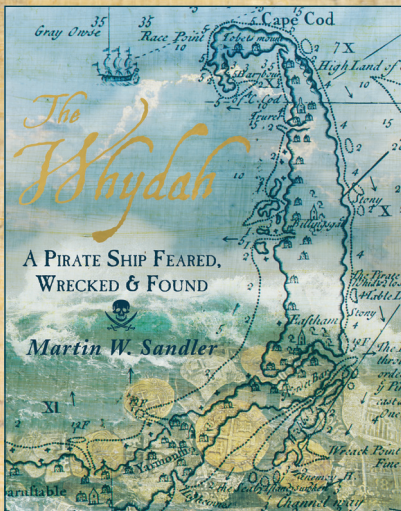


The Whydah

A PIRATE SHIP FEARED,
WRECKED & FOUND



Martin W. Sandler



1. What realities of life onboard a pirate ship surprised you the most? Did anything you learned in the book shock you?
2. Compare the life of a pirate as described in *The Whydah* to pirates in movies, television shows, or fiction books. What are the most obvious differences between fictional pirates and what we know to be historically true?
3. If Maria Hallett really did exist and had a relationship with Sam Bellamy, how does that change the historical perception of Black Sam? How does the story of him as a young man in love change your perception of him?
4. How did the pirates' Articles of Agreement both contradict and enforce the public view of pirates? What do the Articles reveal about law and justice even in an industry as disreputable as piracy?
5. Did any of the Articles of Agreement surprise or amuse you? If you lived under them, how would you feel about each of them?
6. What do you think of the Cape Codders' attitudes toward shipwrecks?
7. Was any one person or circumstance—the storm, Sam Bellamy, the captain who lied about knowing the coast, Montgomery—to blame for the wreck of the *Whydah*?
8. What traits would you consider necessary in treasure seekers and marine archaeologists hoping to uncover long-lost wrecks and artifacts?
9. Imagine tracking the news of Barry Clifford's excavation as it unfolded. Would you have believed right away, as he did, that he'd found the spot where the *Whydah* was wrecked? If not, which discovery would have convinced you? The cannons? The gold and silver? Or would you have waited until the bell was uncovered to admit Clifford found what he'd been looking for?
10. Which uncovered artifact from the *Whydah* is most exciting to you? Why?

