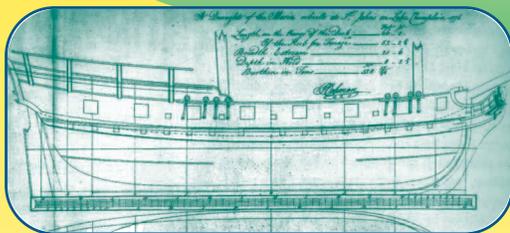


Hauling a Ship Over the Mountains of New England



Battle of Valcour Island, 11 October 1776

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, General Carleton of the British military needed ships to fight the American gunboats on Lake Champlain. British soldiers in Canada dismantled HMS *Inflexible* and two smaller ships *Maria* and *Carleton* and carried them in sections through the forests. It took the British months to build and transport the ships, but just 28 days to reassemble them. Carleton and his soldiers launched the ships on the shore of Lake Champlain just in time to fight the battle of Valcour Island against a small fleet of American gunboats in October 1776. This was the first time that American forces fought a British fleet.



The schooner *Maria* was named after General Carleton's wife. The ship was 59 feet long and 20 feet wide.

The Map IS the Treasure

"Now when I was a little chap I had a passion for maps... At the time there were many blank spaces on the earth and when I saw one that looked particularly inviting on a map I would put my finger on it and say, 'When I grow up I will go there'."

Joseph Conrad *Heart of Darkness*

What if a map was worth more than any treasure it could lead to? Some very old maps have been sold at auction for millions of **AFI** dollars. Today, experts can offer map valuations on the Internet.

IS BLACKBEARD'S SKULL IN A MUSEUM?

Some people believe that a drinking mug locked in the vaults of a museum in Salem, Massachusetts is made from the skull of Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard the Pirate. Coated with silver and wrapped in mystery, the artifact was handed over to the Peabody Essex Museum by the family of the celebrated writer Edward R. Snow. Snow claimed the artifact rested on the mantle of an historic pub in Virginia after it was acquired from Alexander Spotswood, the governor of Virginia who ordered Blackbeard's capture in 1717. Snow took possession of the skull-mug while in Virginia, researching the story of Blackbeard for a book. His family donated it to the museum after the writer's death.



KIDS MAKING Sea History

- Soon after leading a famous mutiny against the captain of the *Bounty* in 1789, Fletcher Christian was blessed with a son born on Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. He couldn't think of a name for the baby, so Fletcher chose to call him Thursday October (I'll bet you can't guess the day and month that Thursday October Christian was born). Today, more than 200 years later, there are boys named Thursday October living on Pitcairn Island.
- Six-year-old Leif Eriksson lived on a farm in Greenland. His neighbor, Bjarni, came back from a voyage with a story about a strange land to the west. When he got a little older, Leif bought Bjarni's old boat and outfitted it to sail west to America where he established a colony, traded with the natives and explored parts of the East Coast—498 years before Columbus.
- Some kids living around New York have a famous ancestor—Captain Kidd. After their father buried treasure on an island near New York, he was hanged for piracy. His daughters moved to New Jersey where the girls grew up, got married and had kids of their own. There are more than 500 descendants of Captain Kidd now living in the New York area.

If you have questions about anything you've read in *Sea History for Kids* or questions about our education programs, visit www.seahistory.org or write David Allen, Director of Education david@seahistory.org.