas.

The only moment I would think would be awkward would be use of the "head" while it was still geographically "a head" on the boat.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=400244)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_400244_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 71.52.242.4](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.52.242.4)) · · 

[Posted May 23, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=400257) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=400257)

 On 5/23/2011 at 2:07 AM, angelgal918 said:

"How Can A Woman Hide Herself on a Cramped Ship" argument:

in reference to a period, one must remember that it is possible to just stop having one due to malnutrition. However, in the case of Mary Read having this issue and going undetected, this dismenorheah ( I believe that's the term) relates to infertility, which she obviously didn't have according to Johnson. I'm no nutritionist, but it seems that the poor diet may have related to a less noticeable period. I mean, besides the "peeing off the boat" and such, can you really tell when she's on her period? And you gotta remember: how many times a day are these gals changing clothes? Not often, and once the bosom is bound and the hips stop swaying noticeably, it becomes more feasible for us chicks to disguise ourselves. A little grease, bound raggedy hair, and you're set.

While clothing has always delineated the sexes, we must remember that sexual division of labor as relating to society became far more pronounced in the Victorian era, and in reference to cross-dressing especially, it wasn't so much frowned upon in the eras leading up to the GAoP. Brush up your Shakespeare, folks: *Twelfth Night, As You Like It,* and the stage culture of the day all had women playing boys, men playing women, and so on. As it developed in the Victorian period, this era is not quite so concerned with moral issues of gender, homosexuality, etc. That is not to say that it was **openly** practiced, but it was accepted that gender was a possible play-thing in some arenas.

The only moment I would think would be awkward would be use of the "head" while it was still geographically "a head" on the boat.

I'm sure I've said this before elsewhere, but Mary Read (and indeed Anne Bonny) were never actually *disguised* as men - despite what just about every author since Charles Johnson has claimed - they simply wore men's clothes in battle because they were more practical.

One woman who did disguise herself and whose name escapes me at present used a horn covered in leather to solve the "head" problem.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=editComment&comment=400257)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&page=3#elControls_400257_menu)

[**angelgal918**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10666-angelgal918/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 74 posts

([IP: 65.190.52.3](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.190.52.3)) · · 

[Posted May 24, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=findComment&comment=400321) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/6459-women-on-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=400321)

True, I'm just making the anatomical argument for the "women who went undetected" argument.