[**macstink**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3171-macstink/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 39 posts
* Location:behind you
* Interests:piracy, frighterning small children, living history, re enactment, drinking (lots) good ales, trying to keep the cabin boy in the barrel, singing (some seriously filthy) campfire songs and meeting up with like minded people......hang on this is like filling out a lonely hearts dating form!!!!!!

([IP: 84.66.162.49](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=84.66.162.49)) ·

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276035) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276035)

greetings fellow fair and honest traders

this has bugged me for a while, but does anyone know if pirates/sailor's of the GAOP had tattoos (i'm pretty sure they did), if so is there any records of such and descriptions?

i ask as tattoos are abit of a hobby of mine!!!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=edit)

[**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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276048) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276048)

Hey MacStink!

Have you done a search here for "tattoo"? I dimly recall a discussion long ago in which Foxe gave some fairly compelling evidence against. I cannot remember if it was definitive in any way, and honestly I don't even remember if it was on this forum. But use that search function and see if something comes up.

Kass

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276048)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276048_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.
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Unfortunately, I don't do nearly enough of any of a these.

([IP: 68.45.105.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.45.105.13)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276049) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276049)

Might I suggest running a search for the word "tattoo" or "tatoo" in Captain Twill. There is an abundance of information on tattoo's to be found there.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276049)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276049_menu)

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

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

([IP: 68.193.4.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.193.4.238)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276057) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276057)

Information on Tattooing from <http://www.powerverbs.com/tattooyou/history.htm>

"In the west, early Britons used tattoos in ceremonies. The Danes, Norse, and Saxons tattooed family crests (a tradition still practiced today). In 787 AD, Pope Hadrian banned tattooing. It still thrived in Britain until the Norman Invasion of 1066. The Normans disdained tattooing. It disappeared from Western culture from the 12th to the 16th centuries." ..........

.........."William Dampher is responsible for re-introducing tattooing to the west. He was a sailor and explorer who traveled the South Seas. In 1691 he brought to London a heavily tattooed Polynesian named Prince Giolo, Known as the Painted Prince. He was put on exhibition , a money making attraction, and became the rage of London. It had been 600 years since tattoos had been seen in Europe and it would be another 100 years before tattooing would make it mark in the West."

"In the late 1700s, Captain Cook made several trips to the South Pacific. The people of London welcomed his stories and were anxious to see the art and artifacts he brought back. Returning form one of this trips, he brought a heavily tattooed Polynesian named Omai. He was a sensation in London. Soon, the upper- class were getting small tattoos in discreet places. For a short time tattooing became a fad."

it would seem from this information that Sailors with Tattoos would be quite rare in the GAoP

Though not impossible. I would guess you would have to have been one of those who wandered over to the South Pacific and spent time among the natives. Another possiblity is to have come from the East, Tattooing was apparently not adversely affected in Japan and other areas of the East when it was banned in the West by the Pope. I suppose since William Dampher showed up with the Polynesian prince in 1691, it might be possible by that by the later part of the GAoP there may have been more sailors with Tattoos, but I would hazzard to say that 1690-1700 it would be a rare thing indeed, and more than likely the same to the mid 1700's, well past the end of the GAoP as we usually understand.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276057)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276057_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276074) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276074)

 Silkie McDonough said:

Might I suggest running a search for the word "tattoo" or "tatoo"  in Captain Twill.  There is an abundance of information on tattoo's to be found there.

i searched for the famous thread about tattoos on here but never found it so i started one. didnt get much response and disappeared. tattoos are my LIFE (im a tattoo artist by profession and huge collector).

tho there isnt any evidence stating they did have tats,i also dont believe we know that they didnt.i think its totally possible depending where one traveled.

**Edited July 19, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276074)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276074_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276078) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276078)

"No evidence *against* isn't proof *for*."

Also: "Do not make the rare common and the common rare."

Those are Kass's Rules of Research #9 and #1, respectively.

[Good Research Techniques](http://www.reconstructinghistory.com/index.php?s=&c=8&d=141&e=&f=&g=&a=129&w=2)

I have every respect and admiration of your profession, Bonnie! But history is my profession and statements like "it's possible" get you in trouble in my line of work.

Tattoo if you like it. But let's not say that GAoP sailors got tattoos without proof that they did.

**Edited July 19, 2007 by kass**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276078)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276078_menu)

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

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

([IP: 72.155.181.5](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=72.155.181.5)) · · 

[Posted July 19, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276111) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276111)

I'll agree with Kass here.

No evidence to the contrary is NOT evidence FOR!!!!

Also, it is BEST to operate as the most common, not the rare when doing reenacting. Ren-faires/LARP/and fantasy are a WHOLE different matter.

For Example:

As MUCH as I'd LOVE to have evidence for tartan kilts (or belted plaids) being worn by pirates in the GAoP, there simply ain't NONE that I have seen.

So, I WON'T/CAN'T wear one during reenactments, even though they were COMMON DURING the period in the Highland of Scotland.

In fact, I could just swap my belted plaid for slops when jumping from Jacobite to Pirate. The REST of the kit is largely the SAME (including the JACKET), BUT there is NO evidence of disposessed Jacobites-turned-pirate WEARING kilts in the Caribbean. So, It must be "out," even IF I wanted to argue "period" (which it IS).

-The term "kilt" here refers to the "philabeg" (I prefer to just call it a "kilt," though it is not the tailored knife pleats of today) as seen in "Rob Roy" (advised by kilt/tartan expert Peter MacDonald <http://www.scottishtartans.co.uk/> )

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276111)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276111_menu)

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* Member
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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276175) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276175)

Well said, Wages! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276175)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276175_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: 68.45.105.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.45.105.13)) · · 

[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276187) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276187)

 blackbonie said:

 Silkie McDonough said:

Might I suggest running a search for the word "tattoo" or "tatoo"  in Captain Twill.  There is an abundance of information on tattoo's to be found there.

i searched for the famous thread about tattoos on here but never found.

Hmmm, I did one before I posted that quote and found numerous posts. Searched "Captain Twill", "tatoo", "today/older", "Search entire post", "Search entire post" got:

Assuming that this link will work.[Twill's tatoo search results.](http://pyracy.com/forums/index.php?act=Search&CODE=show&searchid=a93021adbf83f018d0de92128fdd3808&search_in=posts&result_type=posts&highlite=tatoo)

**Edited July 20, 2007 by Silkie McDonough**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276187)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276187_menu)

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276189) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276189)

And here is the other with pictured tattoos.

[Do ye wear any Pyrate ink??](http://pyracy.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=8855&st=0)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276189)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276189_menu)

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

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276195) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276195)

Thanks for posting those, Silkie! Those will help a lot.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276195)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276195_menu)

[**macstink**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3171-macstink/)

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* Member
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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276233) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276233)

many thanks guys, the info and comments are really helpfull. i'd best keep my tattoos covered up at events from now on!

bit like this 'work in progress'!!

[http://i94.photobucket.com/albums/l83/macs...20072007074.jpg](http://i94.photobucket.com/albums/l83/macstink/20072007074.jpg)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276233)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276233_menu)

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276237) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276237)

Oh! Nice ink, MacStink! Is that new or have you been working on it for years?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276237)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276237_menu)

[**Edward T. Porter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2872-edward-t-porter/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 64 posts
* Location:Bremen, Germany
* Interests:-LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING/ LARP<br>-Sewing my clothes<br>-History<br>-Poker<br><br>Roles I Play in Larp:<br><br>Edward T. Porter (Pirate, 1760´s)<br>Weland Pommery (Pirate 1720´s)<br>Tadeo di Seda (spanish rennaissance swashbuckler)

([IP: 91.64.232.102](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=91.64.232.102)) · · 

[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276279) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276279)

Speeking of tatoos and sailors: What is the origin of this one?

believe, love, faith

Is it just a "Sailor Jerry oldschool ink" from the last century or is this theme older?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276279)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276279_menu)

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

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

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276287) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276287)

FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY (LOVE) mate, it is a religious symbol.

The Cross is Faith, the Anchor is Hope, and the Heart is Love.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276287)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276287_menu)

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* 39 posts
* Location:behind you
* Interests:piracy, frighterning small children, living history, re enactment, drinking (lots) good ales, trying to keep the cabin boy in the barrel, singing (some seriously filthy) campfire songs and meeting up with like minded people......hang on this is like filling out a lonely hearts dating form!!!!!!

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276288) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276288)

there's bout 20hours under the needle there, which was coming along nicely till i got skint! it's the start of a full body suit, as ive work being done on my arms too. one day it'll be finished! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276288)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276288_menu)

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* Member
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* Location:Hudson Valley, NY
* Interests:Blacksmithing, hunting, fishing, stuff.......

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[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276291) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276291)

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Bible, New Testament, 1 Corinthians 13:13

So the 'theme' goes back to a guy by the name of Paul, in the first Centuary AD

Not sure when the symbols came into being to signify the passage, but the Anchor has been a Christian symbol for hope for a long time, even for people not near a body of water. Many early church pulpits were built to resemble the prow (bow) of a boat, so Nautical themes are found in the Church.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276291)
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* Interests:-LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING/ LARP<br>-Sewing my clothes<br>-History<br>-Poker<br><br>Roles I Play in Larp:<br><br>Edward T. Porter (Pirate, 1760´s)<br>Weland Pommery (Pirate 1720´s)<br>Tadeo di Seda (spanish rennaissance swashbuckler)

([IP: 91.64.232.102](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=91.64.232.102)) · · 

[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276293) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276293)

Ah... okay... thank you! As a pagan I don´t have to know this 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276293)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276293_menu)

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

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

([IP: 68.193.4.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.193.4.238)) · · 

[Posted July 20, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276298) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276298)

"is it just a "Sailor Jerry oldschool ink" from the last century or is this theme older?"

You asked the question mate, just giving you the answer,

and I would say that it would be something that you need to know,

before you paste something on your skin that your brain isn't comfortable with. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276298)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276298_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 21, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276376) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276376)

i guess what i really mean to say is if you want tattoos get them,and dont worry if they are period.this isnt the 18th century and no amount of pretending will make it so,no matter how fun it is.dressing as a pirate is something you *do*,tattoos are who you *are*

and yes you should know the meanings of things before getting them inked,but if you have loved a particular design for months and have wanted it,get it. you only live once

you guys know history,but i know tattoos.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276376)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276376_menu)

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

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

([IP: 65.12.112.188](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.12.112.188)) · · 

[Posted July 21, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276386) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276386)

 Edward T. Porter said:

believe, love, faith

The heart with flames is one that is generally a Roman Catholic symbol, rather than one used by "protestants." I've seen similar ones also, without the flames at the top of the heart.

The anchor was seen as significant for 2 reasons:

1) The stalk and upper arms (NOT THE CORRECT NAMES) resembles a cross, so it was used as a representative cross during persecutions and when a proper cross was not on hand (they also used swords-> with the point down and the arms formed by the cross-guard.

2) The anchor itself is a Christian symbol of "the anchor in a storm" that fith provides, giving security to life and to keep one from fumbling and floating away. The anchor keeps one in place and provides stability. (A bunch interested in sailing should be able to "get" the symbolism).

As for the age, that precise illustration might be "modern," but the IDEA and symbolism is MUCH older.

Side question: Why would someone not a Christian WANT to use a cross or a cross based symbol? It is just something I don't understand. I would not WANT to emblazon myself with symbols STRONGLY associated with a religion I don't follow, so a non-Christian getting a cross tattoo is something I just don't get.

Anyone want to explain it to me? (PM is fine)

(This side question is not related to anyone in particular, but this thread reminded me of this question I have had for years.)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276386)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276386_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 64.183.172.167](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.183.172.167)) · · 

[Posted July 21, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276432) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276432)

 Wages said:

Side question: Why would someone not a Christian WANT to use a cross or a cross based symbol? It is just something I don't understand. I would not WANT to emblazon myself with symbols STRONGLY associated with a religion I don't follow, so a non-Christian getting a cross tattoo is something I just don't get.

Anyone want to explain it to me?

non-religious people get cross tattoos because they see one that looks cool and copy that person. i often ask the customer the reason for their tattoo and i very often hear "i saw this person with it and it looked awesome",or some variation of that same reply.i dont think that is a good reason to choose a tattoo,but its a very common one.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276432)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276432_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 22, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276485) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276485)

 blackbonie said:

i guess what i really mean to say is if you want tattoos get them,and dont worry if they are period.this isnt the 18th century and no amount of pretending will make it so,no matter how fun it is.

Oh absolutely! I wouldn't expect anyone to go nuts to cover up a tattoo just because it's not period. The fillings in my teeth aren't period either, you know! 

When it comes down to it, we're modern people playing dress up. How far you want to go with that is up to you.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276485)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276485_menu)

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

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

([IP: 74.242.78.149](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.242.78.149)) · · 

[Posted July 22, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276498) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276498)

 kass said:

When it comes down to it, we're modern people playing dress up. How far you want to go with that is up to you.

Take it from the lady who has made a CAREER going NUTS over details and making PERIOD CORRECT patterns when the piles of others weren't QUITE accurate enough. 

If SHE says its going a BIT to far, it probably is.



Don't me Kass.

And STOP TRYING TO LOOK UP MY KILT AND PAY ATTENTION!!!!!!!!



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276498)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/#elControls_276498_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 22, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276510) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276510)

You, lad, are cruising for a lashin'...



[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276554) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276554)

 Wages said:

 kass said:

When it comes down to it, we're modern people playing dress up.  How far you want to go with that is up to you.

Take it from the lady who has made a CAREER going NUTS over details and making PERIOD CORRECT patterns when the piles of others weren't QUITE accurate enough. 

If SHE says its going a BIT to far, it probably is.



Don't me Kass.

And STOP TRYING TO LOOK UP MY KILT AND PAY ATTENTION!!!!!!!!



this all made me think of something else too.

do you guys just not shower for months before anevent? and not brush your teeth? cause that would be"period" wouldnt it? lol. 

no being 100% accurate is cool as long as you know reality exists too (unfortunately)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276554)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276554_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 217.44.236.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=217.44.236.249)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276566) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276566)

 blackbonie said:

this all made me think of something else too.

do you guys just not shower for months before anevent? and not brush your teeth? cause that would be"period" wouldnt it? lol. 

Erm... no? 

I'm going to disagree with Kass here ( ), temporarily hiding tattoos that aren't authentic is the easiest thing in the world (easier that hiding fillings), and visible tattoos can ruin a very good outfit.

Hmm, maybe I *am* more nuts than Kass...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276566)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276566_menu)

[**Edward T. Porter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2872-edward-t-porter/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 64 posts
* Location:Bremen, Germany
* Interests:-LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING/ LARP<br>-Sewing my clothes<br>-History<br>-Poker<br><br>Roles I Play in Larp:<br><br>Edward T. Porter (Pirate, 1760´s)<br>Weland Pommery (Pirate 1720´s)<br>Tadeo di Seda (spanish rennaissance swashbuckler)

([IP: 91.64.232.102](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=91.64.232.102)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276567) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276567)

 Littleneckhalfshell said:

"is it just a "Sailor Jerry oldschool ink" from the last century or is this theme older?"

You asked the question mate, just giving you the answer,

and I would say that it would be something that you need to know,

before you paste something on your skin that your brain isn't comfortable with. 

I didn´t said that I want it on my skin.

I´m very pleased with my fully inked upper arms and shoulders (everything black & grey). The theme would not fit into the concept 

 Quote

Why would someone not a Christian WANT to use a cross or a cross based symbol?

Because it looks cool? It´s the same like with other themes or styles...temporary fashion. The look is more important than the symbolism. There are many folks out there who almost don´t know nothing about the themes they have on their skin.

 Quote

I'm going to disagree with Kass here (  ), temporarily hiding tattoos that aren't authentic is the easiest thing in the world (easier that hiding fillings), and visible tattoos can ruin a very good outfit.

Yupp! When I´m on an event I never show my tatoos.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276567)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276567_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276578) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276578)

 Foxe said:

 blackbonie said:

this all made me think of something else too.

do you guys just not shower for months before anevent? and not brush your teeth? cause that would be"period" wouldnt it? lol. 

Erm... no? 

I'm going to disagree with Kass here ( ), temporarily hiding tattoos that aren't authentic is the easiest thing in the world (easier that hiding fillings), and visible tattoos can ruin a very good outfit.

Hmm, maybe I *am* more nuts than Kass...

No. I just don't have any tattoos so I don't have to hide them.

If someone has tattoos on his neck or hands, I don't think he should have to put on a turtleneck or wear gloves. That's going to look more stupid than just pretending their not there.

And if the public asks, tell them they aren't period correct. Simple.

It's just dressing up and pretending, people...

And Bonnie, please don't start that "Do you guys not bathe" bullshit or I'm gonna have to delete this thread for gross stupidity.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276578)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276578_menu)

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

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

([IP: 38.97.99.3](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=38.97.99.3)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276589) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276589)

 kass said:

And Bonnie, please don't start that "Do you guys not bathe" bullshit or I'm gonna have to delete this thread for gross stupidity.

Still, it was unwise to get downwind of Patrick during the closing days at last year's PiP festival ...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276589)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276589_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: 68.45.105.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.45.105.13)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276591) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276591)

Aye truly authentic he was!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276591)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276591_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276601) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276601)

God bless him, nutjob that he is...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276601)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276601_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276608) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276608)

 Quote

God bless him, nutjob that he is...

An' I was goinna offer ter show ye my tattoos if you'd show me yours..... 

(then you post that you don't have any.....)

You don't have to not bathe for a month to get authentic smelling really fast.... just wear a heavy wool jacket in Key West for a few days....

For authentisity, Sailors/Pyrates wouldn't have tattoos untill after Catp. Cook and crew got back..... they were kinda re-discovered then.... Someone could type... "hey, the Sythians and Celts had tattoos".... but that was way before period, and Capt Cook is after period.

**Edited July 23, 2007 by Patrick Hand**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276608)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276608_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276679) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276679)

 kass said:

And Bonnie, please don't start that "Do you guys not bathe" bullshit or I'm gonna have to delete this thread for gross stupidity.

i wasnt implying that.i was simply stating a point- that being authentic is cool but you have to draw the line somewhere and admit that you arent really an 18th century pirate,no one is.

this forum claims to cater to historical AND fantasy, but everyone here seems very intolerant of anything not historically correct.if someone joins here and just does this as a hobby,and has a life in the 21st century,they are not taken seriously.so im not gonna bother posting on this forum anymore because i do know its pretend. ill still browse and look at pictures and get info but thats it.

you should just change the site heading to state that this is for serious reenactors only and not for fun.

**Edited July 23, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276679)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276679_menu)

[**Bully MacGraw**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/564-bully-macgraw/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 137 posts
* Location:Saint Francis' Bay
* Interests:History, Marline spike seamanship, black powder, and small sword

([IP: 71.131.212.161](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.131.212.161)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276683) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276683)

Regarding Tatoos being rediscovered by Capt. Cooks boys is a bit of English folk lore. The French Canadian's copied native tatoos and then in the late 1600's used catholic symbols . This was a very common practice.

Tatoo was also used in Europe prior to this time. So Captain's Cooks boys introduced tatooing to the English.

Ed

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276683)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276683_menu)

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

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

([IP: 70.153.2.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.153.2.247)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276705) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276705)

 blackbonie said:

 kass said:

And Bonnie, please don't start that "Do you guys not bathe" bullshit or I'm gonna have to delete this thread for gross stupidity.

i wasnt implying that.i was simply stating a point- that being authentic is cool but you have to draw the line somewhere and admit that you arent really an 18th century pirate,no one is.

this forum claims to cater to historical AND fantasy, but everyone here seems very intolerant of anything not historically correct.if someone joins here and just does this as a hobby,and has a life in the 21st century,they are not taken seriously.so im not gonna bother posting on this forum anymore because i do know its pretend. ill still browse and look at pictures and get info but thats it.

you should just change the site heading to state that this is for serious reenactors only and not for fun.

OK,

I am still a "newbie" on here, compared to most others.

On this forum, the "Twill" section is STRICTLY about reality/accuracy/history.

IF something/ANYTHING is in THIS section, it is takes in regards to history and what was REALLY done, esp. in the Golden Age of Piracy (GAoP) of about 1715-1725, or so.

The others, such as "Pop" and "Plunder" are WIDE open as to fantasy and make-believe.

Things are RATHER different on the other sections, with a MUCH more loosey-goosey atmosphere. The "up-tight" ones in this section will "hold their tongue" in those., but not here.

For example, props from Pirates of the Caribbean (PotC) WILL get critiqued as to accuracy and whether of not they are precisely "period correct" for the GAoP. In almost ANY other section, one gets comments on quality of reproduction, looks, the "Pyle" pirate look, and the like. (search "Barbossa" "pants" in twill and plunder and wonder at the differences in the comments (sometimes even by the same people).

THAT is one of the things I LIKE about this particular forum, it ISN'T ALL fantasy NOR all history.

Please, keep posting all you like. The only caution is to remember which section you are in.

Kass, you do realize that the comments aimed in your direction were in just, I HOPE 

I LOVE your work and VALUE your opinion HIGHLY.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276705)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276705_menu)

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

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

([IP: 97.101.31.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=97.101.31.44)) · · 

[Posted July 23, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276716) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276716)

 Quote

blackbonie  Posted on Jul 23 2007, 05:11 PM

i wasnt implying that.i was simply stating a point- that being authentic is cool but you have to draw the line somewhere and admit that you arent really an 18th century pirate,no one is.

this forum claims to cater to historical AND fantasy, but everyone here seems very intolerant of anything not historically correct.if someone joins here and just does this as a hobby,and has a life in the 21st century,they are not taken seriously.so im not gonna bother posting on this forum anymore because i do know its pretend. ill still browse and look at pictures and get info but thats it.

you should just change the site heading to state that this is for serious reenactors only and not for fun.

Oh please don't go away. That not a good way to be. Get in on the discussion. Here we're just hashing out things. It what "twill is for. I will admit, but I do not speak for anyone else but myself, that in my pursuit of authenticity it has spilled into other areas of this site. Take the thread in Plunder [Your garb](http://pyracy.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=11174&st=75) I have gotten carried away with my authentic side. I feel that I've pulled the thread in the wrong direction and I feel bad for doing that in a Plunder thread. Most of the conversation in that thread is more "twill"

like. And believe me I'm far from being the most of the authentic here. Heck I still have boots, and I love the look, but alas it's just not to be. So I will plan on having both my "fantasy" outfit along with my "authentic" outfit. Just because I can't let go. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276716)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276716_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276772) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276772)

Though others have stated the true state of affairs well, I'm going to weigh in.

 Quote

i wasnt implying that.i was simply stating a point- that being authentic is cool but you have to draw the line somewhere and admit that you arent really an 18th century pirate,no one is.

No one who's serious about history and historical accuracy will ever make that statement. We well know that we can never be truly accurate. So no admission is necessary.

Just understand that we, the people who **are** devoted to historical accuracy, hear statements like that all the time from people who **want** to be perceived as authenticists but who are unwilling to put their money where their mouths are. That we **do** bathe and have modern dental prosthetics has nothing to do with how accurate we are in visible ways, nor has it anything to do with our knowledge of history.

 Quote

this forum claims to cater to historical AND fantasy, but everyone here seems very intolerant of anything not historically correct.if someone joins here and just does this as a hobby,and has a life in the 21st century,they are not taken seriously.so im not gonna bother posting on this forum anymore because i do know its pretend. ill still browse and look at pictures and get info but thats it.

you should just change the site heading to state that this is for serious reenactors only and not for fun.

I'm afraid you're not seeing the difference between Captain Twill and the rest of the Pyracy Pub. As is very clearly stated on the front page of the Forums, Captain Twill is for "Academic talk on maritime history, research, & interesting info".

Does this mean fun is not allowed? Of course not. It **does** mean that we discuss things in a rigorous academic way. That means writing things you can support by documentation, whether that's a book, contemporaneous evidence, personal experience attempting to perform a period task, or something like that. That does **not** mean "supporting" your ideas with something along the lines of "I can only imagine that this was so". In other words, if you're going to come in here and make statements, you must be prepared to support them in an academic fashion. Does this mean you have to have a college degree? Nope. Just read how others write.

I think we need a FAQ sticky - what is Captain Twill? What can you expect to read? What do the denizens of CT consider "academic talk" (and its inverse)?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276772)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276772_menu)

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

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

([IP: 205.156.36.11](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=205.156.36.11)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276799) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276799)

 Captain Tightpants said:

I'm afraid you're not seeing the difference between Captain Twill and the rest of the Pyracy Pub. As is very clearly stated on the front page of the Forums, Captain Twill is for "Academic talk on maritime history, research, & interesting info".

Capt Tight is right. And, I might point out this has odd side effects. From my point of view, the academics and historians aren't allowed to express historical opinions anywhere here *but* in Captain Twill.



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276799)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276799_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276806) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276806)

Precisely, gentlemen! And thank you for the back-up.

Bonnie, this is just not the forum for the discussion of fantasy pirates. Read the description on this Forum:

***Academic talk on maritime history, research, & interesting info***

That's the rule. And it's my job to make sure we keep the discussion on track. That's all.

No harm done, my dear. But please don't come in here and start calling names. If you want to talk about fantasy pirates, there are all the other forums on this site to talk about it. And you won't hear me say one word to the contrary there.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276806)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276806_menu)

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

([IP: 134.243.211.253](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=134.243.211.253)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276808) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276808)

 kass said:

Precisely, gentlemen! And thank you for the back-up.

Bonnie, this is just not the forum for the discussion of fantasy pirates. Read the description on this Forum:

***Academic talk on maritime history, research, & interesting info***

That's the rule. And it's my job to make sure we keep the discussion on track. That's all.

No harm done, my dear. But please don't come in here and start calling names. If you want to talk about fantasy pirates, there are all the other forums on this site to talk about it. And you won't hear me say one word to the contrary there.

I don't mean to further stir the pot, but maybe a part of the issue are the terms used.

When I read the word "Forum", I think of the Pyracy Pub as a whole. While I don't believe it is incorrect to call the various "subsections" of the Pub "Forums", I believe it can be misleading to those less familiar with the Pub as a whole. Maybe calling the "subsections" (Such as "Twill", "Plunder" etc) something other than "Forums" will help keep the distinction.

While I am by no means an oldtimer on this Forum, I have been around long enough to note that this issue does seem to pop up every now and then, and I would prefer to see the integrity of the various "subsections" (particularily Twill) upheld, but I would also wan't newcomers (or even those who have been around a while) to not keep repeating this type mistake due to a possible lack of understanding of the terms used, because the same term (Forum) can be equally applied to so many concepts existing at the Pub.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276808)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276808_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276809) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276809)

I didn't program this website, so I can only go by what the programmers called the various sections. The URL calls the Pub "Forums". This means that there are multiple forums here. So each subsection is a forum.

But let's not get bogged down in semantics, Michael. The simple fact is that it says, "Academic talk on maritime history, research, & interesting info" under the words "Captain Twill" on the front page.

Do people know that Rabble Rousing is the section for storytelling? Yes.

Do people know that Sea Shanties is the section for music? Yes.

So why exactly do people see the words "Academic discussion on maritime history" and think it's okay to discuss fantasy pirates?

It's not. And I don't go shoving history down other people's throats in other forums. So forgive me if I get a little upset when someone upbraids me for talking about *historical* pirates in the only *historical* section on this site.

I didn't write these rules. They were here when I got here. I just got asked to enforce them. And you must admit that I do that rather loosely. We talk about a whole lotta stuff here that is far from academic!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276809)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276809_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276812) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276812)

To that end, Mr Bagley, I have taken the liberty of beginning a FAQ, which Kass has kindly Stickied to the top of the Captain Twill thread list page.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276812)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276812_menu)

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

([IP: 134.243.211.253](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=134.243.211.253)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276814) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276814)

 Captain Tightpants said:

To that end, Mr Bagley, I have taken the liberty of beginning a FAQ, which Kass has kindly Stickied to the top of the Captain Twill thread list page.

I read that, and let me commend you on how well written it is! 

But please, Michael will do... I'm neither someone's father nor a school teacher. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276814)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276814_menu)

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

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

([IP: 24.159.237.138](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.159.237.138)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276818) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276818)

so here are my random thoughts...

\*IF\* someone had a tattoo during the GAoP, how likely would it have been to be visible? Clothing during the time was very covered. A man was considered naked in his shirt, a garment that would still cover enough of the body that even most modern tattoos would be unseen. In the non-English cultures of the time that we know to have tattooing, what is the common placement on the body? Were those only seen because their clothing was less covered than English styles of the time?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276818)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276818_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276819) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276819)

Good point, Chole! Men were wrapped up to the throat and down to the wrists most of the time.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276819)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276819_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276826) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276826)

 CrazyCholeBlack said:

so here are my random thoughts...

\*IF\* someone had a tattoo during the GAoP, how likely would it have been to be visible? Clothing during the time was very covered. A man was considered naked in his shirt, a garment that would still cover enough of the body that even most modern tattoos would be unseen. In the non-English cultures of the time that we know to have tattooing, what is the common placement on the body? Were those only seen because their clothing was less covered than English styles of the time?

A cursory Internet delving into the etymology of the word "tattoo" leads this author to believe that tattoos were if anything unknown to Western Europe in GAoP.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary,

 Quote

Although the practice of tattooing the body is very old, the English word tattoo is relatively new. The explorer Captain James Cook (who also gave us the word taboo) introduced the word to English speakers in his account of a voyage around the world from 1768 to 1771. Like taboo, tattoo comes from Polynesian languages such as Tahitian and Samoan. The earliest use of the verb tattoo in English is found in an entry for 1769 in Cook's diary. Sailors introduced the custom into Europe from the Pacific societies in which it was practiced, and it has remained associated with sailors, although many landlubbers now get tattoos as well.\*

Thus, while the art of tattooing is quite old indeed - cf Maori and Polynesian culture - it was first recorded by Cook in the latter 18th century, some fifty years after the Golden Age of Piracy.

I will skim Dampier when I get a chance to see if he records tattooed humans in his South Pacific and Central American travels. Frankly, I doubt any such reference will be found; I think I'd remember it. 

\* "tattoo." The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. 24 Jul. 2007. <Dictionary.com [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/tattoo>](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/tattoo%26gt).

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276826)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276826_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276836) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276836)

the polynesian term for the practice came into the language after cooks expedition but the practice in the ne w world was well documented prior to his exibitions:

Unfortunately, there are few surviving illustrations of North American native tattoo designs. The first illustrations which show tattooed natives were published in the Jesuit Missionary Francois Du Creux's Historiae Canadiensis seu Novae Franciae (1656) There is, however, no reason to think that the tattoo marks seen in these engravings are accurate representations of native designs. The European-style figures, capes and backgrounds make it clear that the artist worked from imagination and from written descriptions rather than from life. Another artist (probably Charles Bécart de Grandville of Quebec) apparently copied and tried to improve on the Historiae Canadiensis illustrations by supplying the figures with appropriate native props such as tobacco pipes, tomahawks, and loin cloths. De Grandville's drawings, originally published in Codex Canadiensis (1701) have since been widely reproduced as the first pictorial record of native tattooing in North America.

In 1593 Captain John Smith wrote that the natives of Virginia and Florida had "their legs, hands, breasts and faces cunningly embroidered with diverse marks, such as beasts and serpents, artificially wrought into their flesh with black spots." The most accurate early illustrations of these tattooed Florida natives were made by John White, a British artist, cartographer and explorer who, in 1585, sailed with Sir Walter Raleigh on an expedition to establish a settlement on Roanoke Island in the territory of Virginia. White was an accomplished illustrator who made hundreds of valuable drawings of the natives and the flora and fauna of the region. In 1590 many of his drawings were published in Thomas Hariot's Briefe and True report of the New Found Land of Virginia. In a curious appendix to Hariot's work, White included several drawings of elaborately tattooed Picts to show "how that the Inhabitants of the Great Bretannie have been in times past as savage as those of Virginia." White's original paintings are now in the British Museum.

so it would have not have been impossible for the sailors/pirates or bucaneers of this period to have come in contact with the practice or to have chosen to participate in the practice.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276836)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276836_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276841) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276841)

Good one, Hugh! Thanks for the information!

I *still* can't help but ask, "Okay, but where's the evidence that nautical men adopted the practice?" 

Some more investigation is in order...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276841)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=2#elControls_276841_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276844) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276844)

since it wasn't a practice accepted in polite society in england i'm sure it wasn't widely spoken of or if a sailor had such a tattoo on their body it, like chole stated, in polite society it would have been covered ...but a blanket statement that it couldn't occur just because there is no article in an "english" jounal doesn't exclude it either ...that is ethnocentric clap-trap ...these men were outside the society of england they lived and travelled into worlds unknown to the average sit at home englishman and what they did to fit into the societies that they encountered has been referred to as going native by the writers in england at the time ... so the debate will continue ad infinitum



this was painted of one of the five tattooed iroquis kings who went to london to appear before queen anne to gain a treaty to gain military aid to fight against the french it was painted during their visit in 1710

and since there were reports o fthe practice of tattooing in almost every tribe from canada to the reaches of south america i'm sure that some sailors partook of the practice

[**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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276849) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276849)

You're sure that some sailors partook of the practice? What makes you so sure?

No Hugh. It's not ethnocentric claptrap. (And I find it highly insulting that you think I, your fellow Celt, would be err on that side.) It's historical research. To say something existed, we have to have documentable evidence. No one in this debate has shown evidence of tattoos on white men yet.

No evidence means no evidence. Imagine whatever you like. But there remains no proof that Europeans were tattooed in the Golden Age of Piracy or before.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276849)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276849_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276870) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276870)

that is an assumption of english bias ...as was a point brought up in the guidelines for the thread ...if you want to make a practice,participated by some, less signifigant disavow any circumstances of a practice "the always or never arguement" ....if it was openly stated in any document that no sailor or traveler ever came home with a tattoo then perhaps i'll believe it was the exclusivity of the practice but unless there is a document that says no sailor or pyrate ever had gotten a tattoo or a "staining" as they were called before cook's return to england in 1771 ...then the acceptance of your arguement would be valid

but to make the assumption that every european that came in contact with the practice refused to have the staining applied until cook returned sounds way too contrived to me ....if i were living among the natives along a central american coast, say, i might be intrigued enough to have a tattoo but since i was also a european who frowned on such practice that had been otlawed by pope hadrian in the 800's i'd make sure it was in a rather clandestine location so that only those i was most intimate with would see such a marking ....i'd not make it a display to the whole world ...the same as many celts kept the "old ways" alive even with the condemnation of the church for centuries

**Edited July 24, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276870)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276870_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276876) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276876)

this was a quote that i gained from professor gustav kinitzski who was a professor of cultural anthropology at clarion university in pennsylvania:

A document is evidence only of itself. Those who keep Documents document what they see, and they document the information they need. When a historian approaches the records it is imperative that he or she put that principle in the forefront. Nobody kept records to make the doing of history easier for the historian. They kept records of the phenomena that mattered to the society in which they lived. Although documents tell us wonderful things, they almost always only tell us about the society which the record-keeper lived in. While dealing with marginal groups, the documents impose the perceptions of the dominant society upon what might well be an altogether different reality within the minority society.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276876)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276876_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

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[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276954) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276954)

***William Dampier is responsible for re-introducing tattooing to the west. He was a sailor and explorer who traveled the South Seas. In 1691 he brought to London a heavily tattooed Polynesian named Prince Giolo, Known as the Painted Prince. He was put on exhibition , a money making attraction, and became the rage of London. It had been 600 years since tattoos had been seen in Europe and it would be another 100 years before tattooing would make it mark in the West.***

***In September of 1691 a tattooed Polynesian slave was brought to London to be exhibited as a curiosity. His owners went to great pains to promote his public appearances: they arranged to have two full-length portraits engraved and published as illustrations for an elegantly printed pamphlet which introduced him as "Giolo, the Famous Painted Prince."***

***Prince Giolo did not want to visit London. His owners, however, had told him that he would be handsomely paid for his public appearances and would afterward be allowed to return to his home in the Philippines. But the journey to England was arduous and Giolo, who was in poor health when he arrived, soon died of smallpox. This was a great disappointment for his ambitious English owners, who had hoped he would live long enough to make them rich.***

***Prince Giolo had been brought to London by an adventurer and buccaneer named William Dampier. It was the dawn of the golden age of piracy: Captain Kidd, Henry Morgan and others were operating out of headquarters in Southern Mexico and enjoying profitable careers. Dampier, however, was not one of the world¹s great pirates. For over 12 years he had traveled up and down to coast of South America, changing allegiance from one gang of pirates to another as he thought to better his position. But the pirates with whom he traveled did not capture Spanish Galleons laden with gold, diamonds and pretty ladies. Instead, their routine work consisted of the safer, if less profitable, business of robbing defenseless villages and small coastal vessels. It turned out to be much work for little money, and after ten years of this strenuous life Dampier signed on with a ship headed for the Philippines.***

***It was while he was in the Philippines that Dampier first saw Giolo, whom he acquired from a ship¹s officer named William Moody. Dampier described his adventures in the Pacific and his meeting with Giolo in a popular travel book, A New Voyage Round the World (1697)***

***with that sort of example in the eyes of sailors ...almost impossible to think that none partook in the practice ...was it 100% of the crew?? i also doubt that! but 10-20% -well within the confines of believeability ...was it resounding 0% i also doubt that the evidence was i'm sure an obscure "staining" that would have been kept covered in polite society***

**Edited July 25, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276954)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276954_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276958) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276958)

Again, all good points, Hugh.

Unfortunately my stance remains that no matter how much logical sense it makes, it is still speculation, and equivocal speculation at that. When documentary or pictorial evidence appears of European sailors in GAoP being marked with what we'd call "tattoos", I shall be the first to cheerfully add it to my collection of footnotes. But for the nonce I must remain unconvinced.

That tattooing was known to European sailors - and to civilians on the European mainland - is not proof, positive or negative, that either sailors or civilians would have adopted the practice.

There are, as you note, many accounts of Europeans coming into contact with aboriginal peoples during their travels, but you must admit that accounts of those Europeans "going native" are few and far between; of those accounts, the overwhelming majority make note of the extreme duress of the experience. The logical conclusion is, therefore, that those men actively *rejected* their "hosts" as savages. Dampier made note of this impulse in his Pacific voyage notes.

Dampier also noted the prolonged exposure of his shipmates to (tattooed!) Polynesian cultures during his Pacific voyage(s), but even such an inveterate note-taker and diarist as Dampier - who noted his experiences in extreme detail - made no mention of any of his European colleagues adopting the body-decoration practices of their "hosts". He *did* record that some of those men took native wives and were loath to leave the place, but so far as I am aware he never mentioned them adopting the practices of their wives' culture. The only responsible conclusion, therefore, is that the men retained their European perspective, as any deviance would have been remarked upon.

Again, Hugh, while your information is interesting, it offers only sufficient support to indicate that tattoos on Europeans is *possible*. That "staining" was *possible* does not mean it was *probable* except through stretch of the researcher's imagination.

So we'll have to agree to disagree, methinks. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276958)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276958_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: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276965) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276965)

 callenish gunner said:

this was a quote that i gained from professor gustav kinitzski who was a professor of cultural anthropology at clarion university in pennsylvania:

A document is evidence only of itself. Those who keep Documents document what they see, and they document the information they need. When a historian approaches the records it is imperative that he or she put that principle in the forefront. Nobody kept records to make the doing of history easier for the historian. They kept records of the phenomena that mattered to the society in which they lived. Although documents tell us wonderful things, they almost always only tell us about the society which the record-keeper lived in. While dealing with marginal groups, the documents impose the perceptions of the dominant society upon what might well be an altogether different reality within the minority society.

And did Professor Kinitzski explain to you how you cannot document something for which there is no proof?

Show me evidence of a tattooed European in the Golden Age of Piracy. That's all. Just *one* piece of solid evidence: a picture, a verbal reference, anything. Even a bad piece of evidence (like hearsay) would be something.

If the evidence doesn't exist, you cannot state that Europeans were tattooed in the Golden Age of Piracy.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276965)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276965_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: 68.45.105.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.45.105.13)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276973) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276973)

Kass,

My question is simply this. Is it in the realm of possibility that a western European sailor MAY have been "stained" or "marked" or "tattooed"? Is there any evidence stating that NO sailor was?

Again, as Captain Tightpants stated in the "Never Say Never (or Always) ...Unless, of course, it's something totally provable like, "They never used polyester."

Hugh is not saying it was common just that it was not impossible.

Is it your thought that we can't be educated and make judgment calls regarding things that are not documented? In that case, I am highly insulted.

FYI: Hugh it Scott's Celt, so is his character. Hugh has no tattoo.

My character is an Irish Celt. She could likely have had some tattoo someplace on her person because of the "old ways" kept from her mother and grandmother I suppose. I have a tattoo, not my character (especially since it isn't period correct). When in character I keep myself properly covered (no matter what might be melting!) No I don't think we should all be sporting tattoos an claiming them as pc.

Chole hit the nail on the head. It is unlikely that IF any western European sailor had a tattoo it would be seen often. It wasn't like someone was going to take a snapshot with their camera. So the sailor with the dreadlocks kept them covered as he did his tattoo. Why is that hard to believe. Either way the general public at a historic event doesn't see it.

Yes, I know this is Captain Twill. I have no evidence that they did have tattoos but I don't see any that states that NONE did.

Okay...my two cents ...worth about that in the view of some.

**Edited July 26, 2007 by Silkie McDonough**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276973)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276973_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

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[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276978) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276978)

then my dear kass and tightpants you both have not proven beyond a doubt that no indidual or group didn't have a tattoo just because of exclusion from the dominate cultures bias toward the practice in their literature or records .....the bias is also just circumstansial as well ....that bias was one you yourself put forth in your guidelines ... it's the same as when in recent years those whom had gotten tattoos in their youth of say 50-60 years ago tried to keep them covered in polite society as an indiscretion of their less than responsible youth... since only nere-do-well sailors or convicts had them

**Edited July 25, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276978)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276978_menu)

[**Capn\_Enigma**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/139-capn_enigma/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 432 posts

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[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276979) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276979)

 Silkie McDonough said:

I have no evidence that they did have tattoos but I don't see any that states that NONE did.

Silkie,

as kass has already pointed out on page 1 of this thread,

 kass said:

"No evidence *against* isn't proof *for*."

Unless you can prove that there were tattoos around, you don't have a leg to stand on. It is your *belief*, and you are entitled to that.

But belief does not belong into Twill. It belongs into church.

What **does** count in Twill is **facts**.

**Edited July 25, 2007 by Capn\_Enigma**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276979)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276979_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

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[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276981) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276981)

***i knew i had read it somewhere before:***

***On arriving in Cozumel from Cuba, Cortes sent a letter by Maya messenger across to the mainland, inviting the two Spaniards, of whom he'd heard rumors, to join him. Aguilar became a translator, along with Doña Marina, 'La Malinche', during the Conquest. According to the account of Bernal Diaz, when the newly freed friar attempted to convince Guerrero to join him, Gonzalo Guerrero responded:***

***Spanish: "Hermano Aguilar, yo soy casado y tengo tres hijos. Tienenme por cacique y capitán, cuando hay guerras, la cara tengo labrada, y horadadas las orejas que dirán de mi esos españoles, si me ven ir de este modo? Idos vos con Dios, que ya veis que estos mis hijitos son bonitos, y dadme por vida vuestra de esas cuentas verdes que traeis, para darles, y diré, que mis hermanos me las envían de mi tierra."***

***English Translation: "Brother Aguilar; I am married and have three children, and they look on me as a cacique (lord) here, and captain in time of war. My face is tattooed and my ears are pierced. What would the Spaniards say if they saw me like this? Go and God's blessing be with you, for you have seen how handsome these children of mine are. Please give me some of those beads you have brought to give to them and I will tell them that my brothers have sent them from my own country."***

***And Gonzalo's wife Zazil Há angrily addressed Aguilar in her own language:***

***"Why has this slave come here to call my husband away? Go off with you, and let us have no more talk."***

***Then Aguilar spoke to Guerrero again, reminding him that he was of Christian faith and should not throw away his everlasting soul for the sake of an Indian woman. But Gonzalo was not to be convinced.***

***Bernal Díaz de Castillo (Historia Verdadera . . .Chapter XXIX)***

***so therefore it was within the realm of possiblility that some europeans were tattooed***

admittedly this account is from before theGoldenAge ofPiracy but it doesn't exclude the possibility that some/ not all could have been tattooed

**Edited July 25, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276981)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276981_menu)

[**Capn\_Enigma**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/139-capn_enigma/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 432 posts

([IP: 88.70.182.88](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=88.70.182.88)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276983) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276983)

 callenish gunner said:

Tienenme por cacique y capitán, cuando hay guerras, la cara tengo labrada,

Doesn't that mean:

"They look upon me as their Cacique and Captain, and when going to war, I paint my face"?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276983)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276983_menu)

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

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

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

([IP: 166.70.59.121](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.70.59.121)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=276991) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=276991)

Let us focus on what we do know. Let us take an examination of records from those countries outside of Europe which had tattooing on a wide scale during the Golden Age of Piracy.

Example: Japan

The Japanese have been tattoing for purposes of decoration, religion, social postition and even fad for the better part of their history. Edo period (1603-1867) literature is filled with references to pledge tattoos, or irebokuro as they were known. These are love or religious tattoos symbolizing pledges of eternal love. They were wide spread among the working class or middle class.

If we can focus on countries outside of Europe, we may eventually find a tying record that will have a name or reference to tattooed Englishmen. Personal journals of colonists would certainly help.

What we have here is a desire to know more on both sides of the debate. We should use our combined energy to dig and bring records to light.

**Edited July 25, 2007 by William Red Wake**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=276991)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_276991_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277001) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277001)

Hugh,

Again, nice quote! We're getting ever closer. Now we've evidence that Europeans were "stained".

I'm still going to disagree with your original premise. 

Please allow me to select what I find a very telling quote from your post:

 Quote

My face is tattooed and my ears are pierced. What would the Spaniards say if they saw me like this?

This indicates that such things were Not Done amongst the Europeans. Gonzalo Guerrero was begging off having to go visit his countrymen after having gone almost completely native.

Instead of giving evidence *for* tattoos and earrings amongst sailors, you've provided very strong proof of the *opposite*! It indicates that a European wouldn't be caught dead in the stuff.

As you say, it's considerably early for GAoP.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277001)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277001_menu)

[**The Doctor**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1278-the-doctor/)

* aka Mad Jack Wolfe
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 3,670 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:╦┐◤︻㍕┻═▄
* Interests:Historian and writer, partnered with the dazzling and lovely Honour Bright.

([IP: 32.97.182.177](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=32.97.182.177)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277005) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277005)

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**Edited July 26, 2007 by Mad\_Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277005)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277005_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277006) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277006)

 Silkie McDonough said:

Kass,

My question is simply this.  Is it in the realm of possibility that a western European sailor MAY have been "stained" or "marked" or "tattooed"?  Is there any evidence stating that NO sailor was?

Again, as Captain Tightpants stated in the "Never Say Never (or Always) ...Unless, of course, it's something totally provable like, "They never used polyester."

Hugh is not saying it was common just that it was not impossible.

Is it your thought that we can't be educated and make judgment calls regarding things that are not documented?  In that case, I am highly insulted.

I have a tattoo, not my character (especially since it isn't period correct).  When in character I keep myself properly covered (no matter what might be melting!)  No I don't think we should all be sporting tattoos an claiming them as pc.

Chole hit the nail on the head.  It is unlikely that IF any western European sailor had a tattoo it would be seen often.  It wasn't like someone was going to take a snapshot with their camera.  So the sailor with the dreadlocks kept them covered as he did his tattoo.  Why is that hard to believe.  Either way the general public at a historic event doesn't see it.

Yes, I know this is Captain Twill.  I have no evidence that they did have tattoos but I don't see any that states that NONE did.

Silkie,

First, I stole all of that directly from Kass's website. Her rules, and they're good ones! 

Second, yes, it's within the realm of possibility. But being *possible* doesn't make it *so*. If we're seeking after what we know was done, there's still a reasonable doubt, because conclusive evidence has not yet come to light.

That is, in my (admittedly not so humble) opinion, not an area for a judgment call. I can't answer for Kass, but I think she feels the same way. Neither of us wants you to be insulted; no one is casting aspersions on your judgment. You and I simply disagree that this is an area in which can be made an educated guess.

Let me see if I can make myself more clear with an analogy. Say we have loads of evidence that English landsmen of certain classes corresponding with mariners wore coats of a certain cut. Say every picture extant shows examples of this coat. Now, say we have no information at all telling us exactly what English mariners wore. It is a safe reasonable assumption that mariners wore if not a coat of the same cut, something remarkably similar. Why? Because the mariners are from the same parent culture as the landsmen, and even though they're mariners spend a lot of time on land.

I see a tremendous gulf between that and adopting tattoos. As evidenced by Hugh's quote, not only was such a practice unknown in the parent culture, the presence of the tattoos and piercings would have occasioned ridicule from the "conformists".

Of course, your mileage may vary! 

In dialectic, it is impossible to prove a negative. We can only prove a positive. Thus, it is impossible to prove that tattoos never existed. It is possible to prove they did, should evidence be found. The responsible historian will assume that a thing never existed without evidence to the contrary. That's something I learned in my college Historiography class. At the same time, the responsible historian will applaud when evidence is brought to light which proves a thing existed.

Hell, historians make enough errors even with reams of evidence! Why broaden the field? 

**Edited July 25, 2007 by Captain Tightpants**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277006)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277006_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277018) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277018)

Of course, your mileage may vary! ....the first actions of those whose logic is questioned is to deride those who question them

there are accounts and i am currently attempting gain copies of the actual documents of those who were taken into native culture within the new world and gained acceptance within their societies and whom were later "redeemed" by there original countrymen who choose to remain among their adopted cultures ....for various reasons it did not negate that fact that they were of european extraction it meant that they choose to live outside that culture and adopt another culture to live within....and whether it was the fact that they had been tattooed or not doesn't alter the fact that hey were european ....you can't change the rules to justify your position just to prove someone else wrong ....if guerrero chose to remain among the mayan it didn't make him any less spanish it meant that he chose not to return to the culture that would have at the time possibly have killed him for going against the rule of the church (i.e. inquisition)

there is also a later report of another spaniard who in florida had chosen to live among the natives there who was also tattooed and also refused to return to spain as there are numerous antedotes of english and french and also dutch settlers who were taken into native cultures in this period who chose to adopt and remain within the adopted communities that does not negate the origin of their births

**Edited July 25, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277018)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277018_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277020) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277020)

just as for instance my great grandfather had a tattoo on his forearm that he got during the late 1860's but he always kept it covered with long shirtsleeves even when in summer it was quite warm and he was working hard ...it was because the local church thought and preached that such tattoos were heathen sacrelege and that was enough that he chose not to subject himself nor his wife to the oppinions of the community..... so it was something he had done as a very young man that he chose not to divulge to the community in which he lived ....it didn't mean it didn't exist, it did, but no one in the community knew of it

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277020)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277020_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.166.45.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.166.45.247)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277024) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277024)

When left on the Isthmus, Mr Dampier's friend Mr Wafer went native, so much so that Mr Dampier didn't recognize his friend when next they met. Mr Wafer was wearing a silver penis sheath and not much else, as I recall. Mr Dampier notes that Mr Wafer was "painted like an *Indian*" (Dampier, *A New Voyage*, pg 37).

If nothing else, Mr Dampier recorded practically everything he saw. I don't recall Mr Dampier ever remarking on his fellows getting tattoos. He points out Mr Wafer was painted. And when he says painted, I believe he means painted.

Ymmv

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277024)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277024_menu)

[**Hester**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3228-hester/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,669 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:On a virtual beach, sipping rum!
* Interests:Hijacking pre-existing threads and hoisting the Jolly Roger of surreal silliness.

([IP: 65.94.107.221](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.94.107.221)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277028) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277028)

 blackjohn said:

Mr Wafer was wearing a silver penis sheath and not much else, as I recall.

Oh, I'll have to get one of those for Surfer Joe!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277028)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277028_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.166.45.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.166.45.247)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277029) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277029)

I don't know who Surfer Joe is, but I've always thought reenacting Mr Wafer would be a hoot!



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277029)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277029_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277030) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277030)

but dampier also presented giolo as the painted prince ...can it be both ways does painted mean painted with paint one time and tattooed the next??? just a topic for debate.............

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277030)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277030_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.166.45.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.166.45.247)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277031) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277031)

You'll like this... I figured I'd skip right to Mr Wafer's account, since he did in fact go native. Mr Wafer has this to say:

 Quote

But finer figures, especially by their greater artists, are imprinted deeper, after this manner. They first with the Brush and Colour make a rough Draught of the Figure they design; then they prick all over with a sharp Thorn till the Blood gushes out; then they rub the place with their Hands, first dipp'd in the Colour they design; and the Picture so made is indelible: But scare one in forty of them is painted this way.

Now, here's the good part...

 Quote

One of my Companions desired me once to get out of his Cheek one of these imprinted Pictures, which was made by the *Negroes*, his Name was *Bullman*; which yet I could not effectually do, after much scarifying and fetching off a great part of the Skin.

So, there's evidence. At least one buccaneer by the name of Bullman had a tattoo on his cheek.



**Edited July 25, 2007 by blackjohn**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277031)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277031_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.166.45.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.166.45.247)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277032) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277032)

For anyone following along at home, that would be Lionel Wafer, *A New Voyage and Description of the Isthmus of America* pages 136-7.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277032)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277032_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277033) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277033)

***and the truth shall set them free!!! thank you sir***

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277033)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=3#elControls_277033_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277034) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277034)

 Quote

So, there's evidence. At least one buccaneer by the name of Bullman had a tattoo on his cheek.

That's cool. but it is also kinda double edged ....

He had a tattoo.... but wanted to get rid of it.......

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

([IP: 71.74.113.26](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.74.113.26)) · · 

[Posted July 25, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277035) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277035)

Yes he may have wanted to get rid of it but it seems he had it done............double edge or not.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277035)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277035_menu)

[**HarborMaster**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/970-harbormaster/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,446 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Centralia Wa and Cebu Philippines
* Interests:Scuba Diving ., Shooting ., Drinking ., Cannons ., Motorcycling . I hope I didn't , leave out anything important.

([IP: 67.168.17.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.168.17.66)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277094) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277094)

So what evidence does everyone read ? Is it english? Are the pirates you read about English? were they in the New world the spanish main and el Carib ?

You have read ALL there is to read and know everything?

So the GAoP is not a time period but its actually just a small place on earth at a certain time? for you? Or is it Global ? And then I must ask so then you have read everything about every one everywhere ..., during the GAoP of course.

So Japan ., China., the Philippines (rich in maritame history as much as any in the caribbean) didnt matter ? The 7107 Islands of the Spanish philippines is something you can elaborate on ? You can speak and or read Spanish or Tagalog? and learned it in school there?

Actually how many europeons came to the philippines from 1521 untill the Golden age., do you think maybe thousands? or perhaps tens of thousands? Suppose maybe a few got tattoos there? Tattooss were BIG in the Islands ..., I know that I dont need to give these numbers tho ., cause I know you know them. And besides better for me you do your own research ., after all if callenish Gunner isnt believable., why would I be...,

You are well versed in Asia as well then correct? or do the timeline questioned have no relation to this part of the world for you or your agenda?

I have much to add to this topic., but I like to know from the people making the arguement are they really knowledable in this geography? I am betting not . If so I bet you wouldnt be arguing your case about tattoos not being on sailors., Earth was a big place in 1700. I am betting your knowledge is more limited then a few care to admit.

They had sailors., and they had europeons as well in the far east.

Is the GAoP just for the Caribbean?

**Edited July 26, 2007 by HarborMaster**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277094)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277094_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: 10.242.145.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=10.242.145.140)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277108) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277108)

 Silkie McDonough said:

I have a tattoo, not my character (especially since it isn't period correct).  When in character I keep myself properly covered (no matter what might be melting!)

I have to correct myself here. The text that appears inside the parenthesis should read: "especially since **the design** is not period correct"

**Edited July 26, 2007 by Silkie McDonough**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277108)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277108_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277121) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277121)

ok im back. tho i technically left the site i did keep an eye on this discussion and was surprised to see how much thought people put into it.i fully expected to be flamed and the topic dropped.tattoos seemed to be a very unpopular thing here (on the other boards as well). i do know how the boards work, i just see alot of up-turned noses at non-historically accurate stuff on all the boards. so i will just watch and learn about stuff but keep my cotton/rayon blend machine-sewn costumes to myself 

and i guess not everyone here is so intolerant. some need to learn to take things less seriously tho. not getting a tattoo because of historical accuracy is just wierd.and tho i have 27 mostly large tattoos i still keep them covered when im in garb.its easy

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277121)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277121_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: 10.242.145.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=10.242.145.140)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277127) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277127)

Just a point of order Bonnie ...this particular "room" in the pub is reserved for those who wish to discuss the historical accuracy of ALL things. As you can see, nothing is easy here but in the long run ...some just like a good argument! If those of us who don't know learn something ...all the better.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277127)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277127_menu)

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

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

([IP: 205.156.36.11](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=205.156.36.11)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277138) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277138)

 callenish gunner said:

***and the truth shall set them free!!! thank you sir***

My pleasure sir. Glad I could assist.

 Mr Hand said:

That's cool. but it is also kinda double edged ....

He had a tattoo.... but wanted to get rid of it.......

It may be the first case of a drunken sailor getting a tattoo.



Maybe he had too much of that Indian specialty - fermented corn and spit homebrew?



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277138)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277138_menu)

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

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

([IP: 205.156.36.11](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=205.156.36.11)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277140) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277140)

 HarborMaster said:

So what evidence does everyone read ? Is it english? Are the pirates you read about English? were they in the New world the spanish main and el Carib ?

Well said Harbormaster. I for one agree, we rely way too much on English accounts. I wish I still had command of Spanish, because I believe there is an untold wealth of information hidden away in the Spanish Archives.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277140)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277140_menu)

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

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

([IP: 205.156.36.11](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=205.156.36.11)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277141) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277141)

 blackbonie said:

and i guess not everyone here is so intolerant. some need to learn to take things less seriously tho. not getting a tattoo because of historical accuracy is just wierd.and tho i have 27 mostly large tattoos i still keep them covered when im in garb.its easy

Maybe this place is intolerant, maybe not? Maybe it is what you bring with you when you walk in the door? Maybe it is what you read into it? I dunno.

Alot is lost in not having a visual component to these discussions, especially when one considers a large percentage of how we communicate is through non-verbal means.

As for what constitutes weird... opinions vary.

**Edited July 26, 2007 by blackjohn**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277141)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277141_menu)

[**Edward T. Porter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2872-edward-t-porter/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 64 posts
* Location:Bremen, Germany
* Interests:-LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING/ LARP<br>-Sewing my clothes<br>-History<br>-Poker<br><br>Roles I Play in Larp:<br><br>Edward T. Porter (Pirate, 1760´s)<br>Weland Pommery (Pirate 1720´s)<br>Tadeo di Seda (spanish rennaissance swashbuckler)

([IP: 91.64.232.102](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=91.64.232.102)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277144) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277144)

 blackbonie said:

ok im back. tho i technically left the site i did keep an eye on this discussion and was surprised to see how much thought people put into it.i fully expected to be flamed and the topic dropped.tattoos seemed to be a very unpopular thing here (on the other boards as well). i do know how the boards work, i just see alot of up-turned noses at non-historically accurate stuff on all the boards. so i will just watch and learn about stuff but keep my cotton/rayon blend machine-sewn costumes to myself  

  and i guess not everyone here is so intolerant. some need to learn to take things less seriously tho. not getting a tattoo because of historical accuracy is just wierd.and tho i have 27 mostly large tattoos i still keep them covered when im in garb.its easy

[Here´s a topic in "Pirate Pop" about ink](http://pyracy.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=8855&hl=tatoo)... seems to be very unpopular around the folks here...so please don´t go into this "I have lots of inks/ I´m an outsider" - thing... it won´t work.

**And again: Captain Twill is about historical accuracy, evidences and scientific researches.**

If you post your pictures from your garb in this section of the pub, you will get comments about the accuracy of your stuff...

If you post your pictures in other sections of the pub, the same people, who have so up-turned noses will compliment you about the good work you´ve made with your costume... at least if it´s good 

You can learn a lot from the folks arround here if you wish and ask them... most of the times you will get a reasonable answer... maybe not what you want to hear, but reasonable... so it´s just about how you deal with it.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277144)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277144_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277149) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277149)

 Quote

Of course, your mileage may vary! ....the first actions of those whose logic is questioned is to deride those who question them

Hugh, no one is deriding *you*. Hell, I'm not even *deriding* your arguments. I'm *debating* you based on a different viewpoint. If I were deriding you, I'd be engaging in *ad hominem* attacks; i.e., calling you a poopiehead. I think you'll find I'm not doing that. 

All I'm saying is that I find your conclusions too much of a stretch. To paraphrase Prof. Tolkien, "There's no evil there except that which you bring." 

 Quote

there are accounts and i am currently attempting gain copies of the actual documents of those who were taken into native culture within the new world and gained acceptance within their societies and whom were later "redeemed" by there original countrymen who choose to remain among their adopted cultures ....for various reasons it did not negate that fact that they were of european extraction it meant that they choose to live outside that culture and adopt another culture to live within....and whether it was the fact that they had been tattooed or not doesn't alter the fact that hey were european ....you can't change the rules to justify your position just to prove someone else wrong ....if guerrero chose to remain among the mayan it didn't make him any less spanish it meant that he chose not to return to the culture that would have at the time possibly have killed him for going against the rule of the church (i.e. inquisition)

there is also a later report of another spaniard who in florida had chosen to live among the natives there who was also tattooed and also refused to return to spain as there are numerous antedotes of english and french and also dutch settlers who were taken into native cultures in this period who chose to adopt and remain within the adopted communities that does not negate the origin of their births.

You are 100% correct in these assessments, except the one about changing the rules, which I never did.

I'm simply asking you to see how much of a stretch it is to go from Europeans going native - and choosing, for whatever reason, not to rejoin their countrymen - and seamen in GAoP adopting the practice of tattooing. In all of your evidence, you haven't yet made that connection. And until that connection is made through *documentation*, no amount of exercises in logic can convince me to support it.

That's all! No need to get hot under the collar! I think you're doing fabulous work, and I'm glad to participate in this discussion. Let's keep it good-natured, shall we?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277149)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277149_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277151) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277151)

HarborMaster,

One of the unfortunate things about history is that it is fragmented.

First, no one person can possess the detailed information of which you speak; such a study would be the effort of a lifetime and would, at the end of that life, remain incomplete for a variety of reasons.

Second, since evidence is fragmentary, we have to do the best we can with what we've got. Historiography is a lot like assembling a case for court. You gather your evidence and make your case. If you charge a fellow with murder and cannot prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, the defendant walks. The same principle holds in historical discussions.

That's not to say that you have to have an iron-clad case to convince the jury; if you can bring enough circumstantial evidence to the jury, they can agree that, even with a lack of direct evidence, the probability of the defendant being guilty is extremely high.

In discussions like this, an iron-clad case would be a contemporaneous account giving evidence that seamen in GAoP had tattoos. For example, if Dampier (or a Spaniard or Portuguese or Frenchman) wrote, "On the 23d of February, 1711, Second Mate Hutchins, along with John Macek and Rob't Davis did, while ashore and besotted with Drink, have their arms stain'd with Figures in the native fashion, whereupon they returned to the Vessel moments before weighing Anchor.", I'd congratulate the person who found the quote.

Circumstantial evidence could be something along the lines of: "De Villiers noted in his diary that they found a shipwrecked mariner, William O'Dwyer, who was taken aboard. He also noted that the rescued mariner had had tattoos applied by friendly natives. Another account, by Francois le Chevre, lists a W. O'Dwyer on another pirate vessel's manifest five years later."

That's good evidence, but only that one pirate had tattoos. It says nothing about O'Dwyer's crewmates getting tattoos, just that *he* had one. Still, it's a reasonable assumption that other mariners had similar experiences. On the other hand, it's still not *proof* that other pirates had tattoos.

In short, to a very large degree, you're right - no one person has a handle on all seafaring practices everywhere. But to do what I'm doing in this discussion, you don't **need** that knowledge. You need to know how to practice **history**. For that I am well-qualified, with university training.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277151)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277151_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277152) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277152)

seems that your memory is not infalable afterall ; as blackjohn proved when he referenced dampier's work regarding wafer and bullman and the process and the attempted removal of a tattoo so from what was presented as the suggested proof of the argument was did "any" european have tattoos during the GAOP the answer is a resounding yes.

if you fail to concede the point you risk appearing to loose credibiltiy as the "noted histroians" of the pub.

and since the other information i gathered was in french it did take some time for me to do a fairly accurate translation regarding the newfrance encounters by sailors and traders with the natives of north america and their penchant for tattooing also the pilgrims returning from the holyland during the renaissance and through the 17th century with tattoos of the cross of jeruselum tattooed on their arms as a show of devotion and as a sign of safe passage for pilgrims from barbary pirates and the sailors during the late seventeenth and eighteenth certury returning from south sea voyages with tattoos. i'm currently trying to have some portugese references translated regarding their voyages to the far east in the 1670's-80's &90's dealing with the spice islands and dealing in japan all of where tattooing flourished during this period.

i did decypher that the term "painted" also meant coloured as in marked with paint/dyes so to the europeans of the day i'm sure meant those tattooed did appear to be painted ; just as dampier referred to giolo as his painted prince when he brought him to london for exhibit.

**Edited July 26, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277152)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277152_menu)

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

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

([IP: 66.195.131.5](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.195.131.5)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277155) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277155)

Question:

What is the distinction between an account of a European going native, being stained, and essentially staying native, and of a European being stained and resuming his travels?

Is such a distinction significant?

If you can't agree, I fear you will simply argue in circles.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277155)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277155_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277167) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277167)

 Quote

as blackjohn proved when he referenced dampier's work regarding wafer and bullman and the process and the attempted removal of a tattoo so from what was presented as the suggested proof of the argument was did "any" european have tattoos during the GAOP the answer is a resounding yes.

Of course I concede the point. You win; one sailor in GAoP had a tattoo. Still doesn't make it common.

Moreover, as Pat pointed out, he wanted it off. What does **that** say? Combined with your earlier evidence from the Spanish account, it says (to me) that, far from being something other mariners wished to emulate, tattoos were avoided by Europeans who wished to remain in the company of their countrymen without negative incident.

That's evidence, albeit circumstantial, that tattoos were, while extant, extremely rare amongst Europeans.

It occurs to me that we might be arguing at cross-purposes to a certain extent. My focus of study is on the areas which had high traffic by pirates, i.e., the waters of the Caribbean and North America, ca. 1680-1720. As such, I'm looking at a very narrow scope, compared to what you're finding. I'll try to keep that in mind as we continue.

I look forward to seeing your translations!

 Quote

seems that your memory is not infalable afterall ; if you fail to concede the point you risk appearing to loose credibiltiy as the "noted histroians" of the pub.

Tone it down, friend. Enough with the threats, okay? No one is attacking you; you have no need to snap. Persisting in *ad hominem* attacks does credit to neither you nor your scholarship. I never claimed infallibility; on the contrary, I disclaim it whenever possible, for I know my limits (see my post to HarborMaster).

Like I asked before, let's keep this a civil academic discussion. Once this discussion degenerates into sniping, trolling and personal accusations, no one is going to be able to learn anything, myself included.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277167)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277167_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277174) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277174)

if there be one two or only a dozen during that period why did the admiralty have sanctions against the practice the records also show that by 1740 any man with a(staining/tattoo) could be registered as a non available seaman to a void being pressed into service.(Law, Crime, and English Society, 1660-1830

By Landau, Norma) Cambridge University Press...... did so much change in those 20 years and 30 years before cook's return

...and why did the admiralty have sanction prohibiting the piercing or marking or otherwise self mutilation of ones personage on the books during this period could it have been because of the high risk of infection during the period that would have rendered a sailor unfit for duty??

.... and the golden age would have included the pirates who sailed along the african coast and as far as madagazcar and beyond ...since they were pirates and europeans(i.e. william kidd)

now that is finnoodling your data lad and that is a change in rules ....if that was the extent of your claim that should have been presented initially not after the fact.

if you claim that was the extent of piracy that it was just those waters it would be inacurate to the history of the maritime of the period.

i never made a claim that it was so widespread an occurance as that every man jack that sailed had a tattoo as not everyone since cooks return has one what i postulated was the fact that it was within the realm of possibility that those exposed to the practice could have chosen (or in some cases were forced) to have tattoos. if a culture of social conformity was the norm why would any of these men have become pirates at all??? they choose to be outside the confines of polite society so why should anyone believe that if they'd rob and kill for gold and other plunder? why they'd stop at the social constraints against tattoos ....the arguement has a lack of common sense about it.

pirates were social rebels and outcasts, most by choice, so what other social moraes do you think they might have violated ...lying, cheating, adultry, stealing, murder, sacrilege......

The absence of proof does not invariably constitute proof of absence.

Unless this trite warning is heeded, ethnohistorians risk getting caught up in

a corrosive mind-set of legalistic phraseology, litigation wordplay, and the finality of court judgements, instead of continuing to probe, to ponder and to periodically re-evaluate the data, as they should. The historical record is always fragmentary, selective, and biased. We must therefore evaluate sources carefully. Can any of the data be quantified? What is their particular nature? To what extent are they likely to contain credible information

on a specific subject? Might there be reasons for doubting their reliability? Are

there any known gaps in the time period covered by these records? Do they merely represent a sample of a voluminous class of documents? Has there been a tendency or reliance on only some categories of relevant records to the neglect of others?

More systematic attention should also be accorded to preconceptions, hidden agendas, and incomprehension. What accounts for the lack of detailed ethnographical information in early documents? -from a guide to cultural anthrology & ethnohistorian researchers prof. Charles A Martijn

if you want to debate further i'm more than willing to continue but intellectual disrespect will be returned if that is the route you choose.

i can debate the facts and the hypotheses of the historical accuracy of statments presented. but remember that when a bias is proven the re-representation of imperical limits is a poor excuse for valid arguement.

**Edited July 26, 2007 by callenish gunner**

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[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

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[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277181) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277181)

 HarborMaster said:

So what evidence does everyone read ? Is it english? Are the pirates you read about English? were they in  the New world the spanish  main and el Carib ?

So the GAoP is not a time period but its actually just a small place on earth at a certain time? for you?  Or is it Global ?

Is the GAoP just for the Caribbean?

Well said,

does this only include the british or western europe, what about eastern europe and the orient? I for one find it hard to seperate geography and culture into just one tiny section. So for those of us so interested in discoursing about this topic in a historical fashion let us do so and welcome what information is so gleaned. Just a thought.

quote Callenish Gunner

The absence of proof does not invariably constitute proof of absence.

This as well is a very good point hugh, as well as pirates being outcasts to thier home societies.

Salty

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277181)
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[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
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* Location:Easton, PA, USA

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[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277202) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277202)

 Quote

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...and why did the admiralty have sanction prohibiting the piercing or marking or otherwise self mutilation of ones personage on the books during this period could it have been because of the high risk of infection during the period that would have rendered a sailor unfit for duty??

Now **that** is interesting and useful data of which I was unaware. You're definitely onto something, there.

In another field of slight interest to me - Irish clothing - much of what we think is true is reconstituted from repeated English prohibitions. We haven't got much at all to indicate what the Irish ca. 1500 wore other than that. This is the same sort of information, and that's good work, Hugh!

 Quote

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now that is finnoodling your data lad and that is a change in rules ....if that was the extent of your claim that should have been presented initially not after the fact.

Didn't mean to slap a change of rules on you. As I wrote above, I didn't realize until that moment that I was viewing this discussion from that too-narrow slant. The Atlantic and Caribbean pirates are my area of interest, you see. While the other areas are interesting (I love Dampier's records of his Pacific voyages, for example), I keep coming back there.

So if it appears that I "sprung" that on you, I apologize; I didn't even know until too late that I was doing that. I have expanded my purview now, thanks to you. 

 Quote

if a culture of social conformity was the norm why would any of these men have become pirates at all??? they choose to be outside the confines of polite society {snip}

This is sociologically tricky. Again, I think this is a bit of a stretch. While they were indeed "outside the confines of polite society", it's widely known that they had their own society, much of which was recorded. A piece of that record has yet to be presented supporting tattooing, save one which painted the practice negatively.

I readily and heartily admit that tattooing was *possible*. But that's as far as I can take it, and I still contend that *possibility* doesn't constitute *proof* for the practice.

I have real problems with the assumption - heard again and again in Captain Twill - that pirates, being antisocial badasses, could have or would have done anything. Like I said, it just seems too big a stretch.

This assumption seems to be based on what we see every day of social nonconformists in our modern society, like Goths or Punks or (dare I say it?) members of the modern "pirate lifestyle" (whatever that is). Our modern societal constraints aren't nearly as strong as those hundreds of years ago or even in the American 1950s; it is an hisoriographical mistake to assume otherwise.

 Quote

The absence of proof does not invariably constitute proof of absence.

Nor does it invariably constitute proof of *existence*, Hugh. To use a trite example, we know eggs and olive oil were known in Palestine at the time of Christ. That doesn't mean they made mayonnaise. There is neither proof for nor against mayonnaise in the first century. There **is** sufficient knowledge of the history of mayonnaise to arrive at the conclusion that the sauce was unknown at that time in that area.

We are arriving, in this thread, at the point of figuring out when mayonnaise made its first appearance in a certain time and place.

Professor Martijn is correct that we mustn't lose sight of new data. New data is always a Godsend, especially in areas where we know comparatively little.

On the other hand, please consider that he also lists the grains of salt with which that data must be taken. In not so many words, Martijn lays out a burden of proof upon both the data and the researcher's presentation of the data. The data is simply the data. The presentation of the data confers the preconceptions and biases of the researcher. It's a shame that it happens - and a good historian always makes every attempt to sever his preconceptions from his work - but it is folly to presume that it does not occur.

To return to my earlier example of Irish clothing, the records - English all - must be carefully examined lest the overt bias of the recorder enter into our analysis. A knowledge of Anglo-Irish relations of the time is necessary as well as a knowledge of textile arts.

 Quote

if you want to debate further i'm more than willing to continue but intellectual disrespect will be returned if that is the route you choose.

i can debate the facts and the hypotheses of the historical accuracy of statments presented. but remember that when a bias is proven the re-representation of imperical limits is a poor excuse for valid arguement.

Hugh, I'm trying very hard to determine why you think you're being disrespected here. So far as I know, I haven't written anything that could cause you to feel that way, as I have only been subjecting your presentation to the same sort of rigor I'd apply to my own. Let us, as you say, debate the facts and hypotheses. That's all I've been doing.

Fair enough?

**Edited July 26, 2007 by Captain Tightpants**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277202)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277202_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277206) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277206)

<This post is about using information from Twill and other sources for reenacting >

I think it's great that there is documintation that a few Europeans did get tattoos. (it's prior to the GAoP, but Dampier is close enough)

There is also documintation of two Female Pyrates....

Look at the number of Female Pyrate reenactors......

So now the "Time Flys when your having Rum" tattoo will be considered period ? 

It would be interesting to find what designs would have been used, but it would be speculation if a European would have used those designs....

<Back to the Discussion>

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277206)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277206_menu)

[**HarborMaster**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/970-harbormaster/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,446 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Centralia Wa and Cebu Philippines
* Interests:Scuba Diving ., Shooting ., Drinking ., Cannons ., Motorcycling . I hope I didn't , leave out anything important.

([IP: 67.168.17.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.168.17.66)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277221) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277221)

I realize this is in 1521 ., It is Ferdinand Magellan being killed by Lapu-Lapu on mactan (Which by the way is AWESOME for Scuba ! ).

Lapu-Lapu is very tattooed. this is 179 years before 1700. There were tens of thousands of europeons in the philippines by the GAoP . Catholic Churches Cathedrals., Fortress ., Huge Military might. Anyway these Seafarers came and went along with the Manila galleon., (Built in Manila with lots of good Philippine Mahogany) and they shipped with treasures from Cebu to Panama.

Here is an old painting from Manila's Dept of tourism and National Museum outside Luneta park. This museum is great., and so is the Colonial Museum in Bacolod, Negros Occidental. Lots of cool matchlocks , pottery.,ship models.,conqustador helmets., a few coats and hats all throught the spanish colony of 400 years !

The Philippines has quite a rich maritime and pirate history. The PH having 7107 Islands sounds like a lot ..., how about 17,000+ islands of the neighbor..., "The Spice Islands? The Spice Islands was the whole reason for Spain funding Magellans Exploration (Cloves.,Nutmeg ect.,ect., Anyway try to imagine no sailor got a tattoo. in 170 years. then thru the GAoP none., then all of a sudden tattoos stared again., so only during 1680 to 1720 tattoos were exempt? Their were more sailors in more places than in El Carib for sure. If you dont know this history your missing the other 2/3rds of the worlds GAoP !

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[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
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[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277222) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277222)

 Quote

No evidence means no evidence. Imagine whatever you like. But there remains no proof that Europeans were tattooed in the Golden Age of Piracy or before.

seems that point has been proven in error

 Quote

it was first recorded by Cook in the latter 18th century, some fifty years after the Golden Age of Piracy.

again an obvious error since both damier's giolo and at the very least the four iroquis kings proved that the exposure to the english was much prior to cook

 Quote

I will skim Dampier when I get a chance to see if he records tattooed humans in his South Pacific and Central American travels. Frankly, I doubt any such reference will be found; I think I'd remember it. wink.gif

another error

 Quote

but even such an inveterate note-taker and diarist as Dampier - who noted his experiences in extreme detail - made no mention of any of his European colleagues adopting the body-decoration practices of their "hosts".

and yet again another research oversight presented as fact; as was presented in black john's post;

 Quote

You'll like this... I figured I'd skip right to Mr Wafer's account, since he did in fact go native. Mr Wafer has this to say:

QUOTE

But finer figures, especially by their greater artists, are imprinted deeper, after this manner. They first with the Brush and Colour make a rough Draught of the Figure they design; then they prick all over with a sharp Thorn till the Blood gushes out; then they rub the place with their Hands, first dipp'd in the Colour they design; and the Picture so made is indelible: But scare one in forty of them is painted this way.

Now, here's the good part...

QUOTE

One of my Companions desired me once to get out of his Cheek one of these imprinted Pictures, which was made by the Negroes, his Name was Bullman; which yet I could not effectually do, after much scarifying and fetching off a great part of the Skin.

So, there's evidence. At least one buccaneer by the name of Bullman had a tattoo on his cheek.

i can continue the point by point style of debate to add to the credibilty of my position if you'd like. but i think the point has been made... to include the several groups who had tattoos and to disavow any participation by any of those in direct socialogic contact with the societies that practice the art of tattooing is one of intellectual tap-dancing.

how much evidence would be enough ....perhaps the name date of birth and death and family photo album from an "english sailor" who had gotten tattooed ....oh wait they didn't have photographs and only the wealthy could afford to have paintings done of themselves....and besides who in their future would want to see an ordinary sailor who had a disgusting tattoo ....

**Edited July 26, 2007 by callenish gunner**

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This thread has caused me to look thru my pics..., Its been fun . I have many pics of the Intromuros (Manila fortess) Manila Cathedral. Fort San Pedro Cebu (Active 1565-1833) I think thats gAoP ! Colon Market (The first public market in Cebu (now 450 years old., I bet a few people got knifed there) Sto Nino Basillica ., Dept of tourisim ., the National Museum., the Open Hall of Heros., 1472 till WWII Luneta and more. I dont have a university education., I am sorry about that I cant compete there., I am being honest.., Therefore I had to take my 8th grade education there physically for 10 years and have travel around yearly over seas for hands on learning with all things from Magellans time forward ., its an obsession. Lots of cool pictures., Yea the Philippines is a treasure and a true far east caribbean and more. I especially like it because its pro american and they speak english. Its amazing. I can inudate twill with more pics than most would care to see. Just the museums alone ., not the diving or other stuff ., just the history.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
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[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
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[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277246) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277246)

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Hugh,

Let me make this abundantly clear:

I have repeatedly acknowledged that you have documented tattoos to Europeans. I have praised you for a good job in so doing. I have no problem with admitting I was wrong. I have done so.

You've hoisted me on my own petard. You have information I didn't have before you gave me that information.

For some reason, you insist on throwing this into my face, as though I'm some sort of petulant child who refuses to see a simple fact instead of a discerning reader and historian who is simply casting doubt on some of your conclusions. It's obvious you want something further from me than my repeated admissions. What might that be? Do you just want to gloat, that you've defeated me? [shrug] Okay.

You've **WON**.

Here it is again: Hugh has proved that Europeans had tattoos, before, during and after GAoP.

Okay? Mark the date on your calendar.

Moving on.

How much evidence would be enough? A record of more than one pirate having a tattoo, evidence of tattoos being common, that'd be best. That fulfills the axiom about not making the rare common and the common rare.

Hell, I'd happily take evidence that Europeans weren't **shamed** by being tattooed. If I had evidence that a pirate - **one** pirate - proudly wore a tattoo, I'd call it a job well done, a good service to modern pirates who want to look historical.

For all of our wrangling, you've done good work, Hugh. You've established that Europeans had tattoos. Now all we need to get to what people **want** is documentation supporting the concept that more than one pirate wore his tattoos as a mark of pride.

Now can we please bury the hatchet - someplace other than my head - and get on with that process?

P.S. And for the record, tap-dancing requires agility. 

**Edited July 26, 2007 by Captain Tightpants**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
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* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.180.153](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.180.153)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277268) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277268)

frankly,

i had read the thread and got intrigued because i had remembered some earlier readings of years ago ...so i chose to go online and do my begining research and within a matter of hours i had obtained sources that pointed me in many directions for the detailed accounts... it has spurred me to go after the extensive documents outside the the rather limited english records which in my humble opinion have considerable ethnic bias...

but also blanket statemnts are a challenge to me and not being one to let a challenge go by when told that it's an always or never standpoint i must by my nature see if that arguement is valid ....this sort of intellectual gymnastics is why i had gotten into forensic debate 40+ years ago. it's why i don't just swallow blindly the pablum fed to the masses...

i have studied the principles of propaganda and persuasion and i have chosen to be what would be called a free-thinker ....don't tell me it's a fact: prove to me it's a fact ! just as you and kass have claimed it needs evidence and neither of you had presented clear and irrefutable evidence to prove my assertions wrong. i persued it to find that the rope i had grabbed onto was in fact an elephant.

i have no animosity towards you or kass but i will not accept blindly the word of so-called authorities without question ...because i know that the world is a huge place and what was a truth to the english was not the same truth to the spanish or to the dutch, or french,russians, arabs or the natives of the new world ...truth has always been a matter of perspective and perspectives differ from viewpoint in place and time.

so good luck with your endeavours to research the history but remember to broaden your sources or you'll trip yourself up by relying on too few sources for your information

**Edited July 26, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277268)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277268_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277283) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277283)

 Captain Tightpants said:

until that connection is made through *documentation*, no amount of exercises in logic can convince me to support it.

im SO glad scientists throughout the centuries didnt think that way.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277283)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=4#elControls_277283_menu)

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

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

([IP: 74.202.96.5](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.202.96.5)) · · 

[Posted July 26, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277288) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277288)

 blackbonie said:

 Captain Tightpants said:

until that connection is made through *documentation*, no amount of exercises in logic can convince me to support it.

im SO glad scientists throughout the centuries didnt think that way.

Apples and oranges. Scientists research through observation; historians through people's records of observation~. Captain Tightpants said he hadn't seen documentation, callenish produces the documentation. That, not logical supposition or casuistry\*, won the day. No matter what side the argument, documentation trumps supposition. Don't dis documentation; it's a losing position.

~I should say, this is one way historians research.

\*I am not accusing anyone of casuistry, just making a point.

**Edited July 26, 2007 by Bloody Jack Madd**

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 66.202.0.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.202.0.242)) · · 

[Posted July 27, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277416) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277416)

Mr Madd, thanks for the clarification.

Hugh, thanks for letting me in on your methodology. I understand perfectly, and applaud your efforts. Sorry I got my knickers in half a bunch. It's all good. 

Always and never, while efforts should be made to avoid it, is in reality quite difficult, because it is often necessary. No support for a thing or concept means that an historian is obliged to deny that thing or concept until supporting evidence is presented. That evidence can take many forms, in varying "tiers" of reliability. At the top is a primary source directly relating to the thing or concept; at the bottom is a chain of inferences based on peripheral primary sources and/or secondary/tertiary source material.

The guideline written by Kass and included in the FAQ is more pertaining to how we *say* "always" or "never" than explaining the objective fact. "There is no evidence to support this" means just that, no matter how it's written. I happen to believe that adding words like, "in my research" or "to the best of my knowledge" is a waste of words, even though they soften the intellectual blow; perhaps that explains how I express myself.

No matter how much you want one, and no matter how you phrase your perhaps impeccably logical argument, you can't have a T-Rex until somebody digs up some bones, savvy? Until other scholars can independently arrive at your conclusion based on the available evidence, they can only conclude that your conclusion is baseless (or at least announce that they'll believe it when they see it, which amounts to the same thing).

The hard sciences are not immune to the same principle. Look at the current furor over global warming! That entire issue is based on speculation and inference, making independent experimentation - and thus, concrete answers - impossible. That doesn't stop people from believing in global warming with a crusading fervor that would warm the heart of Pope Urban II during an invasion of Jerusalem by surplus noble sons of Western Europe. But until it can be conclusively proved, there will be argument. In that case, there is evidence to support both sides, often the **same** evidence.

Compared to that morass, our discussion here is simple and tame. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277416)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277416_menu)

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

([IP: 71.74.113.26](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.74.113.26)) · · 

[Posted July 27, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277480) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277480)

Quote{Always and never, while efforts should be made to avoid it, is in reality quite difficult, because it is often necessary. No support for a thing or concept means that an historian is obliged to deny that thing or concept until supporting evidence is presented}Quote

not to getinto personal debate with anyone, but on that i do disagree, as someone who has and continues to study history amoung other topics, one must deny nothing, you can postulate anything until you are proven wrong or right with evidence. the same in the sciences, Until something comes along to negate or uphold the idea, but it is not justification to outright deny it.

just me two bits worth.

Salty

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277480)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277480_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277526) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277526)

 Patrick Hand said:

So now the "Time Flys when your having Rum" tattoo will be considered period ? 

It would be interesting to find what designs would have been used,

<Back to the Discussion>

thats the easiest part- the design would depend on where they got the tattoo,geographically. tattoos werent done then like they are now- just finding pictures on the wall or somebodys name

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277526)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277526_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277527) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277527)

 Captain Tightpants said:

I readily and heartily admit that tattooing was possible

that was the one thing i wanted to hear all along.its what i was trying to say from the beginning.

my original statement:

"tho there isnt any evidence stating they did have tats,i also dont believe we know that they didnt.i think its totally *possible* depending where one traveled.

**Edited July 28, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277527)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277527_menu)

[**smoolie671**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3513-smoolie671/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 32 posts

([IP: 64.13.43.16](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.13.43.16)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277532) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277532)

I think I'm going to stand over here with callenish gunner. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277532)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277532_menu)

[**Capn\_Enigma**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/139-capn_enigma/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 432 posts

([IP: 88.70.165.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=88.70.165.38)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277543) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277543)

 blackbonie said:

 Captain Tightpants said:

I readily and heartily admit that tattooing was possible

that was the one thing i wanted to hear all along.its what i was trying to say from the beginning.

Physically, there is a (albeit minute) possibility that all the molecules in a pig (or any other body) start moving upward and that it starts flying. How many pigs have you seen flying today?

Even if there is a chance that it *may* happen, common sense tells us that it does not. Hence, one can practically rule out the possibility. This is called an "educated guess".

The possibility alone does not make facts, it is the things that one can or can not prove that make facts.

 blackbonie said:

my original statement:

"tho there isnt any evidence stating they did have tats,i also dont believe we know that they didnt.i think its totally *possible* depending where one traveled.

The operating words are "believe" and "think". A gut feeling does not prove anything, neither one way nor the other.

At best, beliefs impair individual judgement, at worst, they antagonize science per se.

**Edited July 28, 2007 by Capn\_Enigma**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277543)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277543_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: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277547) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277547)

 Capn\_Enigma said:

Physically, there is a (albeit minute) possibility that all the molecules in a pig (or any other body) start moving upward and that it starts flying. How many pigs have you seen flying today?

Captain Enigma, I understand what you are attempting to say but pigs flying? This is a poor analogy at best and an insult to the ladies intelligence. Perhaps the existence of the dodo bird or the dinosaur would be a better analogy. No one alive today has seen them yet the proof is there. As with this discussion of tattoos the evidence DOES exist.

**Edited July 28, 2007 by Silkie McDonough**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277547)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277547_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277555) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277555)

***history is not science it is based as best we can or the information available from the writings or archeological examples there were some writings regarding tattoos and yes dampier wrote that one man bullman wanted the tattoo he had received upon his cheek removed he also wrote that Mr. wafer had been "painted like a savage" which in many accounts included the practice we know as tattooing and since Wafer is said to have desribed the practice and attempted to remove the tattoo from Bullman ....that is an assumption that only Wafer and or Bullman were the exclusive recipients of such tattoos as were the French sailors coming to New France especially as i have found in the Jesuit reports to Paris from the 1670's which i am currently having a french colleague translate for me currently***

***so making this an assault on the intelligence of the those who take a different position than that which you choose to take becomes counter productive and an insult to those who do the research and glean the facts that are available from reliable sources .....unless at this point you have documented evidence that refutes the evidence that has been presented then your position is like that of the 15th & 16th century catholic church who insisted that because they were the authorities in these matters the world was flat and that it was the center of the universe so unless you have the proof allow for the difference of opinion ....just by making a claim and claiming to be an expert doesn't make you above reproach***

**Edited July 28, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277555)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277555_menu)

[**Capn\_Enigma**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/139-capn_enigma/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 432 posts

([IP: 88.70.165.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=88.70.165.38)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277557) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277557)

 callenish gunner said:

***history is not science it is based as best we can or the information available from the writings or archeological examples there were some writings regarding tattoos and yes ..*** [rest clipped in the interest of sanity and eye health]

History **is** a science, and printing an opinion to the contary in all the big letters of the world and with utter negligence of punctuation or grammar does not change that fact.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277557)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277557_menu)

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

([IP: 71.74.113.26](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.74.113.26)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277558) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277558)

No Sir History is not a Science and never shall be, science is derived by facts and figures and observations. History or some aspects of it rather may use science but is not a science in itself.

Salty

**Edited July 28, 2007 by Saltypots**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277558)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277558_menu)

[**HarborMaster**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/970-harbormaster/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,446 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Centralia Wa and Cebu Philippines
* Interests:Scuba Diving ., Shooting ., Drinking ., Cannons ., Motorcycling . I hope I didn't , leave out anything important.

([IP: 67.168.17.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.168.17.66)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277562) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277562)

 Quote

I believe there is an untold wealth of information hidden away in the Spanish Archives.

Me too.

Remember the old saying History is written by the victor.

One will never know.

And what has been writen by the command of those who wanted it wrote a certain way.

Many questions., questions., questions.,questions. \*Sigh\*

and finally........................................,

What has been lost by the inability to read or write .

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277562)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277562_menu)

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

([IP: 71.74.113.26](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.74.113.26)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277563) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277563)

 HarborMaster said:

 Quote

I believe there is an untold wealth of information hidden away in the Spanish Archives.

Me too.

Remember the old saying History is written by the victor.

One will never know.

And what has been writen by the command of those who wanted it wrote a certain way.

Many questions., questions., questions.,questions. \*Sigh\*

and finally........................................,

What has been lost by the inability to read or write .

Sadly sir a great deal, but carping on people's writing style and research techinques will not solve the answer to the questions posed.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277563)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277563_menu)

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

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

([IP: 97.101.31.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=97.101.31.44)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277581) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277581)

Oh please let not turn this into a pissing match. There has been so much good to come out of this thread. Lets put our ego's away and try to just present new information and argue the point. I have enjoyed this thread so much. When you look at the whole thread we went from "no tattoo's in the GOaP carribbean" to "Although uncommon, tattoo's where around on a few of sailors of the time". How many time do you get see an almost total reversal of previous thought. How exciting! I can't wait to what others bring to the table.

Lets not lose sight of what the thread is for and lose momentum in the discussion. Please I understand I'm not trying to piss anyone off. I just don't want to see the discussion die because someone said something wrong.



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277581)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277581_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277583) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277583)

***Now, Enigma, if it will satisfy you that my typing style is up to your grammarian standard; which in and of itself is an arbitrary structure set up by those of the ruling class of the English aristocracy. That was done in the last part of the 18th century by an English cleric and adopted by the schools that taught those of the ruling class.***

***History is not a science; it is referred to as a social science but it is not a true science that is why at universities worldwide it is not included in the school of sciences. It is a department in and of itself or grouped in with anthropology, sociology, and sociolinguisitics.***

***I choose to not utilize the confines of the standard written format when posting communications on threads such as this or perhaps in my other 2000+ posts over the past 3 years on this site alone. However, if you'd like to have everything to your grammatical preference from now on I can oblige; but it is one of the remnants of a social construct not usually practiced on this medium.***

***If you have definitive evidence that can disporve what I have presented please present that as evidence and refrain from the pseudo intellectual asaults on others who's opinions vary from your own positions. That, sir, is counter-productive to the cognitive process of the debate at hand.***

From an actual science that of physics; the migration of molecules resulting in flight would at best be a phenomenum that could be measured and given imperical data. When you have the evidence of that happening please publish your finding within a scientific journal and make your fortune.

**Edited July 28, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277583)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277583_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277585) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277585)

Amaniria, I appreciate your attempt at maintaining the peace.

Hugh I respectfully submit that your contention the history is not a science is complete and utter bunk.

While not a "hard" science like physics or chemistry, it is a science with definite methodology. He who ignores this methodology, far from being an historian, is a dilettante.

 Quote

The divisive effects of two world wars, which undermined the ideal of a common international enterprise informed by an internationally acceptable point of view, and the increasing specialization and variety within the historical discipline itself have left history in much the same state of complex and divided purpose that marks all contemporary intellectual life. The earlier optimism that promised imminent recovery of the truth of the past has been replaced by the belief that no accumulation of facts constitutes history as an intelligible structure, and no historian, however free from crude bias, can be a totally neutral, impersonal recorder of an objective reality. Furthermore, the scope of history has expanded immeasurably, in time, as archaeology and anthropology have provided knowledge of earlier ages, and in breadth, as fields of inquiry entirely unknown in the past (such as economic history, psychohistory, history of ideas, of family structures, and of peasant societies) have emerged and refined their methods and goals. To many scholars, national history has come to seem an outmoded, culture-bound approach, although history written on thoroughly international assumptions is extremely difficult to achieve.

Historians have looked more and more to the social sciences—sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics—for new methods and forms of explanation; the sophisticated use of quantitative data has become the accepted approach to economic and demographic studies. The influence of Marxist theories of economic and social development remains vital and contentious, as does the application of psychoanalytic theory to history. At the same time, many scholars have turned with sharpened interest to the theoretical foundations of historical knowledge and are reconsidering the relation between imaginative literature and history, with the possibility emerging that history may after all be the literary art that works upon scholarly material.

From [http://www.cuw.edu/Academics/programs/hist...oriography.html](http://www.cuw.edu/Academics/programs/history/historiography.html)

Yeah. History ain't a science. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277585)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277585_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277594) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277594)

I have read the link you posted and the quote you included within your last post, nowhere in the course listing or otherwise does it define the study of historiography as a science it say it's an endeavour to interpret from what those involved can observe or gather from artifacts etc.

A quote from the university's study description: "The evidence may be biased or mistaken, fragmentary, or nearly unintelligible after long periods of cultural or linguistic change. Historians, therefore, have to assess their evidence with a critical eye."

Social sciences while called sciences are not in truth pure science. They are detailed studies and interpretation of observations or reports from third party sources that can or cannot be verified. In many cases they are at best postulations of a train of logic that puts meaning to things that they can study but cannot prove as actual fact. Generally, the fields of sociology, anthropology, economics, social science, psychology, political science, education, and history are grouped into the broader academic area referred to as the “social sciences.” They are also commonly called the soft sciences as opposed to the sciences of chemistry, biology, and physics, and geology

Even withing your own quotation you show the case for it as an interpretive study: "At the same time, many scholars have turned with sharpened interest to the theoretical foundations of historical knowledge and are reconsidering the relation between imaginative literature and history, with the possibility emerging that history may after all be the literary art that works upon scholarly material."

literary art??? mmmmmmm

**Edited July 28, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277594)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277594_menu)

[**HarborMaster**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/970-harbormaster/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,446 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Centralia Wa and Cebu Philippines
* Interests:Scuba Diving ., Shooting ., Drinking ., Cannons ., Motorcycling . I hope I didn't , leave out anything important.

([IP: 67.168.17.66](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.168.17.66)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277595) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277595)

This was one of the few times I wasnt carping......., I actually meant those words in a solemn sort of way..., I was merely engaged in thought while typing.

Alot has been lost due to the inability to read or write..., only the well to do were school'd much of the time I think. Just a thought.. And my meaning of History was written by the Victors ., I didnt mean that to offend .,but actually I think thats true., I could be wrong .I am wrong alot. However I still didnt mean to offend., sorry.

I bet French and Spanish versions might be differant in detail to Englands over the embarrassmentof of Trafalgar. France doesnt like the celebration . And I think there is a lot to be learned in Spains Archives yes... (I bet its a treasure trove actually.) After they did discover the new world.

I dont wanna fight anymore and I really did not mean to offend..., Sorry for the interuption.., excuse um whaaa., go ahead., please assume the melee' .., I will enjoy from afar.

**Edited July 28, 2007 by HarborMaster**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277595)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277595_menu)

[**Black Syren**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1511-black-syren/)

* At the sign of the trident
* 
* 
* Admin
* 4,646 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Texas
* Interests:Writing, Singing, Drawing, Painting, Reading, Horseback Riding, Pirates and more pirates

([IP: 71.145.136.124](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.145.136.124)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277600) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277600)

Wow...A very intresting debate and it has caused me to do some very intermediate research. Of course I discovered that tattoos were banned I think around 787 A.D due to the church calling it pagonistic.

However I learned that tattoos meant many things some of which were young girls..if tattooed and could not handle the pain were not considered good breeders and young boys tattooed were often outcast as they would not make warriors. They were used to help maintain youth and vitality. In fact I read an intresting article that went all the way back to an Eygptian female mummy that had several tattoos over her arms, chest and lower abdomen.

Throughout history it is noted that many diffrent classes and races bore these strange and often highly detailed marks. Wether GAoP had tattoos remains to be seen, but I would think that it would be so even if hidden. A rite of passage perhaps, or to mark a courageous event. as I did not live back them I cannot say for certain and yet it is a great mystery to be solved.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277600)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277600_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 28, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277614) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277614)

*I found an even earlier account of the presenation of tattoos within english society:*

*When Walter Raleigh(who never once spelled his name that way), returned with Manteo on tow, a Native American replete with facial tattoos & otter-skin cloak, his queen promptly knighted him. Manteo set London on its ears*

*Big Chief Elizabeth*

*Giles Milton*

*2000 Farrar, Straus & Giroux, NY*

*ISBN: 0374265011*

**Edited July 29, 2007 by callenish gunner**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277614)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277614_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 29, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277645) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277645)

 Saltypots said:

No Sir History is not a  Science and never shall  be, science is derived by facts and figures and observations.  History or some aspects of it rather may use science but is not a science in itself.

Salty

agreed.i admit to knowing less about history than most of you,but i do know that alot of history that is *documented* is actually hear-say.it might have been hear-say hundreds of years ago,but it is hear-say. practically folklore at some times ,theres a fine line . documentation seems to be proof to some of you,what about all the documentation about mermaids and sea serpents? do they exist then?

**Edited July 29, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277645)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277645_menu)

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

([IP: 71.74.113.26](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.74.113.26)) · · 

[Posted July 29, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277652) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277652)

Well said lass.....

but back to said line of topic perhaps.

have found a few sources on oriental tattooing and ok Europeans were no strangers to tattoo. Now just to narrow down if there was more then one pirate lad who got one .

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277652)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277652_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.157.253.50](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.157.253.50)) · · 

[Posted July 29, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277693) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277693)

You can add this to the pile:

This runaway ad appeared in the American Weekly Mercury of March 17, 1720:

*"...a North Country Man aged about 21 Years, Short Brownish Hair, Round-Faced. He has on one hand blue S.F. in blue letters and on the other hand blue Spots, and upon one arm our Saviour upon the Cross and on the other Adam and Eve, all supposed to be done in Gunpowder. He is a Saylor "*

I think this thread has degenerated away from the point rather, which was the question "Did pirates of the GAoP wear tattoos?"

The question was not "did sailors of other periods wear tattoos?", so we can dismiss the 16th century references, interesting though they are.

Neither was the question "were tattoos known to Europeans in the GAoP?", so we can dismiss Prince Jeoly from the debate.

Nor was "were tattoos known in China/Japan/Phillipines/The Arctic Circle?" the question, so we can dismiss any information relating solely to those places.

This still leaves us with some bits to work from: the Wafer account, the mention in the 1740 regs (though they're not mentioned in the 1711, 1715, or 1746 regulations), and the odd account of a seaman with tattoos like the one above. These all show us that tattoos were sometimes worn by seamen and pirates of the GAoP. However, we must weigh the balance and take into consideration all the various accounts which do not mention tattoos, as well as all the descriptions of seamen which do not mention them. Thus, it seems fair to say that while tattooing was certainly known amongst seamen of the GAoP, it does not appear to have been all that common. And that seems to me to be a reasonable answer to the original question.

Regarding the question of whether history is a science: where science is the study of evidence or facts and the drawing of conclusions therefrom, and art is the work of imagination, there are very few disciplines which can be said to be solely art, or entirely science. Most "arts" involve some kind of science to some extent, and most "sciences" involve some amount of imagination. History is not an exact science, to be sure, but when done properly involves far more examination of evidence than imagination. Fantasy is an art, but history is a science.

**Edited July 29, 2007 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277693)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277693_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: 10.242.145.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=10.242.145.140)) · · 

[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277718) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277718)

Actually, the original question was:

 macstink said:

greetings fellow fair and honest traders

this has bugged me for a while, but **does anyone know if pirates/sailor's of the GAOP had tattoos** (i'm pretty sure they did), if so is there any records of such and descriptions?

i ask as tattoos are abit of a hobby of mine!!!

Just being a pain Mr. Foxe. 

**Edited July 30, 2007 by Silkie McDonough**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277718)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277718_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277730) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277730)

 Quote

"...a North Country Man aged about 21 Years, Short Brownish Hair, Round-Faced. He has on one hand blue S.F. in blue letters and on the other hand blue Spots, and upon one arm our Saviour upon the Cross and on the other Adam and Eve, all supposed to be done in Gunpowder. He is a Saylor "

Thats interesting... I'm just trying to figure out why they would be blue...... I'd think a tattoo made using gunpowder (and I'd guess water to make an ink) would give you a more black tattoo.....

Drat... tyme fer some experimental archology..... 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277730)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=5#elControls_277730_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277737) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277737)

 Patrick Hand said:

Thats interesting... I'm just trying to figure out why they would be blue...... I'd think a tattoo made using gunpowder (and I'd guess water to make an ink) would give you a more black tattoo.....

Drat... tyme fer some experimental archology..... 

well i know black inks used up until the 1980s did turn bluish after a few years. newer ones have been reformulated not to do that. maybe something similar occured there?

[**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: 10.242.145.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=10.242.145.140)) · · 

[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277740) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277740)

This may be related to the blue color ...or not.

When I was a kid I managed to stab myself in the leg with a led pencil. to this day I have a dot on my leg that is blueish where the wound was.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277740)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_277740_menu)

[**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,,,,)

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[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277745) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277745)

See ... I don't agree with that.... I have two tattoos on my right arm that I did with India ink ( I'm left /sinister handed) and both of them are still black.....

This is all quessing..... but to use gun powder (black powder), and I figure you'd have to mix it with water to make a sorta ink..... rubbing the grains into a cut wound.... just dosent sound like it would make a good mark/tattoo.....

I've read about Mountain Men, tattooing themselves at the yearly Rendezvous..... (I forgot about Indains doing tattoos earlier as Callinsh has posted...) but What I read is that they cut the skin..... not use neadles to get the ink in......( I also read that they were drinking a LOT... so some of them ended up with a bunch black scars......)

Now I'm wondering how well tattooing with black powder and a needle would work.... hey... I ain't going to get an exacto knife and cut open some skin fer a tattoo...... (maybe that is why all the Indain designs were so liniar... instead of curvy.......it's easier to cut straight lines.......)

I still don't think any Pyrate had a "Time flyes when yer having Rum " tattoo on his arm tho............

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277745)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_277745_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 75.88.177.136](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.88.177.136)) · · 

[Posted July 30, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=277749) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=277749)

*25 years ago I had a flintlock pistol blow a breechplug and the resulting explosion gave me some blue dots tatttooed on the back of my right hand that stayed there for 16-17 years they have finally faded to virtually nothing but from day one they had a blue colour .....Iwould guess it would also depend on the skin and the depth of the colouration*

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=277749)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_277749_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted August 6, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278591) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278591)

 Patrick Hand said:

See ... I don't agree with that.... I have two tattoos on my right arm that I did with India ink ( I'm left /sinister  handed) and both of them are still black.....

This is all quessing..... but to use gun powder (black powder), and I figure you'd have to mix it with water to make a sorta ink..... rubbing the grains into a cut wound.... just dosent sound like it would make a good mark/tattoo.....

I've read about Mountain Men, tattooing themselves at the yearly Rendezvous..... (I forgot about Indains doing tattoos earlier as Callinsh has posted...) but What I read is that they cut the skin..... not use neadles to get the ink in......( I also read that they were drinking a LOT... so some of them ended up with a bunch  black scars......)

Now I'm wondering how well tattooing with black powder and a needle would work.... hey... I ain't going to get an exacto knife and cut open some skin fer a tattoo...... (maybe that is why all the Indain designs were so liniar... instead of curvy.......it's easier to cut straight lines.......)

I still don't think any Pyrate had a "Time flyes when yer having Rum " tattoo on his arm tho............

i have a tattoo i did with a razor blade and rubbed in ink i did when i was 15 (over 15 years ago).it was still there and just as dark when i covered it just a few years ago.

no indian ink doesnt turn blue,but the old tattoo ink wasnt indian ink and did turn bluish.i see it all the time on old guys.

i dont know how gun powder would work in a real tattoo machine,never saw the point,but if its smooth enough with no graininess at all im sure it would work,otherwise the smallest amount of grit would get between the needles and keep it from flowing smoothly. good luck in finding someone to do it for you tho

. and just because it was done long ago doesnt mean its a good idea.they used to drink from goblets made with lead didnt they?

**Edited August 6, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278591)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278591_menu)

[**Bully MacGraw**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/564-bully-macgraw/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 137 posts
* Location:Saint Francis' Bay
* Interests:History, Marline spike seamanship, black powder, and small sword

([IP: 75.211.136.76](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.211.136.76)) · · 

[Posted August 7, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278688) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278688)

For early tatoos on Europeon's in New France, look at Frontier Folk <http://frontierfolk.net/mb/> There is detailed information under the NewFrance area. There are photos of the used tools

Ed

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278688)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278688_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted August 7, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278710) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278710)

That page had a lot of information..... thanks for posting it.....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278710)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278710_menu)

[**The Chapman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4966-the-chapman/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 216 posts

([IP: 24.159.237.138](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.159.237.138)) · · 

[Posted August 8, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278901) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278901)

I'm seeing a lot of reference to branding as visible sign or record of a conviction for criminal behavior; interestingly, equally as much for public information as for future reference in the case of recidivism.

There are a lot of references to 'marks', without further description. In the case of slaves, at least in some circumstances and areas, it was not at all uncommon to brand or scarify a human being in exactly the same way one would mark, say, a cow or other personally owned animal.

In France, the fleur-de-lis was a brand applied to convicted criminals on various parts of the body.

For what it's worth:

"Adultery, also, was punished in this way [tattooed] in some parts of Britain, and ‘bad characters’ were marked BC. . . In 1717, branding was abolished in the Army and replaced with tattooing. .. with the letter ‘D’ deserter’"

(Ronald Scutt, Art, Sex and Symbol, 1974, p. 162)

Virginia, c. early 1700s:

COMMITTED to Suffolk Jail, on Suspicion of being a Convict Servant, a Man about five Feet eight or nine Inches high; he has brown Hair, of a fair Complexion with Freckles, says he is a Weaver by Trade, and that he came from Glasgow, but gives various Accounts of himself. Likewise a Negro Man about the same Height, well set, and very black; says he is a Freeman, and at other times says he has a Master, but will not tell his Master's Name. The Negro has not any Marks that I remember.

WILLIAM GRANBERY, Jailer.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278901)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278901_menu)

[**M.A.d'Dogge**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4373-maddogge/)

* Second to None
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,534 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:the Port of the Great Inland Sea, Detroit originally from the great inland corn seas of Illinois
* Interests:pyratin, story-tellin, historyin, suba divin, drynkin, skirt chassin, eatin, campin, photographin, cavin, rockclimbin, ghost huntin, talkin, sword fightin, canonin, black powder pistolin, travelin and pretty much anythin that could be included in ADVENTURIN!!!

([IP: 24.192.184.20](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.192.184.20)) · · 

[Posted August 8, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278918) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278918)

i have ta second mr gunner about the gunpowder turnin yer skin blue...got peperered a few times doin wild west...yeah do that too....had blue "frecckles" for nearly 5 years before finally faded......oh yeah...gunpowder turns a nice shade of blue under the skin...wonder if thats where "black and blue" came from ...oh never mind... i remove the question 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278918)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278918_menu)

[**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: 207.104.49.38](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.104.49.38)) · · 

[Posted August 9, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278939) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278939)

"The Chapman", don't forget the branding they did to the "less than desirables"..... the letter A forAdultry... and B for Blasthomy...... aaargh ain't Church and Religion soo much fun......

 Quote

i have ta second mr gunner about the gunpowder turnin yer skin blue.

I slightly dissagree.... but hey... untill I do a gunpowder tattoo. I can't prove it...... Minor quibble..... but OK... it's a blueish black...... I argue it's more black than blue..... but ....dang.... more quibbling about the exact shade.... 

Yah.. it has a bluish tint..... but I still say it's more black than blue....

After Bully MacGraw's post to the other board..... now I'm really thinking about it.....(just maybe not on my hand like I first posted....)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278939)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278939_menu)

[**blackbonie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5356-blackbonie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 179 posts
* Location:Yuma,AZ
* Interests:tattoos,art,animals,pirates

([IP: 76.178.88.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.178.88.94)) · · 

[Posted August 9, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=278984) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=278984)

be sure to show us pics when you get done.

and again in 5 years before you get it removed/fixed

(remember gun powder coloration is much harder to remove than real ink and especially india ink)

**Edited August 9, 2007 by blackbonie**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=278984)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_278984_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: 198.166.214.5](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=198.166.214.5)) · · 

[Posted August 11, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=279170) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=279170)

Without reprising nine pages of the thread, has anyone cited Hogarth? I've been going through Hogarth's paintings and engravings, in regards to costuming [1730s stuff, just-post GAoP], and note a couple of images with revealed tattoos. A tattooed child [a six pointed star upon the abdomen] in the Rake's Progress series, and a former criminal [cross and initials on the bicep] in the Four Stages of Cruelty series [the latter from 1750, the former from 1734.

**Edited August 11, 2007 by Calico Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=279170)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_279170_menu)

[**MadRose**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5794-madrose/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 5 posts

([IP: 66.65.183.6](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.65.183.6)) · · 

[Posted August 11, 2007](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=279186) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=279186)

A quick google scholar search revealed this:

"There is ample evidence that tattooing has continuously survived in civilized societies, including Europe, at some low level of prevalence, from the earliest recorded times to the present. The evidence that European, and later American, seafarers had a continuous tradition of tattooing from early times into the modern period is fragmentary, but he inference is strong that the custom persisted among seafarers who comprised a subset of the lower classes.

"Most of modern literature on the subject, however, takes the view that tattooing of European (and American) seafarers in modern times resulted from the "rediscovery" of the practice at the time of the late 18th-century Pacific voyages...."

The article goes on to mention Cook: "but the conventional view that the practice of modern seafarer tattooing itself started with the Cook voyages is probably incorrect."

...Tattooing replaces branding for certain offenses in 1717

The sailors on the Bounty were not tattooed in Tahitian patterns, which suggests that the practice wasn't all that new at the time.

The paper goes on for 35 pages, but mostly seems to be about the later 18th century and early 19th.

The tattoos recorded are interesting -- mostly seem to be hearts and initials.

The Tattoos of Early American Seafarers, 1796-1818, by Ira Dye

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society © 1989 American Philosophical Society

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=279186)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_279186_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 March 5, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=304968) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=304968)

I've been reading Wafer's account and I think what he has to say about tattoos is quite enlightening. To wit:

"...we had four Women to carry our Provision, and my Cloaths, which were only a Linnen Frock and pair of Breeches. These I saved to cover my Nakedness, if ever I should come among Christians again; for at this time I went naked as the Savages, and was painted by their Women; but I would not suffer them to prick my Skin [a real tattooing], to rub the Paint in, as they use to do, but only to lay it on in little specks." (A New Voyage and Description of the Isthmus of America, Lionel Wafer and George Parker Winslow, p. 58)

"The four English Men with me were presently known and caress'd by the Ships Crew; but I sat a while cringing upon my Hams among the Indians, after their Fashion, painted as they were, and all naked but but only about the Waist, and with my Nose-piece (of which more hereafter) hanging over my Mouth. I was willing to try if they would know me in the Disguise; and 'twas the better part of an Hour before one of the Crew, looking more narrowly upon me, cry'd out, Here's our Doctor... *I did what I could presently to wash off my Paint, but 'twas near a Month before I could get tolerably rid of it*, having had my Skin so long stain'd with it, and the Pigment dried on in the Sun: And when it did come off, 'twas usually with the peeling off of Skin as well." [emphasis mine] (Wafer and Winslow, p. 64-5)

Two points from the above:

First, a comment about the Nose-piece; the indians he was living with wore a crescent-shaped nose ring which covered part of their mouth. Wafer noted that it had to be lifted when eating and drinking and was quite impractical - suggesting, in combination with the fact that he ran around in similar clothes (or lack thereof), that he had allowed himself to be tattooed as a part of looking like his hosts - he had really "gone native." Note particularly the comment about his concerns about coming "among Christians again."

Second, I emphasize a point in the second quote to show that Wafer wanted to be rid of his "temporary" tattoo as soon as he was recognized as a member of the crew. This suggests to me that it was not generally acceptable.

As has been noted, another crewmen was apparently not quite so wise and "suffered them to prick their Skin" which they then wanted removed. Here is the passage as it relates to tattooing in its' entirety:

"The Women are the Painters, and take a great delight in it. The Colours they like and use most are Red, Yellow and Blue, very bright and lovely. They temper them with some kind of Oil, and keep them in Calabashes [dishes made from Calabash tree fruit hulls] for use; and ordinarily lay them on the Surface of the Skin with Pencils of Wood, gnaw'd at the end to the softness of a Brush. So laid on, they will last some Weeks, and are rewnew'd continually. This way they painted me. [see above quote]

But finer Figures, especially by their greater Artists, are imprinted deeper, after this manner. They first with the Brush and Colour make a rough Draught of the Figure they design; then they prick all over with a sharp Thorn till the Blood gushes out; then they rub the place with their Hands, first dipp'd in the Colour they design; and the Picture so made in indelible. But scarce one in forty of them is painted this way.

One of my Companions desired me once to get out of his Cheek one of these imprinted Pictures, which was made by the Negroes, his Name was *Bullman*; which yet I could not effectually do, after much scarifying [making small incisions and then drawing blood from them using heated bleeding bowls placed on the skin to create a vaccuum] and fetching off a great part of the Skin." (Wafer and Winslow, p. 136-7)

There is an interesting point here - Wafer has been describing tattooing by the Indians and this other fellow has gotten tattooed by "Negroes" somewhere else. So that lends a bit of credence to a wider variety of tattooing opportunities available to seamen.

Three points against this being common come to mind, however.

First, Wafer goes to great pains to describe the tattooing process which suggests that it was uncommon enough to rate two pages in his book.

Second, even among the indians, Wafer notes that "scarce one in forty of them is painted this way." Of course, this doesn't indicate *why* this practice was rare; it could have been because it was too time consuming (although time wasn't something the indians seemed particularly concerned about as Wafer notes elsewhere) or there weren't a lot of "greater Artists." Still, all of these are points against sailors having great opportunity to be permanently tattooed.

Third, the fact that Bullman wants the tattoo removed is an indication that it was not a desirable thing to have, as I noted above. Of course, it was on his cheek, which would be frowned upon even today when tattoos have gained more popularity.

As a side note, this suggests to me that Bullman may have been drunk when he got it, although this is pure conjecture on my part. Sailors seem to have tried to spend a great deal of their time drunk based on various medical journals I have come across (mostly discussing the variety of opportunities for men to injure themselves in novel ways due to drunkenness on ships.) Even today, many people I know who have "suffered to be tattooed" got their first tattoo in just such a manner.

All in all, Wafer's comments suggest that tattooing of sailors happened during the GAoP, but it was neither common nor generally acceptable. This corresponds to other things I have read on the topic and discussed on forums elsewhere. It doesn't seem to support the idea of sailors running around all over the seas wearing tattoos unabashedly as might be inferred elsewhere.

**Edited March 5, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=304968)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_304968_menu)

[**Kenneth**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3649-kenneth/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 391 posts
* Location:Bakersfield, California
* Interests:Pyrates.

([IP: 76.220.232.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.220.232.94)) · · 

[Posted July 12, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=318751) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=318751)

Now that there is some evidence, Maybe we could argue about what tattoo will be accepted by the real True educated professional Living Historians!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=318751)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_318751_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 July 13, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=318771) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=318771)

As noted above, I find that tattoos were more of an extraordinary than an ordinary sailor's lot. However, I think you'd have to search long and hard (and most likely fruitlessly) for any reference to a specific tattooed pattern. Every pirate board I've posted on has people dying to find specific evidence of such because they want to believe the Hollywood mythos. The writings from the time aren't usually specific on points like that. If you read through the Wafer quotes, all you get is

"But finer Figures, especially by their greater Artists, are imprinted deeper, after this manner. They first with the Brush and Colour make a rough Draught of the Figure they design; then they prick all over with a sharp Thorn till the Blood gushes out; then they rub the place with their Hands, first dipp'd in the Colour they design; and the Picture so made in indelible. But scarce one in forty of them is painted this way."

Note here that a specific design is a scarce thing. Given that tattooed sailors were probably scarce, a scarce practice among scarce practices probably makes designs very rare indeed. (This appear to have been due to how time-consuming designs were - see my previous post.)

Still, I have found four references to tattoo artists from around period. The first is Wafer and the primitive Central American Indian artists. The second is Wafer's reference to Bullman and the African Tribal tattoo artists. The third is from the Bounty mutineers (about which I was recently reading, although the book was not a period account) where the men were tattooed by the natives on Tahiti. (As I recall it, Fletcher Christian had his arse tattooed black among other things. You may find more info on the tattoos of the Bounty, but it is unfortunately 75 years out of period, so still not completely accurate.)

The last are reference to Chinese tattoos, although I haven't actually read any specific accounts of this (mostly because my reading habits on period events do not bend in that direction) I do note that those who argue most strenuously for tattooed sailors during period often bring China up, so I am guessing there must be evidence to support it. However, China is not an area for GAoP pirates, so I don't think it would be as likely as some of the other places, depending on the life of the tattooed sailor. More on that later.

So if you're a Caribbean pirate, you're probably stuck with Wafer's accounts if you use my little list. I think he said he had his torso tattooed red. If I remember, I'll dig out the book and see if I can find it for you. I would expect the "figures" that native women in Central America would paint would be based on their culture and experience. I can't imagine it would be like a tattoo parlor where you would go in with a design and gleam in your eye. I also expect that the figures would be rather roughly drawn, even with the native skill Wafer lauds because they were using gnawed wood for brushes and thorns for needles to create them. No details are given on the African method, although it probably isn't a stretch to says that they would run in a similar vein. Note that this is all supposition. If I were searching for potential intricate tattoo designs from such cultures, I'd look at the artwork we have of theirs from that period. Tattoos are essentially skin art, after all. You might also try and find reference to types of war paint (for lack of a better term) or other reasons that one would festoon their body with designs in the more primative cultures. Tattoos could be a way of revealing your inner self or making yourself appear fierce to potential adversaries to avoid a fight. (Remarkably like the reason for creating a pirate flag, actually.)

Remember too that the number of colours a relatively primitive tribe would have access to would probably be limited. I'm sure the folks who hotly debate period correct dye colours around here could fill you in more on that particular point. (And they're dealing with dyes from the 'civilized' world where there would be more impetus to expand the range of colours available.) You could also extrapolate a bit and expect that the colours they would use would show to best advantage on their skin colour - the Indians and Africans having darker skin than Europeans would and probably would prefer darker colours. If you were serious in your interest in period correct tattoos, you could even research the types of materials that the tribe whom your character would have been inked by would have access to and match those colors. (This would make for a fascinating book if well researched.)

One interesting thing I find from Edward Barlow's Journal is that the man went all over the 'civilized' world during his 40+ years of sailing - the Caribbean, Europe, the colonies, India, China and so forth. He says several times that it was his intent to see the world, so this makes sense. However, this was probably also, in part at least, because he had to ship aboard whatever vessel would pay him. So it is conceivable that a sailor could have been all round the world and been exposed to many of the places listed. (Well, like Barlow, probably not the South Pacific so much - that was still being explored during period and so had little or no trade. Even the Bounty's mission in the late 18th c. was exploratory in nature, designed to bring Breadfruit plants to Europe.)

A privateer at this time could wind up anywhere - many privateers were both privateering and exploring and there are several accounts of them wandering the world. However, a true pirate (being someone who took any ship regardless of nationality) would seem to me to have less opportunity for travel. They had to skulk about in areas that were less policed - the Caribbean and Africa seem to have been where I've come across the most accounts during the GAoP. Since travel to the South Pacific seems to have been limited at this time, there would be no point in going there.

So, after all that, I would expect tattooed pirates to have relatively primitive designs done by Central American or African artists depicting the things that such people would have experienced and thought about. As Wafer tells it, you get the distinct impression that tattooing was sort of an honorary tribal thing and not a planned, "Put an anchor on me forearm!' sort of affair. At least that's my impression from what I've read so far.

**Edited July 13, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=318771)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_318771_menu)

[**Dorian Lasseter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/)

* Where's My Water
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,266 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Sea!
* Interests:18th Century reenactment; Maritime, F&I...
Did ECW as well...
All BP firelocks and cannons!

Also enjoy Swordfighting and a good Donnybrook

Got a question for or about me? Ask!!!

([IP: 71.182.145.170](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.182.145.170)) · · 

[Posted July 13, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=318775) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=318775)

 Misson said:

A privateer at this time could wind up anywhere - many privateers were both privateering and exploring and there are several accounts of them wandering the world. However, a true pirate (being someone who took any ship regardless of nationality) would seem to me to have less opportunity for travel. They had to skulk about in areas that were less policed - the Caribbean and Africa seem to have been where I've come across the most accounts during the GAoP. Since travel to the South Pacific seems to have been limited at this time, there would be no point in going there.

Mission,

I'm surprised at you statement above about privateers not going to the S. Pacific. Especially since you've done much research with Wafer.

Granted this is but one ship...

A Brief history of the "Batchelors Delight;

About 1680, it was obvious that Charles II would never have any legitimate children and would therefore be succeeded by his loathsome brother James. About 45 or 50 young Englishmen therefore decided to make their fortunes outside the country while they could still leave. They got hold of a ship, which they renamed Batchelors Delight, John Cook (later replaced when Cook died by buccaneer Edward Davis) and as surgeon Lionel Wafer, both of whom had vast experience at sea around the world. When they proposed going “privateering” (meaning “a-pirating”) in the Caribbean, Wafer protested the danger of capture there, and proposed the west coast of Latin America as a safer alternative.

After about eight years of successful activities from Chile to California (during which time they also managed to discover New Zealand, which they called Davisland), they decided they had enough treasure, and headed for home. They had heard that James II had been thrown out by Parliament and replaced by his daughter Mary with her husband William. Drawing short straws, the various pirates were dropped off in English colonies with their shares of the treasure, so as not to draw attention to themselves. Wafer and Davis and John Hingson had not been in Virginia more than a day when they were arrested under suspicion of piracy (someone had presumably recognized Davis from his previous voyages). After two years in jail at Jamestown pending trial, they were sent to London, where the judge struck a plea bargain: they could have their freedom in return for surrendering half their loot to King William & Queen Mary for some charitable purpose. The monarchs gave the money to found the College of William & Mary in what is now Williamsburg, Virginia.

They spent eight years, as stated successful years in the pacific...

Sorry for the slight hijack...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=318775)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_318775_menu)

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

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

([IP: 98.243.84.7](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=98.243.84.7)) · · 

[Posted July 13, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=318779) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=318779)

Perhaps I should have broken that out better. I dismissed the privateers rather quickly, although I actually implied that the privateers are the only ones that would have been in the Pacific since many of them were also explorers. Wafer was part of several legitimate privateering voyages. After reading a few privateering journals, I am inclined to differentiate them from what I refer to as 'true pirates.' True pirates took vessels of any nation, often including England. From what I've read, their activities were often quite localized. (Although not always.)

Note that when Wafer refers to capture, he's probably refers to capture by the French or the Dutch (they being at war with both of them in 1680) or possibly the Spanish. I am a trifle unsure of the Spanish sentiment toward the English in 1680 as that is not what I am reading for. However, Morgan was governor of Jamaica at that time and the Spanish thought he was the devil incarnate. The English were a war-going lot at this time, which is part of the reason that the privateers existed. In his book, Edward Barlow often notes that the merchants were afraid of being taken by ships of nations they were presently at war with. (In fact, Barlow got taken by the Dutch during the second or third Dutch-Anglo war.) So fear of capture is not always the same thing as being brought to justice for piracy. (Although it is difficult to say what an enemy might do to a known privateer.)

Now, on to point, I dug out Wafer and noticed that he actually talks about the colours of tattoos that the Darien Isthmus indians painted, which I was about to quote, when I noticed that I had already quoted it previously.

"The Women are the Painters, and take a great delight in it. The Colours they like and use most are Red, Yellow and Blue, very bright and lovely. They temper them with some kind of Oil, and keep them in Calabashes..." (Wafer, p. 136)

He also describes war paint (so it wasn't that bad a description):

"The Men [of the tribe], when they go to War, paint the Faces all over with Red; and the Shoulders, Breast, and the rest of the Bodies, here with Black and there with Yellow, or any other Colour at pleasure, in large Spots; all which they wash off at Night in the River before they go to sleep." (Wafer , p. 137)

So this sort of goes against my conjecture that they would be tattooed for such. He also describes the designs they paint, so I am going to have to eat my Patrick Hand original hat on my notion that they didn't record the tattoo designs as well (although it is not made clear whether these are tattoos or painted on designs):

"Both these [rare light skinned Indians] and the Copper-colour'd *Indians* use painting their Bodies, even of the Sucking Children sometimes. They make Figures of Birds, Beasts, Men, Trees, or the like, up and down in every part of the Body, more especially the Face: But the figures are not extraordinary like what they represent, and are of differing Dimensions, as their Fancies lead them." (Wafer, p. 136)

Lastly, I'm not sure where I saw it said that he painted his chest red, as I can't seem to find it. However, he does say this:

"[My clothes} I saved to cover my Nakedness, if ever I should come among Christians again; for at this time I went naked as the Savages and was painted by their Women; but I would not suffer them to prick my Skin, to rub the Paint in, as they use to do, but only to lay it on in little Specks." (Wafer, p. 58)

It seems to me I have typed that in before, so a search of Twill may dig up the quote about the red on his chest. Or it may not.

Onto Fletcher Christian and the tattooing of the crew of the *Bounty*. Again, this is a recent novel, I have never read the period accounts of the mutiny, so make of it what you will. It's from Dea Birkett's book *Serpent in Paradis* which is about her visit to the island of Pitcairn. I'm afraid there's not much there, but here's what it says,

"Freed from the restraints of shipboard discipline, the officers and crew amused themselves wrestling with the island men and flirting with the island women. Christian had his buttocks blackened with a tattoo. Able-bodied seamen Thomas Ellison, still a teenager, simply had a date scratched on his right arm - October 25, 1788. It was the day they had first sited Oro-Hena, the highest peak in Tahiti, which shadows Matavai Bay." (Birkett, p. 10)

So at least those natives took requests for tattoo designs - if by 'scratched' the author means tattooed. Somewhere recently I read that several men from the *Bounty* were tattooed on Tahiti, though.

**Edited July 13, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=318779)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_318779_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 14, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=318805) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=318805)

 Misson said:

So fear of capture is not always the same thing as being brought to justice for piracy. (Although it is difficult to say what an enemy might do to a known privateer.)

By George, if I didn't come across a comment in Barlow's Journal on this! Barlow got into an argument with a disagreeable merchant ship's commander who wound up sending him aboard English man-of-war where he found out all sorts of things that were going on in whatever war they were involved in at the time (there were so many...)

"[1702] ...and many times it happens that [French] privateers are met with and taken by our frigates, by which means the hostages [of the privateers] get their liberty and save ship and goods likewise, and many times arrive at home before their ships, when good luck attends them."

Of course, he doesn't say what happens to the privateers, but I thought it was interesting that it came up so soon after my commenting on it. \*Sigh\* I've finished this book. I am really going to miss it. I wish I had it in my library.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=318805)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_318805_menu)

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

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

([IP: 98.243.84.7](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=98.243.84.7)) · · 

[Posted July 20, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=319411) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=319411)

And yet another one! So there are descriptions out there and I'll just shut up on that point and report them as I find them. This is from Dampier. Note that Dampier never mentions tattooed sailors specifically - I don't think - but he does describe his tattooed prince (which he bought) and hints at something else that might interest you:

"He [Prince Jeoly - the 'painted prince'] told me also, that his Father was *Raja* of the Island where they lived: That there were not above Thirty Men on the Island, and about one Hundred Women: That he himself had Five Wives and eight Children, and that one of his Wives painted him.

He was painted all down the Breast, between his Shoulders behind; on his Thighs (mostly) before; and in the Form of several broad Rings, or Bracelets round his Arms and Legs. I cannot liken the Drawing to any Figure of Animals, or the like; but they were very curious, full of great variety of Lines, Flourishes, Chequered-Work, &c. keeping a very graceful Proportion, and appearing very artificial, even to Wonder, especially that upon and between his Shoulder-blades. By the Account he gave me of the manner of doing it, I understand that the Painting was done in the same manner, as the *Jerusalem* Cross is made in Men's Arms [OK, *that* sounds like a reference to a tattoo on a non-native to me although not specifically for a sailor - it apparently has a long history which you can learn more about on the web], by pricking the Skin and rubbing in a Pigment. But whereas Powder is used in making the *Jerusalem* Cross, they at *Meangis* use the Gum of a Tree beaten to Powder, called by the *English*, Dammer, which is used instead of Pitch in many parts of *India*." (Dampier, p. 344)

Dammer gum seems to able to be made in black and white, so it could potentially be made into different colors. Further research is left as an exercise to the reader.

"In a little printed Relation that was made of him when he was shown for a Sight in *England*, there was a romantick Story of a beautiful Sister of his a Slave with them at *Mindanao* [Which I believe is where they took him on board]; and of the Sultan's falling in Love with her; but these were Stories indeed. They reported also that the Paint was of such Virtue, that Serpents, and venimous Creatures would flee from him, for which reason, I suppose, they represented so many Serpants scampering about in the printed Picture that was made of him [probably on the ground; serpents in his tattooes would disagree with the above quote from Dampier.] But I never knew any Paint of such Virtue; and as for *Jeoly*, I have seen him as much afraid of Snakes, Scorpions, or Centapees, as my self." (Dampier, p. 346)

**Edited July 20, 2008 by Misson**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=319411)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_319411_menu)

[**callenish gunner**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1944-callenish-gunner/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,138 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Pennsylvania mountains north of Clarion
* Interests:The Callenish gunner has just hoved into view looking for safe anchorage in these waters... purveyor of bladed and flintlock weaponry also leather accessories ..........painter of portraits and period scenes by avocation I'm getting my armoury business underway and will be doing as many festivals as I can ...right now along the east coast or great lakes

([IP: 98.21.66.189](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=98.21.66.189)) · · 

[Posted July 24, 2008](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=319801) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=319801)

as i had referenced earlier on this thread the travelers bound for jeruesalem were tattooed by the muslims as sign of passage that they had paid for the priviledge of entering the holy city after the crusades.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=319801)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_319801_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

They call me Mad L cuz, well, cuz many think I be mad, mad as a hatter they say but that only because they never jumped from a perfectly good airplane....over a thousand times. They also call me Mad L cuz I don't much like dogs n' cats, but I like things with scales and teeth, even the venomous ones for they be quit tasty when roasted over an open flame....even bet'r wit rum! They also call me Mad L, well, cuz very few know how to say me sir name properly, so in the military they give up and just call me "Mad L"

Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 4.131.137.237](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.137.237)) · · 

[Posted February 2, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=340982) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=340982)

Already started here on th' West Coast but th' HISTORY Channel be doing a feature on **TATTOOS**!

Ok, so they not spoken o' pirates, nor even English sailors in particular, but they have found an Ice age man with tattoos and an ancient Peruvian woman who was covered in tattoos. It be quite interesting so ye may want t' check yer local guide. They even talking about "Sewn In Tattoos" and the example they show used a sailor's type needle (sure hope a gail don't pick up!)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=340982)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_340982_menu)

[**RustyNell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6226-rustynell/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 726 posts
* Location:Fort Myers and Key West, Florida
* Interests:Member of The Bone Island Buccaneers - Pressed into service as ships shanty and distiller of spirits.<br /><br />I'm a singer and songwriter with a love of folk music, especially nautical songs (my grandfather was a Navy man and I myself served as a Quartermaster in the USN for 6 years)<br /><br />I've been acting since I was 7, my mother was a professional actress and singer and got me involved in the theater at an early age. RE-ENacting is a fairly new thing for me. I have a few years under my belt but am working my way towards history (PC) I've always had a great love for historical fiction. I truly love being able to create my own persona and more so I love being able to weave her story into the drama of history. What fun, What a way to learn!! Thats the major reason why I'm drawn to re-enacting, I learn so much about history and so much about myself through my characters....not to mention I like being a big KID playing dress up, and sharing in all the laughter with my wacky friends!!! <br /><br /><br />.

([IP: 65.41.26.47](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.41.26.47)) · · 

[Posted February 2, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=340990) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=340990)

Wish I'd seen that History Channel show will have to look for it on the net.

My opinion only.... though I have no proof of anything.... considering quite often pirate crews were made up of men from different ships, some often pressed from ships that were taken as prizes, from different countries and cultures some were often even slaves...and seeing as tattooing is ritualistic in some countries, and was around LONG BEFORE the GAoP. Depending on the job a man did on board, I don't think we could be absolutely positive that there were NO tattoos on any of the men, just because we have no written evidence. Though we can't assume there were. I'm sure in certian company they would hide them if they had any, it of course would give away their class or status. What I'm trying to say is there was no tattoo removal back then so should a man have one prior to being a sailor, having been a tribesman or the like he couldn't have had it removed.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=340990)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_340990_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

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Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 4.131.139.192](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.131.139.192)) · · 

[Posted February 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=342883) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=342883)

O'course they had Tattoo Removal!!! Have naught heard o' th' one called Blackbeard?!! He could remove a tattoo off a gnat's arse with only minimal scar'n he could....just don't sneeze or he may remove something a bloke did naught want removed!



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=342883)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_342883_menu)

[**Poopdeck Pappy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5972-poopdeck-pappy/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 452 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Port of Los Angeles
* Interests:Me in a nutshell: I'm a Christian, father, sailor (square-rig and recreational) and Pirate. I due most of my tall ship sailing with LAMI (Los Angeles Maritime Institute) aboard the twin Brigantines the Exy & Irving Johnson. As far as my recreational sailing I recently sold my CAL-25, but I still own a Capri 14.2 and a Sabot. I'm also a Knot Tyer, I don't belong to the local guild yet, but I can splice pretty much any kind of line and I'm really good with fancy work. Now as far as what kind of pirate am I, hard to say. I do a little re-enacting, but I don't belong to a guild or am I 100% historically accurate in my costumes. My favorite gatherings are Buccaneer Days at Catalina Island, Pirate Days Long Beach, Toshiba Tall Ship Festival, and every three years the West Coast Festivals of Sail.

([IP: 63.80.193.9](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=63.80.193.9)) · · 

[Posted March 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346551) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346551)

1)The words HOLD and FAST were tattooed on the knuckles to help hold line

2)Full rigged ship for sailing around Cape Horn

3)The pig and the rooster are tattooed on either the calves or the top of the feet, to prevent a sailor from drowning,. These animals were originally carried on most ships in wooden crates. When a ship goes down these crates would float and then catch currents and wash ashore with the other debris from the ship, making the pigs and roosters often the only souls to survive a shipwreck

4) A sailor would get a swallow tattoo for every 5000 miles he had sailed

5)Crosses on the soles of one's feet to ward off hungry sharks.

6)A turtle standing on its back legs (shellback) for crossing the equator and being initiated into King Neptune's Court

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346551)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=6#elControls_346551_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

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

[Posted March 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346558) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346558)

 Poopdeck Pappy said:

1)The words HOLD and FAST were tattooed on the knuckles to help hold line

2)Full rigged ship for sailing around Cape Horn

3)The pig and the rooster are tattooed on either the calves or the top of the feet, to prevent a sailor from drowning,. These animals were originally carried on most ships in wooden crates. When a ship goes down these crates would float and then catch currents and wash ashore with the other debris from the ship, making the pigs and roosters often the only souls to survive a shipwreck

4) A sailor would get a swallow tattoo for every 5000 miles he had sailed

5)Crosses on the soles of one's feet to ward off hungry sharks.

6)A turtle standing on its back legs (shellback) for crossing the equator and being initiated into King Neptune's Court

And your period source for this is?

[**Iron Jon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5756-iron-jon/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 472 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Palm Bay, FL
* Interests:anything that keeps me busy for a while...

([IP: 216.167.160.29](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.167.160.29)) · · 

[Posted March 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346581) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346581)

 Mission said:

And your period source for this is?

Not even close to being period. These are mostly 20th century "traditional" nautical tattoos.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346581)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346581_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: 209.162.15.186](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.162.15.186)) · · 

[Posted March 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346591) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346591)

 callenish gunner said:

as i had referenced earlier on this thread the travelers bound for jeruesalem were tattooed by the muslims as sign of passage that they had paid for the priviledge of entering the holy city after the crusades.

Callenish I seem to recall reading something like this too! I also seem to recall that Coptic Christians often tattooed a cross upon them so they wouldn't be accused of being followers of Islam.

I also seem to remember something about the Turkish Janissary as having various and assorted tattoos (wheels, passages from the Koran, etc) upon them.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346591)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346591_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

They call me Mad L cuz, well, cuz many think I be mad, mad as a hatter they say but that only because they never jumped from a perfectly good airplane....over a thousand times. They also call me Mad L cuz I don't much like dogs n' cats, but I like things with scales and teeth, even the venomous ones for they be quit tasty when roasted over an open flame....even bet'r wit rum! They also call me Mad L, well, cuz very few know how to say me sir name properly, so in the military they give up and just call me "Mad L"

Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 67.150.8.247](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.8.247)) · · 

[Posted March 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346616) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346616)

 Jib said:

Callenish I seem to recall reading something like this too! I also seem to recall that Coptic Christians often tattooed a cross upon them so they wouldn't be accused of being followers of Islam.

I also seem to remember something about the Turkish Janissary as having various and assorted tattoos (wheels, passages from the Koran, etc) upon them.

Tattoos have been found in various human races since virtually th' dawn o' time, I believe Poopdeck Pappy was quoting various Navel descriptions from a recently ran National Geographic show for each one o' them were discussed (even interviewed one fellow who 'collects' them) and yes they are modern t' semi-modern, they did not exactly give dates to their origins and even at one point said there is no record o' when the first one was stamped.

However I think th' "period" request was for that o' th' GAoP, for that so far no one, naught even National Geo, has been able t' offer up. I think it may have been Mission who read one passage somewhere but there appeared t' even be questions about it...I think that was earlier in this very thread (too lazy t' look back, still recovering from bad cold).

Now National Geo did have one chap they believe was from VERY early man who had ink marks upon he's body, it'was indeed a very interesting show, even covered modern day gang markings.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346616)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346616_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

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

[Posted March 7, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346802) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346802)

 MadL said:

However I think th' "period" request was for that o' th' GAoP, for that so far no one, naught even National Geo, has been able t' offer up. I think it may have been Mission who read one passage somewhere but there appeared t' even be questions about it...I think that was earlier in this very thread (too lazy t' look back, still recovering from bad cold).

Yeah, it was a comment on those tats not being GAoP - that's mostly what we discuss in Twill. I believe there is a modern Tattoo thread in the Crow's Nest forum and probably another in the Pyrate's Heart forum.

I did cite a couple period accounts previously in this very thread. The exercise is finding them is left to the reader.

However, my understanding from my reading and talking with those researching GAoP is that while tattoos certainly existed during this time and while there are a few (3, I believe) accounts of sailors having them, they were not a common element of the European sailor. The tattoo-GAoP pirate connection is most likely a modern idea, propagated by movies. Even the "rebel" association with tattoos is modern. In the distant past they seem to have been regarded as curios. People paid money to see those who had them. (I am thinking here of the story of the tattooed prince that Dampier brought back to England to display in a sort of sideshow fashion. Actually, as I understand it, he would bring the prince to people's houses who would then pay for the privilege of seeing his tattoos.)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346802)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346802_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.82.166.144](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.82.166.144)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346879) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346879)

Darn it if you guys only went a few years further into the future! Ran across these while searching for something completely different (naturally ). They're all just past the GAoP unfortunately but worthy of note for those interested in the subject of historical tattooing.

 Quote

ON Saturday last {1739} was committed to James City County Goal, a Man of middle Age...he is mark'd with Gunpowder on both his Hands with 4 Dots, and a Cross in the Middle

 Quote

RAN away from Capt. McCarty's Plantation, on Pope's Creek, in Westmoreland County...a Servant Man belonging to me the Subscriber...is suppos'd to have the Figure of our Saviour mark'd with Gunpowder on one of his Arms. He went away about the 20th of April last {1738}

 Quote

Richard Kibble, is a middle siz'd young Fellow, has several Marks made with Gunpowder on his Arms, but particularly one on his Breast, being the Figures of a Woman and a Cherry-Tree

 Quote

RAN away, the 8th of July last {1739}, from the Subscribers, living in Westmoreland County...an Irishman, of a middle Stature...He has on one of his Arms a Bleeding Heart, prick'd with Gunpowder, and a Name at Length, with several other Letters.

Virginia Runaways “Runaway Slave Advertisements

from 18th-century Virginia newspapers”. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/runaways/search.html> (accessed March 8, 2009).

I've found more but they continue even further from the period in question. As an interesting side note, most of these references came up while searching for "committed to gaol" advertisements. Curious connection indeed 

Chole

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346879)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346879_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
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([IP: 64.241.37.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.241.37.140)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346889) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346889)

 CrazyCholeBlack said:

Darn it if you guys only went a few years further into the future! Ran across these while searching for something completely different (naturally ). They're all just past the GAoP unfortunately but worthy of note for those interested in the subject of historical tattooing.

<snip>

Virginia Runaways “Runaway Slave Advertisements

from 18th-century Virginia newspapers”. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/runaways/search.html> (accessed March 8, 2009).

I've found more but they continue even further from the period in question. As an interesting side note, most of these references came up while searching for "committed to gaol" advertisements. Curious connection indeed 

Chole

Actually, this makes good sense. These folks all appear to be slaves. Those few records of period European sailors we have indicate that they had sort of "gone native" by copying the style of the Africans or indigenous Central and South American Indians. This does not suggest that it would have been acceptable among those of European descent - the real question for most GAoP piracy purists. It just verifies that people from places we already know to have practiced tattooing may have done so even when they got to the "new world." (Or they may just have had them already.)

**Edited March 8, 2009 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346889)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346889_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.82.166.144](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.82.166.144)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346927) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346927)

 Mission said:

Actually, this makes good sense. These folks all appear to be slaves. Those few records of period European sailors we have indicate that they had sort of "gone native" by copying the style of the Africans or indigenous Central and South American Indians. This does not suggest that it would have been acceptable among those of European descent - the real question for most GAoP piracy purists. It just verifies that people from places we already know to have practiced tattooing may have done so even when they got to the "new world." (Or they may just have had them already.)

Actually Mission, not one is listed as a "slave" and not one of the men mentioned is African. These are all white, European males in the colony of Virginia. Although I realize I didn't include their racial identity, which is included in the full advertisements. I left the quotes short & to the point regarding tattoos so as to not overwhelm the readers. The link is there for anyone to continue with their own research using the materials.

Chole

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346927)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346927_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

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Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 66.53.223.29](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.53.223.29)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346936) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346936)

 Mission said:

the real question for most GAoP piracy purists....

This be th' part where me own brain begin t' burn...since when does th' GAoP belong exclusive t' "European dog decent"?

Me own pirate figure, including me real life family tree, come from Germany & Ireland. As I understand many a sailor throughout th' period had Irish or Scottish blood as well as English dog blood; me own Mad L's family unit had set sail for th' New World only for th' poor way a German fisherman and Irish lass was treated in England where they met and tried t' make a life....

(long history, still working out details; father left Germany shortly before th' end o' th' Holly Roman Empire control; refusing t' convert t' Catholic or Protestant he just wanted t' live in peace. He met me mum, a sweet Irish tavern lass who had also left her homeland and found herself in England - still working out exact location - but being a Celt she was really nothing more then a slave. Twas after an English cure who framed me da for stealing a loaf o' bread, that was really stolen by he's own bloody son, that me father secured passage upon a trade ship t' avoid th' hangman's noose, along with me, a stout lad o' about 12, 'n me mum we set sail...then encountered Spanish pirates, taken prisoner, then around th' end o' 1600s th' English began t' attempt entering th' Spanish controlled Caribbean where th' ship we were imprisoned upon was captured; a couple o' our now English captors recognized me da 'n mum 'n was about t' hang'em from th' yardarm when he pleaded for me t' flee, over th' bow I went ne'er t' see either o' them again....for me that all began in 1661 when I was born t' a Germanic fisherman 'n an Irish lass, it now be 1709 'n I roam th' Caribbean 'n beyond offering me services t' any rouge pirate or buccaneer crew what fights what I have now learnt t'a be a cruel rule o' England, France, and Spain.)

...'n that pretty much covers th' heart o' th' GAoP and shows that NOT all pirates 'n rouges upon th' seven seas where o' English make. Also one may point out that some Celt clans throughout history had various body mark'ns as well.

Now, WHO among ye stand t' call me 'Heathen'? 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346936)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346936_menu)

[**Stynky Tudor**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/202-stynky-tudor/)

* Fugitive at large
* 
* 
* Admin
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Wandering Spanish held Territories of the New World
* Interests:I'm not interested in anything or anybody & I hate you.

([IP: 72.148.237.64](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=72.148.237.64)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346945) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346945)

 CrazyCholeBlack said:

Darn it if you guys only went a few years further into the future! Ran across these while searching for something completely different (naturally ). They're all just past the GAoP unfortunately but worthy of note for those interested in the subject of historical tattooing.

Not that I want to stray off topic with a question that I know has been asked more times than I can count - but the answer always seems to change. Plus I'm trying to figure out why CrazyColeBlack feels the need to quantify her points as being outside the GAoP period.

So now what is the generally accepted time period for the GAoP?

Has the scope of the GAoP narrowed so much that pyrates after the 1730s aren't taken into account anymore?

Then there's the more obvious questions of how old were the individuals on record, and how old were their tattoos at the time the records were made. A given tattoo could have been 10, 20, 30 years old or more. . .

As for the point of slaves and indentured servants being tattooed - considering that many sailors were pressed into service and not serving freely, either by a navy or later by pyrates, that constitutes slavery to me.

Also I can only imagine that being stuck aboard ship, packed in tightly with a bunch of thugs, being bored with the routine day in and day out, would make for a semi-miserable living condition and quality of life. Confined, having access to a needle, a bit of charcoal and maybe gunpowder - doing a bit of decorative self-mutilation doesn't seem out of the realm of possibilities.

I understand that Twill is the go to place for information and talking documented facts. I really only have the one question and the rest is like most anthropological theory and is imaginative speculation at best.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346945)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346945_menu)

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* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
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I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

They call me Mad L cuz, well, cuz many think I be mad, mad as a hatter they say but that only because they never jumped from a perfectly good airplane....over a thousand times. They also call me Mad L cuz I don't much like dogs n' cats, but I like things with scales and teeth, even the venomous ones for they be quit tasty when roasted over an open flame....even bet'r wit rum! They also call me Mad L, well, cuz very few know how to say me sir name properly, so in the military they give up and just call me "Mad L"

Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 66.53.223.29](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.53.223.29)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346947) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346947)

For th' most part I understand th' "GAoP" spans from aprox 1650 through 1730; depending on whom ye be quoting, give or take 20 years.

As for tattoos, earrings, other personal articles; it would seem that historic records them self where quite sparse during th' period, probably due t' th' turmoil and abrupt changes in who controls what where and just how much (or little) they wanted th' mother land t' know they had found (or acquired) upon th' high seas and in ports abroad. Me suspicions be that there is much that will never be known or discovered no matter how deep we dig or how many times we dive for once th' "modern world" began setting outposts throughout th' Caribbean there was much deceit and deception among those who ruled and those who did not and those who wanted to. As far as records in England or Port Charles, they only know what they were told; as far as "pirates" in general, there appears t' be far too few accounts on record compared t' how many pirates there are believed to have been and I refuse t' believe th' few *English* pirates on record be th' only wolves upon th' sea at time, so with th' masses who were either killed and sunk at sea, or diapered and simply gobbled up with th' haze o' time, I would think that saying they all looked, acted, smelled, and tasted like any common *Englishman* o' th' time would only be a rather ego driven conclusion.

Well, that be me take on th' matter, then what could a heretic German/Irish American possibly know - I will return t' th' coal mines and me peasant sauerkraut stand now 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346947)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346947_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 81.156.78.231](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=81.156.78.231)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346963) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346963)

Irrelevant point, Chole said "European" (and was correctly quoted as doing so), so whence all the fuss? Last time I looked in an atlas Germany and Ireland were both in Europe.

Marcus Rediker's study of the geographical origins of pirates from 1716-1726 gives some interesting data. According to his researched 47.4% were English, 9.8% were Irish, 6.3% were Scottish, 4% were Welsh, about 25% were from America and the West Indies, and 6.9% were from the non-Anglophone world.

As to pirates of the 1730s, I think defining the GAoP is mostly about scale. How many pirates of the 1730s can you name compared to the 17teens and 1720s

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346963)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346963_menu)

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

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

([IP: 71.53.214.48](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.53.214.48)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346969) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346969)

Sorry not about to read this entire thread, as not personally interested in tattoos, but what were the Jerusalem crosses that are mentioned in Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea?

**Edited March 8, 2009 by Capt. Sterling**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346969)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346969_menu)

[**Iron Jon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5756-iron-jon/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 472 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Palm Bay, FL
* Interests:anything that keeps me busy for a while...

([IP: 216.167.160.29](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.167.160.29)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346988) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346988)

 Capt. Sterling said:

Sorry not about to read this entire thread, as not personally interested in tattoos, but what were the Jerusalem crosses that are mentioned in Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea?

“In the old City of Jerusalem one afternoon in 1956 I discovered a collection of woodblocks which struck me as unique in character.” So begins John Carswell’s compellingly simple account of his discovery of the remnants of a centuries old tradition of tattooing in the Holy Land that goes back in written records to at least the 1600s and quite possibly much earlier. In the tattoo/coffin-making shop of tattooer/coffin-maker Jacob Razzouk, Carswell recorded the designs of 168 wood blocks that were carved with various, mostly Coptic Christian, tattoo designs. Prominent among them is, of course, the Jerusalem cross. Pilgrims to the Holy City have likely used it for centuries in order to commemorate their journeys.



The symbol of the Jerusalem cross has a long history in the world of Christendom as well as the world of tattooing. Sometimes described as a cross potent between four crosslets or a cross of equal arms, each terminating in a cross bar, there is no mistaking this distinctive and squarish cross symbol out of the dozens of types that have been used in tattoos. Its earliest appearance as a symbol seems to have occurred, not surprisingly, during the first Crusade (1096), in the coat of arms of Godfrey of Bouillon, the first Latin ruler of Jerusalem.

**Edited March 8, 2009 by Iron Jon**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346988)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346988_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

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Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 67.150.7.166](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.7.166)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=346993) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=346993)

Sorry Foxe, but not so 'irrelevant' when 90% of th' time "European" is tossed about the description o' red coats or blue coats follow (among other clearly "English" traits 'n traditions). True it be that Germany and Ireland be classified as being located in "Europe", yet it seem so often that Americans when citing history seem t' describe 'Europe' as all being like what is seen in England. The peoples o' Ireland, Germany, France, and Spain are indeed quite different then those from England, different in culture, of dress, of many things. So I am left wondering when one states "not seen in European pirates" do they also include th' French and Spanish? It seems in th' way o' weapons, dress, and personal effects they begin t' site 'English' with disregard t' rest o' 'Europe'. While England paid not much attention t' historic Germany, they were in much battle in Ireland. Irish and Germain peoples where accepted not much better in England then they were in early Colonial America, in many cases just second class citizens, in some select cases not much more then slaves and only suited for work in mines and on rail roads (Germans excepted as they did tend t' be allowed t' keep meager shops, but still not much trusted in main stream 'English' settlements).

While I have not seen a complete list o' th' Whydah's crew, there are a few bios on th' website that site among th' crew was: Welsh, Scottish, Half-blood Mosquito Indian (Bellamy's pilot), African-Dutch, Irish (Bellamy's quartermaster), and an American (born in Rhode Island).

It also states there from 30 to 40 of African decent "all treated as equals". It states about th' half-blood pilot John Julian; *"On land, Julian's skin made him a nobody, on water his skill made him a somebody. He eventually piloted the Whydah..."* - which also tends t' debunk another statement I once heard that 'English ships were maned by English, Spanish ships by Spanish, French by French' and that where multi-cultured crews did exist the 'dominating culture ruled, the rest while not called slaves pretty much still were' (not exact words but a sum up of them); well, at least th' Pirate ship Whydah did not appear t' conform t' such.

Now if ye had a crew o' rouge sailors that had a mix of cultures on board, and 30 to 40 of them were "of African decent" (which truly would be considered 'unacceptable' by th' English o' period!) and "all where treated as equals" - then somehow I find it hard t' believe that they all looked, dressed, and acted as a proper gentle Englishman would expect them to. Somehow this drums up visions of a truly multi-cultural democracy crew where they may have also shared cultures and ways. Perhaps some of them took an interest in some of the cultures the others on board brought with them....or maybe not, perhaps Bellamy beat them all into dressing and acting English/European and then told them all to "smile for the camera"



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=346993)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_346993_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 81.156.78.231](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=81.156.78.231)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347034) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347034)

Absolutely, of course there were non-English pirates, I don't think I've heard anyone suggest otherwise. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that they were in a minority. As noted, Rediker's multi-crew study (and FWIW I don't believe there *is* such a thing as a complete Whydah crew list) showed that over a number of pirate ships less than 7% were non-Anglophone. Now, if you or anyone else wants to portray one of that 7% then bravo! - I'm working on kit for a French pirate myself, as well as a Swedish seaman. However, the fact remains that the vast majority of pirates active in the GAoP were English or under English influence, so yes, naturally, that's what most people concentrate on. How many German pirates can you name?

So, I have two questions: what evidence are you using for the appearance of German or Irish seamen? And what makes you say that red/blue coats are particularly "English"?

(Incidentally, if you're bothered about real history then I think you need to re-examine the status of the Irish in England in your period, and rethink the use of the word "Celt")

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347034)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347034_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

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

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347043) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347043)

When I said 'European', I most definitely meant that. If I had meant English, I would have said so. On a related note, I once led a discussion on another forum that was designed to identify pirates of various nationalities which I later copied into this forum called [Pirate Nationalities (Origins)](http://pyracy.com/index.php?showtopic=4289&hl=origin) that all and sundry are free to browse. It definitely puts the bulk of the named pirates in the English category (it is actually further split to show pirates from Wales and Scotland and so forth, so that should be accounted for when totting up the numbers.) But enough on this irrelevant aside.

I think CrazyColeBlack's point is very interesting as it is contrary to everything else I have read. I thought they were slaves based on you citing your source as "Virginia Runaways “Runaway Slave Advertisements from 18th-century Virginia newspapers." If it is as you say, it is probably the most promising evidence I have seen that white criminals (and pirates were criminals) might have sported tattoos during period for some reason.

As to sailors being regarded as slaves, their implied status is not relevant to my point; only their race is. The two accounts of tattooing from Wafer's account explain where the men he mentions got their tattoos as I noted in my original post. His tats came from the Indians on the Isthmus of Darien. Another man he mentions (Bullman, who wanted "surgeon" Wafer to remove his tattoos) came from time spent among "the Negroes." I figured this referred to the Africans (which could be a mistaken assumption on my part - Bullman may have referred to any dark-skinned people as "Negroes" for all I know - in fact, I believe I have seen people in India referred to that way in some sailor's accounts). Since the Africans were key to the Slave Trade, I thought it would make sense that American slaves would have tattoos if they happened to come from whereever it was that Bullman got inked.

As to conjecture, ever since I was soundly berated for assuming that a mug might be used to drink coffee from (instead of a dish), I try not to conjecture about what might have happened. Instead I look for evidence from period. As I was told then, we could say anything might have happened, but this is not proof.

I don't know much about the Jerusalem Cross, but I do understand that it was a religious symbol and not a secular one. So while it is evidence that tattooing occurred long ago (which I don't think is in question), I am not sure that it proves that people would have run around with tattoos to express their individuality. (I am not sure it would not, but we must always keep in mind that cultural mores were very different during period than they are today.)

**Edited March 9, 2009 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347043)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347043_menu)

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

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

([IP: 65.160.148.76](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=65.160.148.76)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347048) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347048)

 Iron Jon said:



The symbol of the Jerusalem cross has a long history in the world of Christendom as well as the world of tattooing. Sometimes described as a cross potent between four crosslets or a cross of equal arms, each terminating in a cross bar, there is no mistaking this distinctive and squarish cross symbol out of the dozens of types that have been used in tattoos. Its earliest appearance as a symbol seems to have occurred, not surprisingly, during the first Crusade (1096), in the coat of arms of Godfrey of Bouillon, the first Latin ruler of Jerusalem.

Thanks Iron Jon

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347048)
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[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

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So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 67.150.169.96](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.169.96)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347054) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347054)

 Foxe said:

However, the fact remains that the vast majority of pirates active in the GAoP were English or under English influence, so yes, naturally, that's what most people concentrate on. How many German pirates can you name?

\*German Pirates\*

Klaus Störtebeker (pirate or hero, depending on what side o' th' deck ye stand), Barnim VI, Duke of Pomerania, Gottfried Michaelsen, Klein Henszlein, Magister Wigbold, Cord Widderich, Victual Brothers, Hennig Wichmann

(th' rest where so good at it they all got away....un-named)

\*Irish Pirates\*

Anne Bonny, Edward England, Walter Kennedy, Grace O'Malley

hmmm, th' list does not account for Richard Noland from th' Whydah? - it would appear a 'complete census' is unobtainable from today's lists, without 'complete crew listings....or perhaps ye meant t' say "How may non-anglo CAPTAINS can ye name?"

 Foxe said:

So, I have two questions: what evidence are you using for the appearance of German or Irish seamen? And what makes you say that red/blue coats are particularly "English"?

As for German or Irish seamen; nay, I am adopting an English appearance, that does not change th' blood what runs through me nor through me character. As ye state, the bloody English ruled th' seas, so I might as well "blend in" - is that not what everyone here keeps saying t' do?

As for "bloody backs" - well, that is just what I see from the military re-enactors, even at last year's last sail fest, they all had on red coats.

 Foxe said:

(Incidentally, if you're bothered about real history then I think you need to re-examine the status of the Irish in England in your period, and rethink the use of the word "Celt")

\*Celts\*

Aye, I thought I had read th' statement "Celtic was still very much alive" in a passage on th' "Flight of the earls" (yes, pre-GAoP) but I stand corrected, it was even before then, 13th Century. In th' 16th Century (time of "Flight of the earls") th' history does state"

"Ulster, until this time the most Catholic and Celtic region of Ireland, begins to be transformed into a Protestand stronghold as the Engish set about the process of plantation, it is not the first attempt to form a settlement in Irland..."

*(hmmm, sounds like they where actually English, not Irish. Sounds like Irish where still either Catholic or Celitic...aye?)*

...'n did I naught state that me mum "fled Ireland"? And as for "real history"; I do not belive I ever stated I was portraying me 'true' ancestor's story.

True it would be that if I where picking a character out of the history book and stating that I be he then I would have much t' consider; but seeing as th' pirate Mad L be a character unto he'm self, THAT gives me legroom t' work with :angry:

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347054)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347054_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.150.3.20](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.150.3.20)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347103) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347103)

 MadL said:

\*German Pirates\*

Klaus Störtebeker (pirate or hero, depending on what side o' th' deck ye stand), Barnim VI, Duke of Pomerania, Gottfried Michaelsen, Klein Henszlein, Magister Wigbold, Cord Widderich, Victual Brothers, Hennig Wichmann

(th' rest where so good at it they all got away....un-named)

\*Irish Pirates\*

Anne Bonny, Edward England, Walter Kennedy, Grace O'Malley

hmmm, th' list does not account for Richard Noland from th' Whydah? - it would appear a 'complete census' is unobtainable from today's lists, without 'complete crew listings....or perhaps ye meant t' say "How may non-anglo CAPTAINS can ye name?"

No, captains or crew is fine by me, but I wonder how long a list of *GAoP era* German pirates might be. Odd thing, I've been collecting details on individual pirates from 1690-1730 for some time and I'm slowly assembling into a database: I can name you French and Dutch pirates, a Swede and even one from Switzerland, but none from Germany (or what would become Germany long after the GAoP). Plenty of Irish, but Walter Kennedy's not amongst 'em, he was born in Wapping, London.

 Quote

As for German or Irish seamen; nay, I am adopting an English appearance, that does not change th' blood what runs through me nor through me character. As ye state, the bloody English ruled th' seas, so I might as well "blend in" - is that not what everyone here keeps saying t' do?

The "bloody" English?

 Quote

\*Celts\*

Aye, I thought I had read th' statement "Celtic was still very much alive" in a passage on th' "Flight of the earls" (yes, pre-GAoP) but I stand corrected, it was even before then, 13th Century. In th' 16th Century (time of "Flight of the earls") th' history does state"

"Ulster, until this time the most Catholic and Celtic region of Ireland, begins to be transformed into a Protestand stronghold as the Engish set about the process of plantation, it is not the first attempt to form a settlement in Irland..."

*(hmmm, sounds like they where actually English, not Irish. Sounds like Irish where still either Catholic or Celitic...aye?)*

Ah, an interesting point, since the "plantation" of Ireland in the 16th century large parts of the country were more English than Irish. By the GAoP the true "wild" Irish had been pretty much Anglicised as well.

In fact, it was the statement about the status of Irish in England that I raised my eyebrow to.

"Celtic" is an interesting one - I'll be very surprised if you can find any 17th or 18thC writer describing contemporary Irish as "Celtic". At that time "Celtic" was applied principally to the ancient race, the romantic notion of spritual Celtishness was very much a 19thC phenomenon.

 Quote

...And as for "real history"; I do not belive I ever stated I was portraying me 'true' ancestor's story.

True it would be that if I where picking a character out of the history book and stating that I be he then I would have much t' consider; but seeing as th' pirate Mad L be a character unto he'm self, THAT gives me legroom t' work with 

Sorry, my mistake, I was under the delusion that Twill was history.

**Edited March 9, 2009 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347103)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347103_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

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

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347120) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347120)

 Foxe said:

Odd thing, I've been collecting details on individual pirates from 1690-1730 for some time and I'm slowly assembling into a database...

Are you building on that list we made? (Foxe was quite instrumental in the creation of the post I mentioned - although that was in the other forum, not this one.)

**Edited March 9, 2009 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347120)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347120_menu)

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

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,565 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.150.3.20](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.150.3.20)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347126) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347126)

Not so much. The big limitation with that list (as we knew at the time) was that beyond name and nationality it contained no other information. My database contains fields for name, rank, age, place of birth/habitation, active dates, duration of piratical career, captain(s) served under, literacy, family, fate, and former occupation. For the database to be useful as a tool I've only put people into it when three or more of those fields can be filled. And as I said, I'm also concentrating solely on the GAoP (arbitrarily 1690-1730).

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347126)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347126_menu)

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* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

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

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347148) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347148)

 Foxe said:

Not so much. The big limitation with that list (as we knew at the time) was that beyond name and nationality it contained no other information. My database contains fields for name, rank, age, place of birth/habitation, active dates, duration of piratical career, captain(s) served under, literacy, family, fate, and former occupation. For the database to be useful as a tool I've only put people into it when three or more of those fields can be filled. And as I said, I'm also concentrating solely on the GAoP (arbitrarily 1690-1730).

Boy, I wish I'd have known before I started reading all these period accounts. I could have given you some extra data. As I remember it, I started that list so that writers could get appropriate names for characters at piracyinfo. It seems like there was another reason, too...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347148)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347148_menu)

[**MadL**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6451-madl/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,283 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Where ever I need ta be
* Interests:I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

Blame me mu'm, she the one who decked me room out like a captain's cabin an' that be what I grew'd up in. Also me pa fer he built boats when I was but a wee lad. Later they ran off an' joined the carnivals, so I learn ta be a scalawag from the best.

I like weapons, some that go BOOM, and always sharp shiny ones.

I work with computers, currently contracted to hire by Xerox, their engineers [I]Need[/I] all the help they can get, this is fer sure! But I also have taught the Microsoft Certification course for a private contact school, an' spent 4 years working third level support at Earthlink before that scalawag Sky jumped ship an' let it go down.

They call me Mad L cuz, well, cuz many think I be mad, mad as a hatter they say but that only because they never jumped from a perfectly good airplane....over a thousand times. They also call me Mad L cuz I don't much like dogs n' cats, but I like things with scales and teeth, even the venomous ones for they be quit tasty when roasted over an open flame....even bet'r wit rum! They also call me Mad L, well, cuz very few know how to say me sir name properly, so in the military they give up and just call me "Mad L"

Oh, an' I dabble in the arts, computer 3D arts that be. Thar they all think I be mad, I do me best to make sure they all know I be mad. I have fun run'n amok as a pirate monkey character and makin' the moderators thar go bald. Several times the moderators try ta toss me o'r board, but the crew say will have none o' that now ;\

So, I like pirates, ye got a problem with that?

([IP: 67.150.125.94](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.125.94)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347157) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347157)

 Foxe said:

Plenty of Irish, but Walter Kennedy's not amongst 'em, he was born in Wapping, London.

Aye, it appears he was, so does this make him English?:

 Quote

From Chapter Three, " Who Will Go a Pyrating? "

Walter Kennedy was born at Pelican Stairs, Wapping, the sailor town of London, in 1695, the year in which Henry Avery, " the maritime Robin Hood, " led a mutiny, turned pirate, and captured a treasure ship in the Indian Ocean. Kennedy' s family, like his community, lived by the sea. His father was an anchor-smith " who gave his son Walter the best education he was able. " The times were hard and so was young Kennedy B he was poor, illiterate, known to have " a too aspiring temper, " and often on the wrong side of the law. It was said that in his childhood he was " bred a Pick-Pocket, " and that he later became a house-breaker. Meanwhile he served an apprenticeship to his father, but this came to an abrupt end when the old man died......

.....Sailing now with Bartholomew Roberts (after the death of Davis), Kennedy soon decided to separate. His opportunity came when Roberts took off after a prize, leaving Kennedy, as Lieutenant, in charge of one of the ships, in which he promptly sailed away (in turn leaving Roberts with a certain aversion to Irishmen ever after)....

And from another common found blurb on Walter:

 Quote

Walter Kennedy (died 19 July 1721) was an Irish pirate who served as a crew member under Howell Davis and Bartholomew Roberts. He was one of six men, including Howell Davis, who mutinied, seized the sloop Buck and took to piracy. Davis was elected captain. Kennedy was with Davis on the island of Principe when his party was ambushed by the Portuguese, and was one of only two members of the shore party to be able to escape back to the ship. With Davis dead, Bartholomew Roberts was elected as his successor. When Roberts and forty of the crew chased a possible prize in a captured sloop off the coast of Surinam, Kennedy was left in charge of Roberts' ship, the Rover, and a large part of its crew. He took advantage of this to abandon Roberts and proclaim himself captain.

Kennedy headed for Ireland, but having no skill in navigation landed on the north-west coast of Scotland instead. Seventeen of the crew were arrested near Edinburgh and put on trial for piracy, with nine of them being hanged. Kennedy himself was able to reach London where he is said to have kept a brothel in the Deptford Road. When one of his prostitutes accused him of theft, he was sent to the Bridewell prison, where he was denounced as a pirate by the mate of a ship he had taken. Kennedy was transferred to the Marshalsea prison and put on trial for piracy. He was hanged at Execution Dock on 19 July, 1721.

That one however makes no notion o' his birth place but does appear t' acknowledge th' statement of:

*"His opportunity came when Roberts took off after a prize, leaving Kennedy, as Lieutenant, in charge of one of the ships, in which he promptly sailed away (in turn leaving Roberts with a certain aversion to Irishmen ever after)."*

 Foxe said:

Sorry, my mistake, I was under the delusion that Twill was history.

Oh, m'bad then. See'n as how there be no historical record o' a German lad having ever met an Irish lass in England and having a half-breed offspring that later took t' pirating as well as it be true that there appear t' be no records of Germanic pirates during th' GAoP, I will drag me carcass out o' yer beloved Captain Twill fer this German-Irish American has no desire t' portray what he is naught ('n aye, I did said "bloody English") 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=editComment&comment=347157)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&page=7#elControls_347157_menu)

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* 
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([IP: 86.173.136.36](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.173.136.36)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=findComment&comment=347161) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/11280-tattoos/&do=reportComment&comment=347161)

Apologies, wasn't trying to be antagonistic, was merely trying to point out in a tongue in cheek way that if you bring your character in here then he's going to get historified. Should have added a smiley, sorry.