

Preliminary Observations on British and American Documents Concerning the Activities of the Pirate Blackbeard, March 1717 to June 1718*

The following observations and the attached table represent a preliminary attempt to analyze British and American documents related to the activities of the pirate Blackbeard during the period March 1717 to June 1718. In particular, these observations will discuss Blackbeard's relationship with two other pirate captains, Benjamin Hornigold and Stede Bonnet, the description of the pirate vessels used by Blackbeard and his associates, the number of cannon that were installed on *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and the number of pirates in Blackbeard's crew.

Most of the sources given in this report were identified by other researchers, in particular David Moore of the North Carolina Maritime Museum, Phil Masters of Intersal Inc., and Kenneth Kinkor with the Whydah Shipwreck Project, and the works of Robert Lee and David Cordingly. The notation "entry #" refers to events in the attached table.

Blackbeard and Hornigold - In his book, Charles Johnson portrays Blackbeard as the protégé of the pirate captain, Benjamin Hornigold. Johnson reports that "they [Hornigold, Teach, and associates] . . . made prize of a large French Guineaman [*La Concorde*], bound for Martinique, which by Hornigold's consent, Teach went aboard of as captain and took a cruize in her" (Johnson, 1998, p. 47). The events described in the attached table indicate that by the fall of 1717 Blackbeard was operating independently of Hornigold. Further, there is no evidence that Hornigold was present when "English pirates . . . controlled by Edouard Titché" (entry # 10) attacked and captured the French slave ship, *La Concorde*.

The earliest mention of Blackbeard (Thatch) by name is Mathew Munson's letter of July 5, 1717 describing events from March 1717 (entry #1). Munson speaks with some authority as he had been commissioned to hunt for pirates, first by Gov. Hamilton of Jamaica and then by Deputy Gov. Robert Daniell of South

Carolina (CSPCS Vol. 29, #267). Munson's letter indicates that Thatch had a separate command from Benjamin Hornigold. Subsequent documents show that by October 1717, Blackbeard was in command of Bonnet's *Revenge* and operating independently off the North American coast (entry # 3). All the subsequent accounts that specifically name the commander of the pirates identify that commander as Blackbeard (Teach, Thatch, Titcher, etc.). Only two accounts, entries # 7 and # 9, mention that Hornigold was operating with Blackbeard, and in those cases it is portrayed an associate role rather than a supervisory role.

Although the documents in the attached table do not specifically discuss the relationship between Blackbeard and Hornigold, particularly prior to the spring of 1717, it seems clear that by the fall of 1717 Blackbeard had his own command and, for the most part, was operating independently from Hornigold. The accounts in the French archives found by Jacques Ducoin and others appear to confirm that Blackbeard was in command, and that Hornigold was not present when the pirates captured *La Concorde* in November 1717.

Blackbeard and Bonnet - Johnson indicates that Blackbeard met Stede Bonnet sometime in late-1717 or early-1718, after the capture of *La Concorde*. According to Johnson's account, after capturing *La Concorde* and renaming the ship *Queen Anne's Revenge*, Blackbeard captured and burned the ship *Great Allen* near St. Vincent and then engaged HMS *Scarborough* (that engagement has not been verified by historical documents and probably never occurred). Johnson says that Teach then sailed for "Spanish America" and:

On his way he [Blackbeard] met with a pirate sloop of 10 guns, commanded by one Major Bonnet, lately a gentleman of good reputation and estate in the island of Barbados, whom he joined. But a few days after, Teach, finding that Bonnet knew nothing of a maritime life, and with the consent of his own men, put in another

captain, one Richards, to command Bonnet's sloop, and took the major on board his own ship [*Queen Anne's Revenge*] . . . (Johnson, 1998, p. 47).

However, entry # 3, from the Boston News-letter, states that by October 1717 Teach was in command of Bonnet's (Bennet's) sloop, *Revenge*, armed with 12 cannon and operating off the North American coast. The presence of a 12-gun sloop in Blackbeard's fleet is one of the most consistent "facts" from entry # 3 to entry # 18, including the French account, # 10. Bonnet is mentioned by name in several of those accounts, and his presence with Blackbeard has been well documented in other sources, including the records of Bonnet's trial in Charleston, South Carolina.

Description of pirate vessels - The Boston News-letter account, entry # 3, clearly states that in October 1717 Teach was in command of a 12-gun sloop named *Revenge*. An article, originating from Philadelphia, October 24, 1717 (entry # 4), states that the pirates kept one of the vessels they captured, the snow *Sea Nymph*, and "made a Pirate of the said snow." Likewise, an article originating from New York, October 28, 1717 (entry # 5), states that Blackbeard captured "One [Captain] Sipkins in a great Sloop of this Place [New York] . . . which Sloop they have mounted with 12 Guns and made a Pirate." Shortly thereafter, the pirates captured a sloop from Curacao, Capt. Goelet, which they kept, and in return gave Goelet and his crew the *Sea Nymph* (entry # 6).

If the preceding information is accurate, by November 1717, as Blackbeard headed down the coast of North America towards the Caribbean, he had in his command Bonnet's sloop *Revenge* with 12-guns, the "great Sloop" taken from Capt. Sipkins with 12-guns, and Capt. Goelet's sloop from Curacao. The next report on the pirates comes from the French crew of *La Concorde* (entry # 10) who state that they were "attacked by two boats of English pirates, one of 12 and the other of 8 guns armed with 250 men controlled by Edouard Titché." Most probably, the 12-gun pirate vessel is the *Revenge*, but the identity of the 8-gun vessel is unclear. Perhaps this is Capt. Goelet's sloop from Curacao, or Capt.

Sipkins sloop from New York. The pirates gave the French crew one of their vessels, presumably the 8-gun sloop, which the French renamed *Mauvaise Rencontre*. They used this vessel to transport themselves and the remaining captive Africans from Bequia to Martinique in two trips. According to the deposition of Lt. Ernaud, the vessel was "of Bermuda fabrication, of 40 tons or about."

The next three entries, #'s 11, 12, and 13, report on captures made by the pirates immediately after they had refitted *La Concorde* as their flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*. It is clearly stated that Blackbeard and his crew captured the *Great Allen* off St. Vincent (entry # 11), however, the other two accounts, depositions by Richard Joy and Thomas Knight, do not specifically name Blackbeard (Teach) as the captain. Interestingly, all three accounts say that they encountered three pirate vessels: entry # 11, "Capt. Teach the Pirate in a French Ship of 32 Guns, a Briganteen of 10 Guns, and a Sloop of 12 Guns"; entry # 12, "he was taken by two pirate ships and a sloop"; and entry # 13, "seeing two ships and a sloop". By the time the pirates captured Henry Bostock on Dec. 5, 1717 (entry # 14), the pirates were using only two vessels. Bostock reports that "he met a large ship [*Queen Anne's Revenge*] and a sloop [*Revenge*]"'. Although there is no supporting documentation, it is possible that the unidentified third vessel in entries #11, #12, and #13 belonged to Hornigold, or perhaps to another pirate captain.

Subsequent accounts are consistent with Bostock's description of two vessels under Blackbeard's command: the ship *Queen Ann Revenge* and the sloop *Revenge* (entries #15 and # 16). Eventually, Blackbeard would add two other vessels to his fleet: David Herriot's sloop *Adventure* captured in the Bay of Honduras in April 1717, and an unidentified Spanish sloop captured off Cuba in April 1717. Those are the four vessels with which he blockaded the port of Charleston in May 1718 (entries # 17 and # 18) and that were present when the *Queen Anne's Revenge* and *Adventure* were lost at Topsail (Beaufort) Inlet in June 1718 (entries # 19 and # 20).

The number of cannon on *Queen Anne's Revenge* - Like other aspects of Blackbeard's story, the number of cannon onboard *Queen Anne's Revenge* is subject to conflicting accounts, many based on hearsay. Even the number of cannon onboard *La Concorde* when captured by pirates is unclear. Capt. Dosset reported that *La Concorde* was equipped with 14 cannon, while Lt. Ernaud stated there were 16 guns (entry # 10). In all likelihood, the pirates removed the 8 cannon that were onboard the sloop they gave to the French and added those guns to *Queen Anne's Revenge*. That would make a total of 22 or 24 cannon. In the first accounts after the pirates took over *La Concorde*, there are reports that the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was "a French Ship of 32 Guns" (entry # 11), had "22 guns mounted" (entry # 13), and "was a French Guinea man, 36 guns mounted" (entry # 14). Three colonial governors described the *Queen Anne's Revenge* as follows: Gov. Hamilton of Jamaica reported "The ship some say has 22 others say she has 26 guns mounted but all agree that she can carry 40" (entry # 15); Gov. Bennett of Bermuda stated that *Queen Anne's Revenge* was "a ship of 36 guns" (entry # 16); and Gov. Johnson of South Carolina claimed "Blackbeard has a ship of 40 od[d] guns" (entry # 17). Subsequent accounts also refer to 40 guns onboard. If the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was indeed equipped with up to 40 cannon, it is not clear from the historical record where the additional guns came from. It is certainly possible that Blackbeard and his crew could have added cannon from any of the vessels they captured, but researchers have not located any documents to date that verify the plundering of cannon.

Archaeological evidence of cannon - For the past 5 years archeologists have investigated the shipwreck site at Beaufort Inlet thought to be the remains of *Queen Anne's Revenge*. Through direct observation and test excavations, the archeologists have thus far located 22 cannon on the site. Six of those cannon have been recovered. In addition, researchers have conducted a detailed gradiometer survey of the entire site with readings taken every 1.5 feet (0.46 meters). That survey indicates the presence of possibly 4 or 5 additional cannon buried beneath the sand.

The cannon recovered so far include two 6-pounders, each weighing nearly 2,000 pounds that, based on their style of construction, may be of French origin. Also recovered was a 3-pounder with British weight and proof marks. In 1999, archaeologists brought up a large concretion that contained two small cannon; a British half-pounder weighing 199 pounds, and a slightly larger gun with Swedish marks and inscribed with a date of 1713. An additional cannon-shaped object, covered with concreted ballast stones, was recovered in May 2001. The concretion on this object has not been removed, but it also appears to be a small caliber cannon.

The majority of the remaining 16 cannon that have been observed on the site appear to be the approximate size of the two 6-pounders already recovered. This mixture of cannon of different sizes and different nationalities is certainly what would be expected on a pirate vessel that added cannon from captured ships. The question remains, however, given the historic reports of *Queen Anne's Revenge* having 40 cannon, and the fact that archaeologist have only located between 22 and 27 cannon, what happened to the missing guns? Three theories can be presented to address this question.

1. The reports of 40 cannon were exaggerations, perhaps overstated by local authorities in an effort to obtain additional protection. Once one such report was made it could have been picked up and repeated by others.
2. Some of the 40 cannon may have been small rail guns that were removed by the pirates or other contemporary salvagers.
3. It is possible that there are additional cannon on the site that archaeologists have not yet located.

The number of pirates in Blackbeard's crew

Entry #	Date	Number of pirates
1	March 1717	70
3	October 1717	150
10	November 1717	250
13	November 1717	200

14	December 1717	300
16	May 1718	700 men or there about
17	May 1718	Above 400
18	May 1718	About 300

**TABLE OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE PIRATE BLACKBEARD,
MARCH 1717 TO JUNE 1718
FROM BRITISH AND AMERICAN DOCUMENTS**

DATE OF EVENT (English Calendar)	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT	DESCRIPTION OF PIRATES AND PIRATE VESSEL(S)	DATE AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION
1. Ca. March 1717	Letter from Capt. Mathew Musson to the Council of Trade and Plantations. Musson was "cast away" in the Bahamas and described pirate activity in those islands . . . " <i>five pirates made ye harbour of Providence their place of rendezvous vizt. Horngold, a sloop with 10 guns and about 80 men; Jennings, a sloop with 10 guns and 100 men; Burgiss, a sloop with 8 guns and about 80 men; White, in a small vessel with 30 men and small arms; Thatch a sloop 6</i>	<i>". . . Horngold, a sloop with 10 guns and about 80 men . . . Thatch, a sloop 6 gunns and about 70 men . . ."</i>	July 5, 1717, CSPCS Vol. 29, #635

	<i>gunns and about 70 men."</i>		
2.Ca. Sept. 29, 1717	<i>"William Howard [Blackbeard's quartermaster] did together with his Associates . . . on the high Seas near Cape Charles [Virginia] . . . attack & force a Sloop Calld the Betty of Virginia . . . did then and there Rob and plunder of Certain Pipes of Medera Wine and other Goods and Merchandizes and there after . . . did Sink and Destroy the said Sloop with the remaining Part of the Cargo.</i>	" No description included of pirate vessel(s).	Articles exhibited against William Howard for "Pyracy and Robbery", reproduced in Lee, 1995, page 102.
3.Ca. Oct 12, 1717	<i>"Arrived . . . Codd from Liverpool and Dublin with 150 Passengers, many whereof are Searvants. He was taken abut 12 days since off of our Cape [mouth of Deleware Bay] by a Pirate Sloop called Revenge, of 12 Guns 150 Men, Commanded by one Teach, who Formerly Sail'd Mate out of this Port [Philadelphia]." The same article states, "On board the Pirate Sloop is Major Bennet, but has no Command, he walks about in his Morning Gown and</i>	<i>". . . a Pirate Sloop called Revenge, of 12 Guns 150 Men, Commanded by one Teach . . ."</i>	Philadelphia, October 24, 1717 as appeared in <u>BNL</u> , #708 (Nov. 4 - Nov. 11, 1717)

	<p><i>then to his Books, of which he has a good Library on Board, he was not well of his wounds that he received by attacking of a Spanish Man of War, which kill'd and wounded 30-40 Men. After which putting into Providence, the place of Rendevouze for the Pirates, they put the afore said Capt. Teach on board for this Cruise . . .".</i></p>		
<p>4.October 1717</p>	<p>In addition to Captain Codd's vessel, the preceding article reports that the pirates took "<i>Two Snows outward bound, Spofford loaden with staves for Ireland and Budger of Bristol in the Sea Nymph loaden with Wheat for Oporto, . . . They also took a sloop Inward Bound from Madera, Peter Peters Master . . . an other Sloop one Grigg Master, bound hither from London . . . another Sloop from Madera, bound to Virginia, . . . also said they took a Sloop from Antigua, belonging to New-York . . .</i>".No dates are given for these captures, but presumably they occurred around the time (Oct 12) of the</p>	<p>According to this article the pirates made " a Pirate of the said snow [Sea Nymph]". The other captured vessels were released.</p>	<p>Philadelphia, October 24, 1717 as appeared in <u>BNL</u>, #708 (Nov. 4 - Nov. 11, 1717)</p>

	capture of Capt. Codd's vessel.		
5.October 1717	Arrived in New York "Capt. Farmer from Jamaica., who was twice taken by Pirates on his passage, the last off the Capes of Deleware by Capt. Teach, who took out his Mast, Anchors, Cables what money was on board, ". . . One Sipkins in a great Sloop of this Place [New York] is taken by the Pirates which Sloop they have mounted with 12 Guns and made a Pirate . . ."	". . . One Sipkins in a great Sloop of this Place [New York] is taken by the Pirates which Sloop they have mounted with 12 Guns and made a Pirate . . ."	New York, October 28, 1717 as appeared in <u>BNL</u> , #708 (Nov. 4 - Nov. 11, 1717)
6.October 1717	"On the 30th past [October] arrived Capt. Goelet, who was lately taken by Teach the Pirate, coming hither [New York] in a Sloop from Curacao, half loaden with Cocoa, which the Pirates threw overboard, and man'd the Sloop for a Pirate, and gave Goelet and his Crew the Sea Nymph Snow to bring them home in, Goelet saw the Pirate take a Ship and a Briganteen or Snow after parting with them."	". . . man'd . . . [Goelet's] Sloop for a Pirate, and gave Goelet and his Crew the Sea Nymph Snow to bring them home in . . ."	New York, November 4, 1717, as appeared in <u>BNL</u> , #708 (Nov. 4 - Nov. 11, 1717)
7.October 18, 1717	"Pritchard from St. Lucie who on 18th of	". . . Captain Teach, in Compa[ny] with	Philadelphia, November 14

	<p><i>October in Lat. 36 and 45 [near the North Carolina/Virginia border] was taken by Captain Teach, in Compa, with whom was Capt. Hornygold, they took from him about 8 Cask Sugar and most of their clothes at the same time, they took a Ship from London for Virginia, out of which they took something and let them go</i></p>	<p><i>whom was Capt. Hornygold . . ." but no description of the vessels.</i></p>	<p>1717, as appeared in BNL, #710 (Nov. 18 - Nov. 25, 1717)</p>
<p>8.Ca. October 22, 1717</p>	<p><i>". . . the said William Howard [Blackbeard's quartermaster] and his Associates and Confederates did on or about the 22d of October . . . in the Bay of Delaware in America . . . Pyratically take Seize and Rob the Sloop Robert of Philadelphia and the Ship Good Intent of Dublin bound for Philadelphia . . ."</i></p>	<p>No description of the pirate vessels is included.</p>	<p>Articles exhibited against William Howard for "Pyracy and Robbery", reproduced in Lee, 1995, page 102.</p>
<p>9.November 26 (?), 1717 (given the timeline established by the other documents, this date must be incorrect. Further research is necessary on this event.)</p>	<p><i>"We are told from Maryland that a Ship from London was arrived there, who about fourteen days ago was taken off the Capes of Virginia by Teach and Hornigold, that took out of him a New Suit of Sailes and Rigging, brought for a New Ship building for Col Lovd in</i></p>	<p><i>". . . taken off the Capes of Virginia by Teach and Hornigold . . ." but no description of the pirate vessels.</i></p>	<p>Philadelphia, Dec. 10, 1717, as appeared in BNL, #716 (Dec. 30, 1717 - Jan. 6, 1718)</p>

	<i>Maryland.</i> "		
10.November 28, 1717 (French calender), November 17 (English Calender)	The following is an excerpt from a letter from Charles Mesnier, Intendant of Martinique, describing the capture of the French slave ship La Concorde, of Nantes. La Concorde was owned by Rene Montaudouin, and commanded by Capt. Pierre Dosset. ". . . last 28 November, being within 60 miles from here [Martinique] at 14 degrees 27 minutes north latitude, having been attacked by two boats of English pirates, one of 12 and the other of 8 guns armed with 250 men controlled by Edouard Titché English, was removed by these pirates with 455 negros who remained with him . . . the aforementioned Dosset with his crew to the Grenadines onto the island of Becoya [Bequia], near Grenade . . ."At Bequia, the pirates took over La Concorde and gave the French the smaller of their two sloops. According to a deposition by Capt. Dosset, La Concorde was a ship of about 200 tons armed with 14	". . . attacked by two boats of English pirates, one of 12 and the other of 8 guns armed with 250 men controlled by Edouard Titché, English . . ."	<u>Aix-en-Provence.</u> <u>Centre des archives d'outre-mer. AN</u> <u>Col C8A 22 (1717)</u> <u>f°447. 10 décembre 1717</u>

	cannon. According to a deposition from Lt. Francois Ernaud, La Cocorde carried 16 cannon.		
11.Late Nov. 1717	<p><i>"That in November Last . . . a great Ship from Boston, was taken at or near St. Lucia or St. Vincent, by Capt. Teach the Pirate in a French Ship of 32 Guns, a Briganteen of 10 Guns, and a Sloop of 12 Guns, his Consort, Capt. Taylor they put 24 hours in Irons, and Whipt him, in order to make him confess what Money he had on board, burnt his Ship, put his Men on Shore at Martinico"</i>¹</p> <p><i>"They had a great deal of plate on board, and one very fine cup they told deponent they had</i></p>	<p><i>". . . Capt. Teach the Pirate in a French Ship of 32 Guns, a Briganteen of 10 Guns, and a Sloop of 12 Guns . . ."</i></p>	<p>1New York, Feb. 24, 1718, as appeared in <u>BNL</u>, #725 (March 3 to March 10, 1718)</p> <p>2 Deposition of Henry Bostock, contained in a letter from Gov. Hamilton, Jan. 6, 1718, <u>CSPCS</u> Vol. 30, #298. iii.</p> <p>3Johnson, 1998, p. 47</p> <p>421 décembre 1717. Aix-en-Provence. Centre des archives d'outre-mer. AN Col C8A 23 (1717) f° 47-55</p>

*taken out of Capt. Taylor, bound from Barbados to Jamaica, whom they very much abused and burnt his ship."*²

*". . . cruising near the island of St. Vincent he took a large ship, called the Great Allen, Christopher Taylor commander. The pirates plundered her of what they thought fit, put all the men ashore upon the island above mentioned, and then set fire to the ship"*³

A French version of this event can be found in a letter from Gov. Feuquières (Martinique) in a letter describing disorder caused by the pirates⁴.

<p>12.Nov. 30, 1717</p>	<p><i>"Deposition of Richard Joy, Master of the sloop New Division of Antigua, 30th Nov. 1717. This morning he was taken by two pirate ships and a sloop who said they belonged to Barbados and enquired what vessels were alongshoar. They restored him to his sloop etc., keeping on of his men"</i></p>	<p><i>". . . he was taken by two pirate ships and a sloop . . ."</i></p>	<p>Deposition of Richard Joy, contained in a letter from Gov. Hamilton, Jan. 6, 1718, <u>CSPCS</u> Vol. 30, #298. i.</p>
<p>13.Nov. 29, 1717</p>	<p><i>"Deposition of Thos. Knight, belonging to the Mountserratt Merchant, Benjamin Hobhouse, commander, 30th Nov. 1717. On 29th Nov., seeing two ships and a sloop, and thinking one did belong to Bristol, and the other two to Guinea, he went in the long-boat to enquire for letters. They desired us to come on board, but seeing Death Head in the stern we refused it etc. They said they were bound from Barbados to Jamaica etc. . . . They report the Captain of the pirates name is Kentish and Captain Edwards [Capt. Edwards was reportedly an alias used by Stede Bonnet] belonging to the sloop</i></p>	<p><i>". . . seeing two ships and a sloop . . . and they report the ship has 150 men on board and 22 guns mounted, the sloop about 50 white men, and eight guns . . ."</i></p>	<p>Deposition of Thomas Knight, contained in a letter from Gov. Hamilton, Jan. 6, 1718, <u>CSPCS</u> Vol. 30, #298. ii.</p>

	<p><i>and they report the ship has 150 men on board and 22 guns mounted, the sloop about 50 white men, and eight guns."</i></p>		
<p>14.Dec. 5, 1717</p>	<p><i>"Deposition of Henry Bostock, master of the sloop Margaret of St. Christophers, 19th Dec., 1717. On 5th Dec., off Crab Island, he met a large ship and a sloop. He was ordered on board and Capt. Tach took his cargo of cattle and hogs, his arms books and instrument. The ship, Dutch built, was a French Guinea man, 36 guns mounted and 300 men. They did not abuse him or his men, but forced 2 to stay and one Robert Bibby voluntarily took on with them. They had a great deal of plate on board, and one very fine cup they told deponent they had taken out of Capt. Taylor, bound from Barbados to Jamaica, whom they very much abused and burnt his ship. They said they had burnt several vessels, among them two or three belonging to these Islands, particularly the day before a sloop belonging to Antago</i></p>	<p><i>". . . he met a large ship and a sloop . . . The ship, Dutch built, was a French Guinea man, 36 guns mounted and 300 men . . ."</i></p>	<p>Deposition of Henry Bostock, contained in a letter from Gov. Hamilton, Jan. 6, 1718, <u>CSPCS</u> Vol. 30, #298. iii.</p>

	<i>one (Robert) McGill owner. . . . He believes they had much gold dust on board . . ."</i>		
15.Late-Nov. or early-Dec., 1717	<i>". . . In my turning up to windward we did see another pirate ship and a large sloop which we were informed when we came off of the Island St. Eustatius . . . were two other pirates that had two days before taken some of the trading sloops off of that Island and sunk a ship loaden with white sugar etc. Just under Brimstone Hill which they had taken under Guadaloupe shore. The ship is commanded by one Captain Teatch, the sloop by one Major Bonnett an inhabitant of Barbadoes, some say Bonnett commands both ship and sloop. This Teatch it's said has a wife and children in London, they have committed a great many barbarities; The ship some say has 22 others say she has 26 guns mounted but all agree that she can carry 40 and is full of men the sloop hath ten guns and doth not want men . . ."</i>	<i>"The ship is commanded by one Captain Teatch, the sloop by one Major Bonnett an inhabitant of Barbadoes, some say Bonnett commands both ship and sloop. . . . The ship some say has 22 others say she has 26 guns mounted but all agree that she can carry 40 and is full of men the sloop hath ten guns and doth not want men . . ."</i>	Letter from Gov. Hamilton, Jan. 6, 1718, <u>CSPCS</u> Vol. 30, #298.
16.May 31, 1718	Lt. Governor Bennett [Bermuda] to the	<i>". . . one Tatch with whom is Major</i>	Letter from Lt. Gov. Bennett

	<p>Council of Trade and Plantations . . . "and before those pirate vessels that went lately out from Providence there were several other att sea (vizt) one Tatch with whom is Major Bonnett of Barbados in a ship of 36 guns and 300 men, also in company with them a sloop of 12 guns and 115 men, and two other ships, in all which, it is computed there are 700 men or thereabt., one Coudon in a sloop of 12 guns, 6 pattireroes, 12 brass bases and 130 men, a French ship of 30 guns and 350 men most of that Nation, a French sloop of 6 guns and 40 men, one Vaine in a sloop of 6 guns and 60 men . . ."</p>	<p>Bonnett of Barbados in a ship of 36 guns and 300 men, also in company with them a sloop of 12 guns and 115 men, and two other ships, in all which, it is computed there are 700 men or thereabt . . ."</p>	<p>Bermuda, May 31, 1718, CSPCS Vol. 30, #551.</p>
<p>17.May 1718</p>	<p>"Governor Johnson to the Council of Trade and Plantations. The unspeakable calamity this poor Province suffers from pyrats obliges me to inform your Lordships of it in order that his Majestie may know it and be induced to afford us the assistance of a frigate or two to cruse hereabouts upon them for we are continually alarmed and our ships taken to the utter ruin</p>	<p>"This company is commanded by one Teach alias Blackbeard has a ship of 40 od[d] guns under him and 3 sloopes tenders besides and are in all above 400 men . . ."</p>	<p>Letter from Gov. Johnson, South Carolina, June 18, 1718, CSPCS Vol. 30, #556</p>

	<p>of our trade; twice since my coming here in 9 moneths time they lain off of our barr takeing and plundering all ships that either goe out or come in to this port, about 14 days ago 4 sail of them appeared in sight of the Town tooke our pilot boat and afterwards 8 or 9 sail wth. several of the best inhabitants of this place on board and then sent me word if I did not imediately send them a chest of medicines they would put every prisoner to death which for there sakes being complied with after plundering them all they had were sent ashore almost naked. This company is commanded by one Teach alias Blackbeard has a ship of 40 od guns under him and 3 sloopes tenders besides and are in all above 400 men. I don't perceive H.M. gracious proclamacon of pardon works any good efect upon them, some few indeed surrender and take a certificate of there so doing and then severall of them return to the sport again . . ."</p>		
<p>18.May 22, 1718 South Carolina 13th</p>	<p>"Capt. Mede sailed over our barr 18th May in company with Capt</p>	<p>". . . taken by two pirates, one a large French ship mounted</p>	<p>Extracts of several letters from Carolina August</p>

<p>June, 1718.</p>	<p>Hudson and Capt. Clarck in the Crowley, the latter put back for his passengers and boats that he lost goeing over the barr and the 22nd as he was just proceeding from the barr was unfortunately taken by two pirates, one a large French ship mounted with 40 guns and the other a sloop mounted with 12 guns with two other sloopes for their tenders having in all about 300 men all English the ship is commanded by one Theach and the sloop by one Richards who have been upon this account in those and other vessells about two years and is the same sloop and company that was off of our barr the last summer and took two vessells inward bound they now took besides Capt. Clarck, Capt. Craigh in a small ship belonging to this place as he went over the barr bound for London and the William Capt. Hewes from Weymouth. Whilst these ships were in their possession they sent one of Clark's passengers with Richards and another person master of one of</p>	<p>with 40 guns and the other a sloop mounted with 12 guns with two other sloopes for their tenders having in all about 300 men all English the ship is commanded by one Theach and the sloop by one Richards who have been upon this account in those and other vessells about two years . . ."</p>	<p>19, 1718, CSPCS Vol. 30, #660</p>
--------------------	---	--	--------------------------------------

their tenders to towne
with a message to send
them a chest of
medicines which if was
refused by the
Government they
would imediately put
to death all the persons
that were in their
possession and burn
their ships etc. and
threatn'd to come over
the barr for to burn the
ships that lay before
the Towne and to beat
it about our ears, as the
Town is at present in a
very indifferent
condition of making
much resistance if
them or any other
enemye should attempt
it and that we were
very desirious to gett
them off our coast by
fair means which we
could not doe
otherwise for want of
such helps as other
Governments are
supply'd with from the
Crown, the chest of
medicines was sent etc.
Soon after the
dismissed our people
and their ships having
first taken from the two
vessells that were
homeward bound what
little money the had on
board and all their
provisions and from
the two others the same
and distroy'd most of
their cargoes etc. all
for pure mischief sake

	<p>and to keep their hands in. They made no farther stay (thanks to God) but are gone to the Northward etc. [. . .] Since they are gone severall vessells are come in amongst which is a brigantine from Angola with 86 negroes which was mett with by the pirates they took from her 14 of their best Negroes, she belongs to Bristol, a ship from Boston is also come in which was likewise plunder'd by them, etc. . ."</p>		
19.Ca. June 10, 1718	<p>"On the 10th of June or thereabouts a large pyrate Ship of forty Guns with three Sloops in her company came upon the coast of North carolina ware they endeavour'd To goe in to a harbour, call'd Topsail Inlett, the Ship Stuck upon the barr att the entrance of the harbour and is lost; as is one of the sloops . . ."</p>	<p>". . . a large pyrate Ship of forty Guns with three Sloops in her company . . ."</p>	<p>Captain Ellis Brand of the HMS Lyme in a letter (12 July, 1718) to the Lords of Admiralty, as appeared in Moore, 1997.</p>
20.June 1718	<p>"Says, That about six Days after they left the Bar of Charles-Town, they arrived at Topsail Inlet in North Carolina, having then under their Command the said Ship Queen Anne's Revenge, the Sloop commanded by</p>	<p>". . . having then under their Command the said Ship Queen Anne's Revenge, the Sloop commanded by Richards [Revenge], this Deponent's Sloop[Adventure], commanded by one Cant Hands one of the</p>	<p>Deposition of David Herriot, 1719.</p>

	<p>Richards [Revenge], this Deponent's Sloop[Adventure], commanded by one Capt. Hands, one of the said Pirate Crew, and a small empty Sloop which they found near the Havana. . . . That the next Morning after they had all got safe into Topsail-Inlet, except Thatch, the said Thatch's Ship Queen Anne's Revenge run a-ground off of the Bar of Topsail-Inlet, and the said Thatch sent his Quarter-Master to command this Deponent's Sloop [Adventure] to come to his Assistance; but She run a-ground likewise about Gun-Shot from the said Thatch, before his said Sloop could come to their Assistance, and both the said Thatch's Ship and this Deponent's Sloop were wreck'd; and the said Thatch and all the other Sloop's Companies went on board the Revenge, afterwards called the Royal James, and on board the other Sloop they found empty off the Havana . . ."</p>	<p>said Pirate Crew, and a small empty Sloop which they found near the Havana . . ."</p>	

REFERENCES

BLN - Boston Newsletter, 1704 - 1726, Boston, Massachusetts.

CSPCS - Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, America and the West Indies, Preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Cecil Headlam. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd., 1930-1933

Herriot, David, 1719, The Information of David Herriot and Ignatius Pell contained the Appendix to: The Tryals of Major Stede Bonnet, and Other Pirates. London, Printed for Benj. Cowse at the Rose and Crown in St Paul's Church-Yard.

Johnson, Charles, 1998, A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates. [Originally published in 1724] The Lyon Pess, New York.

Lee, Robert E., 1995, Blackbeard the Pirate: A Reappraisal of His Life and Times, Winston-Salem, John F. Blair Publishing Co., 264 p.

Moore, David D., 1997, A General History of Blackbeard the Pirate, the Queen Anne's Revenge and the Adventure, Tributaries, v. 7, p. 31-35.

** Compiled by Richard W. Lawrence*