

Pirates

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This report comes from Anna Lane of Scranton Pennsylvania and is about her grandfather George Lane. He was a bricklayer contracted for roads in and around Washington, Pennsylvania area. Anna said George was born in Europe about 1866. She was not sure of this date or what country he was from. All she knew were the stories she grew up hearing about the Stavrosian people and her bloodline connection.

Around 1890 George became a merchant seaman. He traveled around the world spending many years in the south seas. Anna tells the story about George's encounter with south seas pirates.

On a rainy night off the east coast of Australia pirates attacked his ship. George was awakened with the sound of pirates boarding and fighting the crew. He could hear the crack of gunfire, men screaming, and someone yelling for all hands. George made his way to the upper deck. From the upper deck, he watched an all-out bloodbath battle seeing cutlass and pistols. Both crewmen and pirates were fighting for their very lives.

The gun crew on the ship were able to load, aim, and fire on the pirates' ship at such close range that the ship blew in half. It sank so fast the pirates on board didn't have time to jump off. What pirates were still on George's ship fought on for another hour. It became clear that the pirates' battle to take the ship was now futile. As if on cue, the men all stopped fighting. The ship Captain told the crew to collect pirate weapons.

Anna said that George told her his ship had lost too many men. It would be difficult to run the ship with so few men left. Reluctantly, the ship captain asked the remaining pirates for their cooperation. If they agreed to fill in as seaman on board for the rest of the voyage, they would all be released once in port. If any man wanted to stay on as part of the crew after being released the captain would sign them on.

At the end of their voyage nine of the pirates did sign on as full-time crew. George told Anna that the pirates made very good seaman.

Report sent in by Anna Lane
Scranton Pennsylvania
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S.G.L. Librarian : S. Watson