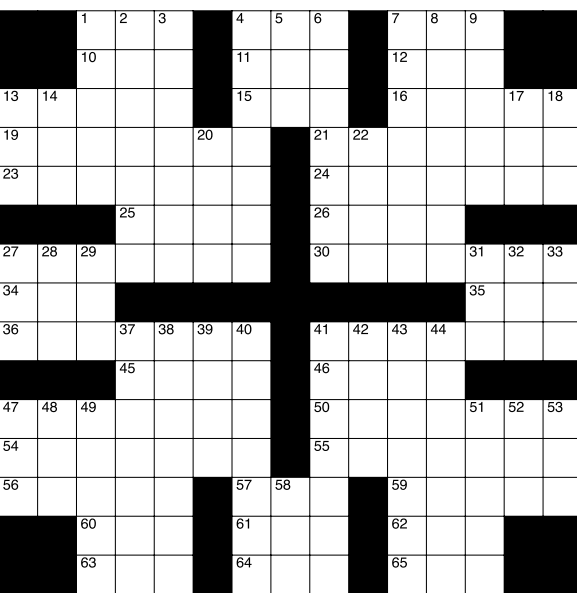


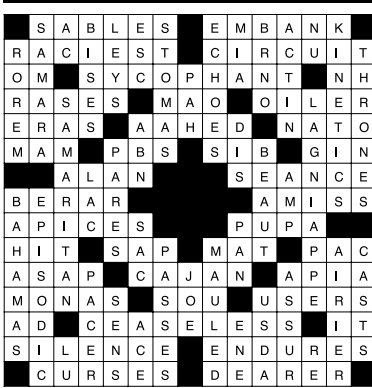
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CROSSWORD



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. English TV station
 4. It fuels cars
 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
 11. Midway between northeast and east
 12. Small Milky Way constellation
 13. Fritz ____, Austrian chemist
 15. A Brit's grandmother
 16. Colombian city
 19. Visualize
 21. Charged
 23. People's assets
 24. Informative books
 25. Jeer
 26. You can do it with your horn
 27. Agents of your downfall
 30. Central Uganda city
 34. Supervises flying
 35. Type of tree
 36. Alfalfa
 41. Dishwasher soap brand
 45. Hall where military eats
 46. Ancient Greek City
 47. Speaks incessantly
 50. Discuss again
 54. Extreme greed
 55. Adopt or support
 56. Fantasy writer Russell
 57. Seize
 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
 61. Automobile
 62. Georgia rockers
 63. Color opposite green
 64. Amount of time
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Sheep sound
 2. Some can be emotional
 3. Inflammation of colon lining
 4. Origins
 5. Comedienne
 6. Perceived by the senses
 7. A place to play ball
 8. Occur before
 9. Animal body parts
 13. Thanksgiving dessert
 14. Root mean square (abbr.)
 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
 18. Promotional materials
 20. One point east of northeast
 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
 27. Popular sports league
 28. Cologne
 29. Partner to cheese
 31. Constrictor snake
 32. Not good
 33. Supplement with difficulty
 37. Hug with fondness
 38. Enforced again
 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
 40. Substance
 41. Anterior parts of the brain
 42. Brews
 43. Where ships load cargo
 44. Holiday season singer
 47. "___ humbug!"
 48. Monetary unit of Macao
 49. Popular children's book elephant
 51. Glutinous
 52. Function
 53. Old world, new
 58. Swiss river

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



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THE HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

Blackbeard and Piracy

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

Imagine you're the captain of a merchant ship in the early eighteenth century. A flotilla of ships covered in canons approaches your boat, waving a black flag with a skull on it. The pirates board your vessel. Their leader is a massive man with a long, thick black beard braided into pigtailed with small ribbons. He wears a dark coat, over which three pistols are hung on a bandolier. Sitting in his beard are lit fuses. The smoke covers his face and the embers make his eyes look red. The most infamous pirate in history, Blackbeard, stands before you. It looks like the devil himself has come to end your life. What would you do?

You would surrender. That's the point of the black flag and the burning beard, to be so intimidating that merchants gave up without a fight. For smart pirate captains, gunfights were a foolish way to end the lives of yourself or your crew. Making sure everyone knows that, if they fight back, they will be tortured and killed, was the key to a successful career of piracy. Blackbeard understood this well. He was so good at appearing fearsome that he is remembered as the quintessential brutal pirate, despite the fact that there is no evidence he ever actually killed someone. That's not to say that he didn't kill anyone; Blackbeard was a violent criminal, but contemporary reports are scarce.

Blackbeard was born around 1680. Different contemporary sources disagree about his real name, usually listing it as Edward Teach or Edward Thatch, although it is entirely possible that too was an alias. Blackbeard probably grew up in Bristol, England, maybe from a wealthy family, but information about his early life is sparse.

It's likely that Blackbeard served as a privateer during the War of the Spanish Succession, a massive European war

that lasted from 1701-1714. During this war, the English government paid privateers to attack and rob Spanish ships as part of the war effort. When the war ended, thousands of newly unemployed privateers kept doing what they had been doing, now preying on English ships as well.

One of the most prominent privateers turned pirates, Benjamin Hornigold, helped seize control of Nassau in the Bahamas, transforming it into a stronghold for piracy. Blackbeard first enters the historical record in 1716, working as Hornigold's righthand man and commanding a captured sloop (a smaller, single mast boat) as part of his fleet. Together, Hornigold and Blackbeard raided ship after ship.

In September, 1717, Blackbeard and Hornigold met Stede Bonnet, a wealthy plantation owner who dealt with a midlife crisis by buying a ship, hiring a crew, and becoming a pirate. Bonnet was bumbling and incompetent, which Blackbeard exploited, convincing Bonnet's crew to get rid of Bonnet and put Blackbeard in charge of his ship, the *Revenge*, which was added to Hornigold's fleet. Bonnet remained aboard Blackbeard's ship, as a spectator.

This is a good segway into how 18th century pirate crews actually worked. Pirate crews were democratic, with the captain elected, and the crew able to vote out any captain that was cowardly or cruel. This, like the tendency to avoid battle through intimidation, was less a sign of morality, and more an inevitability of pragmatism. On British military vessels, if you overthrew a terrible captain, another British ship would chase down, court martial and likely hang you for your crime. Pirate captains had to accept the votes of their crews, because otherwise, their crews would kill them.

Captains were not the sole authority aboard ships. Captains were in charge of leading battles, while quartermasters

managed the day-to-day operations and the crew. Pirate crews began their voyages by writing out pirate codes which listed the rules of the ship and what shares of loot were allotted to each crew member, with captains and quartermasters generally given a double share.

In November, 1717, the fleet attacked a captured French slave ship, *La Concorde*, making it their flagship. Around the same time, Hornigold was overthrown as captain, leading him to retire. Blackbeard, now in charge, rechristened *La Concorde* as *Queen Anne's Revenge* and continued piracy, raiding ships and expanding his flotilla.

In May, 1718, Blackbeard blockaded the port of Charleston, stopping and ransacking every ship that sailed in or out of the harbor and taking members of their crew hostage. Blackbeard sent a message to the government of South Carolina, telling them that, if they didn't send a chest full of expensive medicine, the prisoners would be decapitated and their ships would be burnt. The medicine was handed over and Blackbeard held up his side of the bargain, releasing the hostages and sailing away. One month later, Blackbeard was forced to abandon *Queen Anne's Revenge* and switch to a smaller ship, the *Adventure*, after it ran aground.

In September, 1717, British King George I proclaimed the Act of Grace, a pardon for any pirate who surrendered before September of the following year. Hornigold, Bonnet and Blackbeard all accepted this pardon. Hornigold ended up becoming a pirate hunter, sent to take out his former comrades; he died in a shipwreck in 1719. When Bonnet left to go get his pardon, Blackbeard looted the *Revenge* and marooned crew members loyal to Bonnet on an island without food or water. Furious, Bonnet rescued his crew and set out for revenge, calling himself Captain Thomas and the *Revenge* the *Royal James* to

hide the fact he'd returned to piracy. He was captured and hanged before he could get his revenge.

Blackbeard accepted a pardon, retired to a life of leisure, and then went back to piracy a few weeks later. British naval Lieutenant Robert Maynard was sent by the governor of Virginia to put an end to Blackbeard. Maynard tracked Blackbeard to Ocracoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina, and approached the *Adventure* with two ships, the *Jane* and the *Ranger*. Maynard spoke with Blackbeard, telling him he would be taken, either dead or alive. Blackbeard responded by asking his crew for a glass of wine, saying he would be damned if he either took or gave quarter, and opening fire with the *Adventure's* canons.

The cannonballs tore apart the *Ranger*, killing its commander and wounding its crew, causing it to fall behind as the *Jane* and the *Adventure* sailed down the channel. As Blackbeard's cannonballs ripped through them, the crew of the *Jane* managed to get in a lucky shot, severing the line holding the *Adventure's* sail up, causing it to crash into a sandbar.

The gunfire stopped. The smoke cleared. Blackbeard gazed over at the deck of the *Jane* and saw no movement. Assuming his enemies were dead, Blackbeard boarded the *Jane*, falling right into Maynard's trap.

Maynard had ordered his men to hide below decks and play dead, hoping to catch the infamous pirate by surprise. Maynard and the crew burst from the hold, attacking Blackbeard. Blackbeard almost killed Maynard, but was shot five times and slashed twenty as the crew of the *Jane* ganged up on him. Blackbeard died, less than two years after his career of piracy began. The crew cut off Blackbeard's head and mounted it on a pole in Chesapeake Bay, as a warning to other pirates.

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