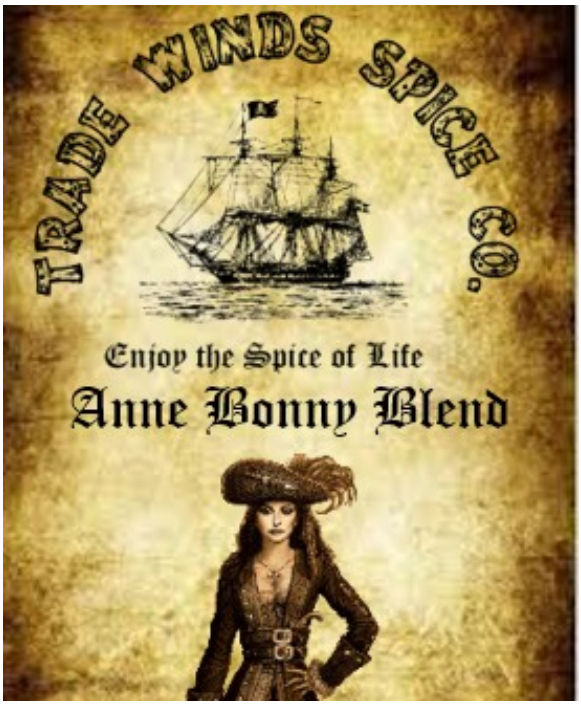
THE TRADE WINDS CHRONICLES

ANNE BONNY

Pirate - Rebel - Woman of the Sea

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c. 1698 - Fate Unknown

"Some lives are recorded in history. Others become legend."

Volume I - Stories from the Age of Sail

I. From Ireland to the Atlantic World

The beginnings of a legend

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Anne Bonny emerges from the historical fog at the turn of the eighteenth century. The National Park Service places her birth in Ireland in the late 1600s. The familiar story of her childhood - that she was the daughter of an attorney, William Cormac, and his servant, Mary Brennan - comes largely from the 1724 book A General History of the Pyrates, one of the earliest narratives to describe her life.

According to that early account, Anne's family crossed the Atlantic and settled in Charles Town in the Province of Carolina, the settlement we know today as Charleston, South Carolina. The details of this period are difficult to verify independently, and that distinction matters: Anne Bonny's story is a mixture of documented piracy, early biography, and later legend.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The date "1698" is commonly given for Anne's birth, but it is not certain. For Trade Winds, "c. 1698" is the historically safer form.

The early biographies describe Anne as strong-willed and defiant. Some of the most dramatic tales about her youth are colorful but cannot be treated with the same confidence as the surviving evidence of her later piracy.

She married a sailor named James Bonny. By the late 1710s, Anne and James were associated with New Providence in the Bahamas, where Nassau had become one of the great gathering places of the Golden Age of Piracy.

THE ROUTE

IRELAND -> CHARLES TOWN -> NASSAU -> THE CARIBBEAN -> JAMAICA -> ?

II. Nassau and Calico Jack

Into the Golden Age of Piracy

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At the height of Atlantic piracy, valuable cargo moved constantly between Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the American colonies. The Smithsonian notes that around 1720 roughly two thousand pirates were attacking ships and threatening Atlantic trade. Nassau stood near the center of this dangerous maritime world.

It was there that Anne became associated with John "Calico Jack" Rackham. She ultimately joined Rackham's pirate company. Another woman aboard was Mary Read - and together Bonny and Read became two of the most famous women associated with the Golden Age of Piracy.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History describes both women as active members of Rackham's company who fought beside their shipmates. Their presence was exceptional in an age when female pirates were rare.

DOCUMENTED

Anne Bonny and Mary Read sailed with Calico Jack Rackham and were captured with his company in 1720. Their prosecution in Jamaica places them firmly in the historical record.

The popular image of Anne - armed, dressed for battle, and standing defiantly on deck - owes much to the engravings and stories that followed. A 1724 engraving by Benjamin Cole, published in A General History of the Pyrates, helped establish the visual legend that has endured for three centuries.

What makes Anne compelling is that the legend has a real historical core. She was not merely a fictional "pirate queen." She was prosecuted by colonial authorities for piracy at a moment when the Caribbean sea lanes were among the most contested commercial waters in the Atlantic world.

III. Capture, Trial & the Gallows

Jamaica, 1720

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Rackham's career ended in 1720 when his company was captured near Jamaica. Rackham and members of his crew were tried and condemned. Anne Bonny and Mary Read were also brought before the authorities and convicted of piracy.

The surviving tradition surrounding the capture is dramatic: Bonny and Read are said to have continued resisting while other members of the crew failed to fight. Some of those details come from early narrative sources and should be treated cautiously. What is not in doubt is that both women were convicted.

NOVEMBER 28, 1720

A period engraving identifies Anne Bonny and Mary Read as having been convicted of piracy on November 28, 1720, at the Court of Vice Admiralty at St. Jago de la Vega, Jamaica.

Both women then made a plea recognized under English law: they were pregnant. Their executions were therefore postponed. The episode became famous as "pleading the belly." Mary Read later died in prison.

Anne's story takes its most intriguing turn here. The National Park Service states that after the stay of execution, the reliable trail ends. Accounts disagree about whether she was eventually executed, released, or returned to the Carolinas.

WHY TRADE WINDS USES FATE UNKNOWN

The often-repeated death date of 1782 is not securely established. "c. 1698 - Fate Unknown" respects the surviving evidence and makes the mystery part of the story.

IV. Where History Becomes Legend

The mystery that made Anne Bonny immortal

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The disappearance of Anne Bonny from the record has done almost as much for her legend as her brief career at sea. Unlike Calico Jack, whose execution supplied a definite ending, Anne slips beyond the edge of the chart.

Later generations filled that empty space with stories. Some traditions sent her back to Charleston. Others gave her a husband, children, and a long life. Still others assumed that her postponed sentence was eventually carried out. None of those endings has the same documentary certainty as her 1720 conviction.

That uncertainty is why Anne Bonny remains so compelling. She belongs to two worlds at once: the historical Atlantic world of colonial courts, sailing vessels, and piracy - and the larger world of legend.

TRADE WINDS HISTORICAL STANDARD

DOCUMENTED - supported by institutional or period evidence. | TRADITION - reported in early accounts but uncertain. | LEGEND - memorable stories that cannot presently be verified.

The earliest famous biography of Anne appeared in A General History of the Pyrates in 1724, only a few years after her trial. It remains essential, but historians use it carefully because it blends reportage, biography, and dramatic storytelling.

For that reason, the Trade Winds Chronicles preserves the romance of the Age of Sail without presenting every colorful tale as established fact.

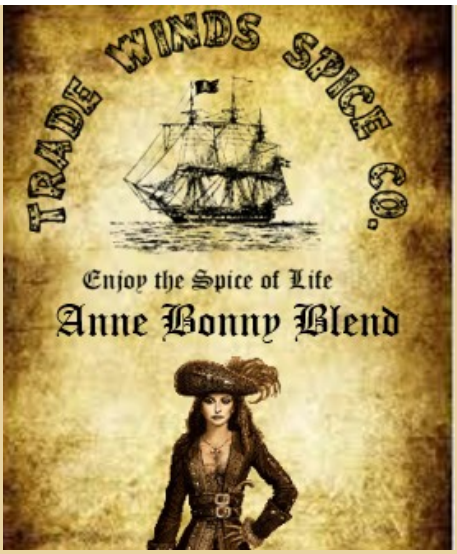
THE WOMAN DISAPPEARED.

THE LEGEND SURVIVED.

V. Anne Bonny Blend

A flavor inspired by a life that refused to be ordinary

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ANNE BONNY BLEND

c. 1698 - Fate Unknown

A fiery tribute to one of the most mysterious women ever to sail the Caribbean.

Bold. Independent. Unforgettable.

Trade Winds Spice Co. created Anne Bonny Blend in the spirit of the old trade routes - a world where spices, ships, ports, fortunes, and legends crossed the same seas. The name honors not piracy itself, but the enduring story of a woman whose short appearance in the historical record became larger than life.

Anne Bonny disappeared from history.
Her fire didn't.

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ENJOY THE SPICE OF LIFE

Historical Sources & Notes

Selected references for The Trade Winds Chronicles - Volume I

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1. U.S. National Park Service - Anne Bonny, Pirate
https://www.nps.gov/people/anne-bonny-pirate.htm
Institutional overview of Bonny's Irish origins, Carolina tradition, Nassau period, capture, pregnancy plea, and uncertain fate.

2. Smithsonian National Museum of American History - Female Pirates
https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/on-the-water/online/living-atlantic-world/pirates/female-pirates
Overview of Anne Bonny and Mary Read as members of Calico Jack Rackham's company.

3. Smithsonian Libraries and Archives - A General History of the Pyrates (1724)
https://library.si.edu/image-gallery/109024
Digitized material from the 1724 work that helped preserve the early biographies of Anne Bonny and Mary Read.

4. New York Public Library Digital Collections - Ann Bonny and Mary Read convicted of Piracy Novr. 28th 1720
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/8ae4f418-cab6-888e-e040-e00a18064518
Public-domain 1724 engraving by Benjamin Cole associated with the second edition of A General History of the Pyrates.

5. Smithsonian - Pirates in the Atlantic World
https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/on-the-water/online/living-atlantic-world/pirates
Historical context for piracy and Atlantic commerce around 1720.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Trade Winds Chronicles distinguishes established history from uncertain tradition. Dates and biographical details may be revised if stronger primary evidence emerges.

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