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**Volume 1
Issue 5**

August & September 2018

An Insight into the St. John Family of Highlight



current topics >>>

Why a family newsletter

By Suzanne St. John

The St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales are *lost* in Modern History. The individuals of this family, their ancestors and descendants have been merged, confounded, and obliterated into non-existence by well-meaning researchers, heralds, and family before us. It is our responsibility and right to honor our ancestors based on the primary records that have been left for us. We owe it to them as genealogical preservationists to correct the historical record and the public's understanding.

For more information go to
www.stjohngenealogy.com
 or email stjohngenealogy@gmail.com



Sir Henry Morgan, Knight

The Most Famous Welsh Pirate Among Us...

by Suzanne St. John

Growing up, my understanding of pirates was Hollywood influenced - from *Goonies* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Then, of course, there was Long John Silver from *Treasure Island* and Captain Hook from *Peter Pan*. I never expected to find a pirate, Sir William St. John, Knight, in my own St. John family history. As I explored that, I found several more. More surprising was the discovery that Piracy and membership or collusion with one's government were often synonymous.

The most famous Welsh pirate according to the BBC – Wales History blog was [Sir Henry Morgan](#) who just happened to marry a St. John descendant, Mary Andrews. Mary Andrews was the daughter of James Andrews and Mary St. John. Mary St. John was the daughter of Christopher St. John (1547-1616) and Elizabeth Bawdrip. Mary St. John was the younger sister to Sir William St. John, Knight and Master Thomas St. John, et al. When Henry Morgan was about thirty years old he sailed off to the Caribbean and became known for being a bold and ruthless sailor. It is believed he was working under Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth as well as his own personal interests. In 1660, he switched his allegiance to Charles II and continued his piratical career. The Wales History blog

states, "Fighting against the Spaniards, he plundered the Mexican coast and the Caribbean islands on a regular basis. One of his most famous escapades involved him capturing, looting and putting to the sword the supposedly impregnable town of Camaguey on Cuba in 1667.

In 1671 he burned and sacked Panama, the richest of all Spanish colonies. Unfortunately, a treaty had recently been signed between Spain and Britain and Morgan was brought back to England in disgrace to answer for "his crimes."

Morgan was able to prove that he had no knowledge of the treaty and, instead of being punished, he was knighted and sent back to the Caribbean as Governor of Jamaica." (http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/waleshistory/2010/11/welsh_pirates.html)

In 1607, his uncle, Master Thomas St. John was taken captive by the Spanish off the coast of what is now Florida. Thomas was held captive for a year and while in captivity beaten and starved. Two other uncles Captain Nicholas St. John and Lt. Alexander St. John were killed by the inhabitants of St. Lucia Island. His notorious piracy was likely fueled by these events and ingrained as part of the upbringing of his younger generation.

There is a lot of confusion about Henry Morgan as a person. (a common issue with Welsh family history) Many people has written and speculated about details without verifying the primary evidence. A google search will offer many blog articles, a Wikipedia article, and book references that portray much of this speculation. His privateer activities representing the equivalent to the British Royal Navy, when it couldn't be present, and piracy activities seem to be uniformly summarized. Rather than repeat the details here, since I have not done my own thorough research, feel free to read up on him separately and with caution.

Henry Morgan died 25 August 1688. A state funeral was ordered. Morgan's body was laid at King's House for the public to pay respects. An amnesty was declared so that pirates and privateers could pay their respects without fear of arrest. He was buried at Palisadoes cemetery, Port Royal, followed by a 22-gun salute from the ships moored in the harbor. Morgan was a wealthy man when he died. He owned three plantations, had 129 slaves, and his personal wealth was valued at £5,263. In his will, signed 17 June 1688, he left his Jamaican property to his godsons Charles Byndloss and Henry Archibold, on condition they adopted the Morgan surname.

On 7 June 1692 an earthquake struck Port Royal. 33 acres of Port Royal sank into Kingston Harbour immediately after the main shock, including Morgan's grave. His body was never subsequently located.

In 2011 archaeologists from Texas State University reported that they had located Morgan's sunk flagship "Satisfaction". They also located the Spanish merchant ship "Encarnacion" that sunk off the coast of Panama during a storm in 1681.

Morgan, a patriot to his home country, finished his career as a knight and deputy-governor of Jamaica. And pirate or not, he was an important player in the Battle of the Empires. His exploits, unofficially sanctioned by British authorities, were influential in helping persuade Spain to limit activities in the South, leaving most of the Caribbean and North American, where Britain had established her first overseas colonies.

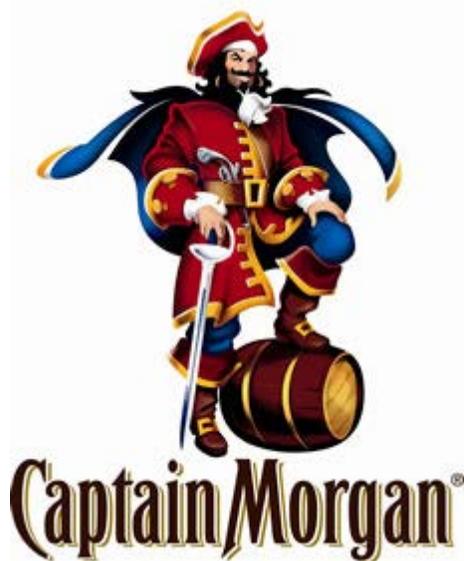
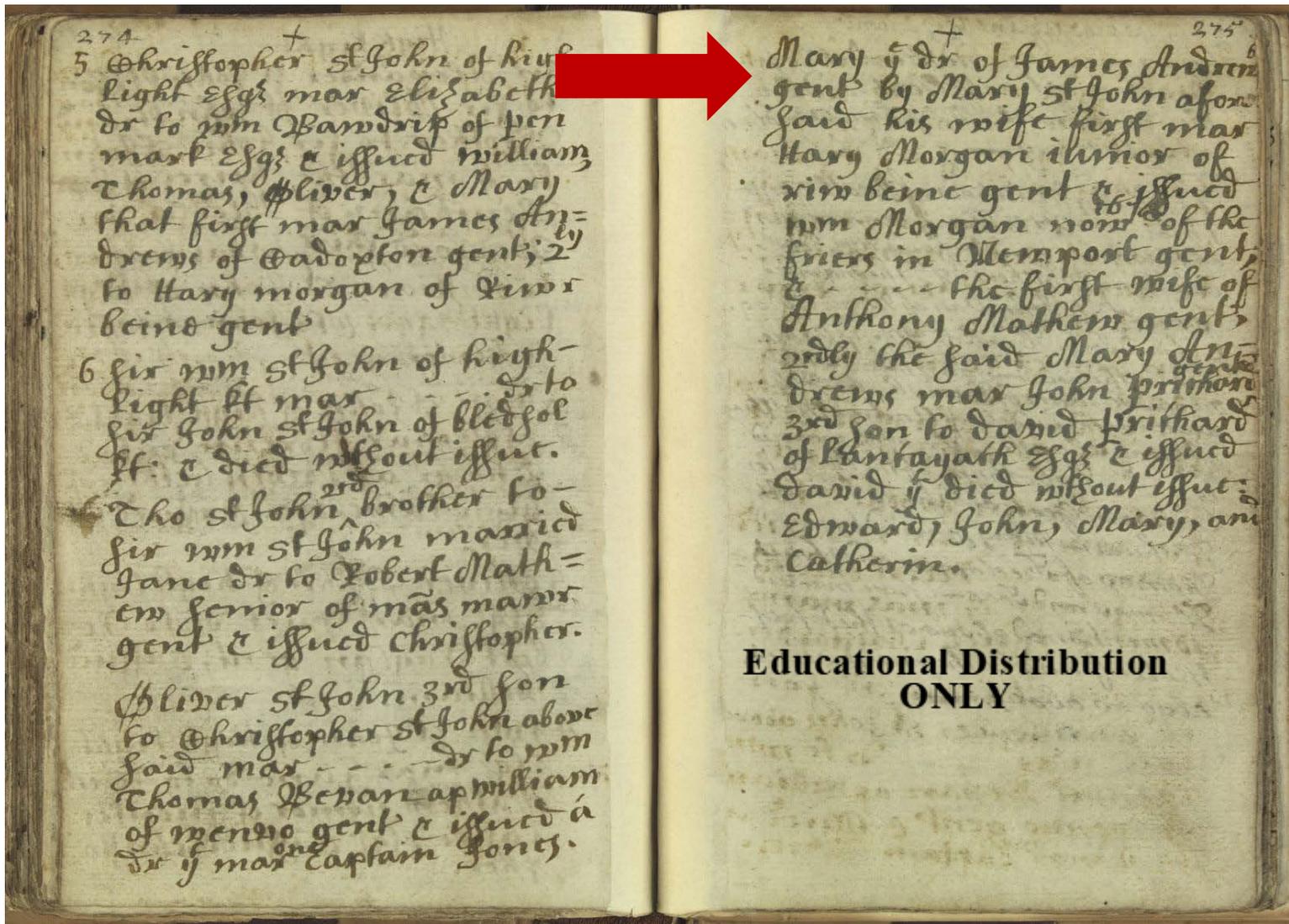


Figure 1 Morgan with a prisoner. "File:Pyle pirate prisoner.jpg." Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository. 11 May 2016, 02:10 UTC. 11 Sep 2018, 17:35
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Pyle_pirate_prisoner.jpg&oldid=195957564

Westminster, June 1. There having been lately Printed and Published two Books, one by *William Crook*, and the other by *Tho. Malibus*, both intituled, *The History of the Buccaneers*, both which Books contained many false Scandalous and Malitious reflections on the Life and Actions of Sir *Henry Morgan* of *Jamaica* Kt. The said Sir *Henry Morgan* hath by Judgment had in the Kings-Bench-Court, recovered against the said *Malibus* for Printing and Publishing of the said Libel 200 l Damages And on the humble Solicitation and request of *William Crook* hath been pleased to withdraw his Action against the said *Crook*, and accept of his Submission and Acknowledgment in Print.



Educational Distribution ONLY



WHAT'S YOUR PIRATE NAME?

LAST letter of FIRST name		FIRST letter of LAST name	
A Plunderin'	N Scurvylegs	A Buckets	N Landlubber
B Dirty	O Young	B Swashbuckler	O Anchor
C Buccaneer	P Admiral	C McGee	P Hook
D Peg Leg	Q Jim	D Longbeard	Q Flint
E Sharkbat	R Mad	E Sparrow	R Plunderfoot
F Mean	S Rusty	F Boots	S Crabcakes
G Salty	T Scallywag	G Cutlass	T Silver
H Black	U Patches	H Bones	U Spike
I Skipper	V Black	I Morgan	V McSwaggers
J Captain	W Skipper	J Buckets	W Barnacle
K Jolly	X Red	K Squidtips	X O'Fish
L Matey	Y Long John	L Fishface	Y Plank
M Dead Man	Z Cut-Throat	M Crossbones	Z Sea Legs

Brewers Fayre

Drinking Rum Before
10am Makes You A
Pirate!
Not An Alcoholic

Drink Up Me'arties YoHo!

Write for us >>>

Submitting articles for future publications

The articles will be sent in Word Format to:
stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

Focus

We seek articles on the St. John families that are direct ancestors or descendants of the St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales. This forum encourages descendants and avid researchers with any level of writing skill to participate. We can always find persons to help edit and improve submissions. The family tree at www.stjohngenealogy.com is the primary tree we use, update, and correct.

Writing Guidelines

- Microsoft Word, 12-point type
- Citations for each statement of fact that is not common knowledge. Each should be cited to one or more reliable sources; primary sources preferred.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit a description of your article in advance.
- Limit to 6000 words or less
- Consider including digital copies or scans of original documents
- Do not submit articles that have been published before
- Do not submit articles you are submitting elsewhere
- Include author's direct lineage up to Christopher St. John 1547-1616 of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales if known.
- A PDF digital copy of your article once published will be attached to your person record on our website

Types

- Immigrant origins with a genealogical summary.
- Problem solving articles with genealogical summary.
- Genealogical accounts of families, especially families for which no genealogy now exists.
- Source Material
- Current Events
- Common Bonds
- Brick walls
- Help requests
- DNA discoveries
- Phonetic variations
- Newly discovered branches
- Persons or Events of Interest
- Biographies



Primary records >>>

Primary Records and Documents for Genealogy

Primary source materials include such resources as vital records (birth, marriages, and death), abstracts of wills, court records, town records, city directories, church (parish) registers, census, newspapers, land deeds, military lists, passenger list, heraldry trees, Visitation reports, tax rolls, archeological reports, and family folklore.

Evaluate the Evidence

- How helpful is the evidence?
- How reliable is the evidence?
- Is it valid for meeting the research objective and does it produce some level of proof?
- Is it objective evidence
- Does it answer questions
- Does it stand on its own merit?
- Do others interpret it differently



Remember all records are not equal

St. John Genealogy & DNA

Social Media is a great way to connect with other St. Johns, share information, ask questions, and learn. In addition to this newsletter, we have a Facebook page and group!



www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy



Preserve your DNA for the future

We are looking for DNA test subjects with a documented and provable St. John lineage to participate in our ongoing Genealogical and DNA study. Collections kits obtain saliva for testing. They are non-invasive, painless and private.

Groups Insights

64 <small>+3.1K%</small> New Members Last 28 Days	590 <small>+37%</small> Posts, Comments and Reactions Last 28 Days	 Julie Kaufman, Jeff St John and others are top contributors.
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Events | Calendar | Settings | [+ Create Event](#)

September 2017

- St. John Family Reunion**
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 PM CDT
Jason J St. John and 74 other guests | You hosted.
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day 2017**
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 AM
1 guest | You hosted.

ask the experts >>>

Q: *Why hasn't Suzanne been helping me like before?*

A: *In addition to her original disability issues, Suzanne was injured in a car accident and has not been well enough to participate as often as her heart desires! Hopefully, a surgery or two will offer relief soon! Thanks for the prayers and understanding!*



Volunteer Job Role openings

- Writer:** A writer is someone who uses descriptive and engaging written language to create historical profiles and summaries of our St. John ancestors.
- Technical Author:** A writer that specializes in explaining genealogical and other technical processes in a simple, easy to understand, manner.
- Copy Editor:** makes sure that published or soon to be published works are free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Editorial Assistant:** helps with the general running of the newsletter, from administrative to editorial.
- Art Editor:** creates an overall look of the newsletter, making sure it's both attractive and easy to read.

If any of these VOLUNTEER job roles interest you, please submit a brief resume and portfolio sample to stjohngenealogy@gmail.com



printed copy...

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DNA isn't just for scientists

The St. John Genealogy & DNA project has been an ongoing DNA effort since 2002. Suzanne St. John became the volunteer administrator for the project in 2013.

In this role, she documented the lineages, where known, of each test subject. She has compared DNA results, compiled reports, and documented genetic family trees. Test subjects are identified by kit numbers not names.

FTDNA projects:

St. John Family DNA Project: 123 members.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/st-john/about/background>

Glamorgan Wales Cousin Project: 386 members.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/glamorgan-wales-cousins/about/background>

AncestryDNA share results with THEPOETZ

Contact us at stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

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Suzanne St. John
Family Researcher



coming soon >>>

In the Next Issues

- *Sir William St. John, Knight*
- *Tipperary, Ireland St. Johns*
- *The St. John Family Website*
- *Pedigree Reports*