

# The Renaissance Sailor – Class Notes

Tom Riggins (aka Captain Maclaren)

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Privateers of the Dauntless [www.dauntlessprivateers.org](http://www.dauntlessprivateers.org)

Captain@DauntlessPrivateers.org

The **Age of Sail** was the period in which international trade and naval warfare were dominated by sailing ships, lasting from the 16th to the mid 19th century. This is a significant period during which square-rigged sailing ships carried European settlers to many parts of the world in one of the most expansive human migrations in recorded history

**Captain Drake's circumnavigation** voyage provided an investment return that has been stated to be 4,600 percent (£47 for each £1 invested). On April 4, 1581, Queen Elizabeth had Drake knighted, on the occasion of a visit to the *Golden Hind*. He certainly deserved this honor. According to the economist J. M. Keynes, the English foreign debt was paid off from the Queen's share of the proceeds, and there was enough left over (£42,000) for her to capitalize a new venture, the Levant Company, a firm which played an important part in the development of British foreign trade.

## Prime Meridian

Pope Alexander VI, 1493, declared a line of demarcation between the areas of influence of Spain and Portugal, 100 leagues W of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands. After some portuguese protest this was shifted, in 1494, to 370 leagues W of the Cape Verde Islands. The line was used as the prime meridian of some maps of the period.

The Island of St Mary in the Azores was used to define the prime meridian by Christopher Saxton, 1584. St Michael's Island was used by John Davis, 1594; because he [mistakenly] thought there was no compass deviation at that place. The islands are the western edge of Europe; they are part of Portugal. The Azores centered about:- 28° W their western edge is about:- 31° W

The Greenwich Meridian was chosen for international use at the International Meridian Conference, Washington, United States, 1884.

## First Source Ships

[The Mary Rose](#) - English build in 1509, sunk in 1545 and recovered for research.

Prime earlier 1500's first source material.

[The Vasa](#) - A Swedish warship of 1628, she sank in the cold Baltic on her maiden voyage.

[The Alderny Elizabethan Wreck](#) – Elizabethan shipwreck dated about 1590

## These are links to other ship museums and replicas. Excellent creditable 2nd source information

[The Nina](#) - 1492 Replica of the Niña

[The Lady Washington](#) - A 1750 tea Brig replica ship. Our muse!

[The Duyfken](#) - 1606 replica of the Dutch VOC ship Duyfken (Little Dove)

[HMS Bounty](#) - built in 1960 for MGM studios' Mutiny on the Bounty

[HM Bark Endeavor](#) The replica of Captain James Cook's famous ship of discovery

[The Lynx](#) - An interpretation of an actual privateer named Lynx built by Thomas Kemp in 1812 in Fell's Point, Maryland

[The Golden Hind](#) - Replica ship and museum. 1577 ship used by Sir Francis Drake to circumnavigate the world

[The Half Moon](#) - A full-scale, operating replica of the Dutch ship of exploration that Henry Hudson sailed in 1609

## Renaissance History Time Line - with **Maritime Significance**

**Assembled By Captain Maclaren - Privateers of the Dauntless - updated 1/2/2009**

This time line is a compilation of several time lines for the 1500's to include England, Scotland and some outside influences such as Spain. I've also added several maritime significant items to provide the interlock with the general history time line. If you find errors, or have a significant item that should be added please drop me a note at [Captain@DauntlessPrivateers.org](mailto:Captain@DauntlessPrivateers.org)

1481			Pope Alexander VI grants King John II of Portugal a monopoly in the Ocean Sea towards the region south of the Canary Islands (East Indies Trade)
1492			The Americas discovered
1493			Pope Alexander VI grants Spain rights to trade and conquest across the ocean Sea beyond Meridian 100 leagues west of the Azores. (Americas)
1500			
1508			Sir Andrew Barton sent by the Government of Scotland to assist the King's relation, Hans of Denmark
1511			Andrew Barton sent to Copenhagen with his two ships the ' <i>Lion</i> ' and the ' <i>Jenny Pirwin</i> '.
1511	Aug	2	Admiral Sir Andrew Barton was killed in a fierce battle fought in The Downs, his ships were captured by Sir Edward Howard and they became the possessions of the English Navy
1519	Oct	20	Magellan leaves Spain on the first Round the World passage
1521	April	27	Magellan killed in Philippines
1527			Philip II of Spain Born
1529			Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain solves dispute over rights to Archipelagoes by selling claim to Portugal for 350,000 Ducats - Queen Elizabeth and King Francis of France take issue to the Pope dividing up the world.
1532			John Hawkins Born
1533	Sept	9	Queen Elizabeth I Born
1536			Anne Boleyn executed for treason - Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour
1537			Elizabeth declared a bastard
1537			Edward born to Henry VIII and Jane Seymour
1537			Jane Seymour dies Lady Jane Grey born
1539			Henry marries and separates from Anne of Cleves
1540			Henry marries Anne Boleyn's cousin Catherine Howard
1542			Catherine Howard executed
1542	Dec	12	Mary Queen of Scots is born
1543			Henry marries Catherine Parr
1545	July	7	The English ship "Mary Rose" Sunk
1547			Henry VIII dies; Edward VI crowned; Elizabeth lives with Catherine Parr
1548			Elizabeth leaves Catherine Parr's household under questionable circumstances because of rumors of an affair between Elizabeth and Thomas Seymour, Catherine's husband
1548			Catherine dies in childbirth
1548			Mary Queen of Scots moved to France and pledged in marriage to Francis, Dauphin of France
1549			Thomas Seymour tried and executed for treason
1551			Elizabeth returns to court in London
1552			Walter Raleigh Born
1553			Lady Jane Grey becomes Queen of England and is de-throned 9 days later
1554			Mary I married Philip II of Spain
1554	Feb	2	Lady Jane Grey is Beheaded
1554			Protestant rebellion and rumors of Elizabeth's involvement have her imprisoned in the Tower of London on false charges.
1555			Charles V, abdicates thrown to his son Philip II
1555			Mary I has 300 heretics burned at the stake. - Philip II leaves for Netherlands

1557			King Philip II of Spain declares bankruptcy
1557			King Philip II of Spain send his half sister Margaret of Parma to Netherlands as Regent.
1558			Mary I Queen of England Dies
1558	Nov	11	Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England
1558			<a href="#">Spain and England becoming staunch religious and political enemies, open conflict to inevitable</a>
1558	April		Mary Queen of Scots marries Francis, Dauphin of France
1559			King Henry II died and was succeeded by Francis II, Mary now Queen of France
1560	Dec	12	Mary Queen of Scots returns to Scotland
1560			King Francis II of France Dies
1563			<a href="#">Captain Hawkins arrives in Spanish Main to trade slaves, such trade is forbidden by Spanish Authorities.</a>
1564			Christopher Marlowe born
1564	Feb	15	Galileo Galilei born in Pisa, Italy
1564	April	26	William Shakespeare baptized in Stratford-on-Avon, England
1565			<a href="#">Hawkins return to Plymouth from 2nd voyage to Spanish main, Queen Elizabeth a major investor, the Spanish Ambassador lodging a formal complaint at court.</a>
1565			Mary Stuart marries Lord Darnley, strengthening her claim to the throne of England.
1567	Feb	2	Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley is killed
1568			Counts Egmont and Count Hoorne are beheaded as leaders of the Netherlands rebellion against Spain. Prince William of Orange escapes.
1568	Feb	2	Mary Queen of Scot marries Earl of Bothwell
1568			Mary Queen of Scot imprisoned in England
1570			Elizabeth declared a Heretic by the Pope, English subjects are given license and absolution in advance to take up arms against HRM
1572			<a href="#">Captain Drake seizure of Nombre de Dios</a>
1572			<a href="#">A fleet of 24 ships with letters of Marque from Prince William of Orange are denied supplies and driven from Dover by order of Queen Elizabeth.</a>
1572	April	1	<a href="#">Dutch fleet (above) takes town of Den Briel (Brill), other Dutch ports quickly fall to rebel fleet</a>
1573	Sept	28	Michelangelo Buonarroti born in Caprese, Italy
1573			King Philip II and the Pope sign a treaty to invade England and exterminate the Heretic Elizabeth
1574	Oct	3	<a href="#">After 9 month siege William of Orange cuts dykes allowing flotilla of armed barges to reach and take Leiden</a>
1575			King Philip II of Spain declares bankruptcy again
1577			<a href="#">Captain Drake begins the circumnavigation of the world</a>
1580			<a href="#">Captain Drake completes the circumnavigation of the world</a>
1575			King Philip II of Spain seizes crown of Portugal
1581			<a href="#">Captain Drake Knighted - now Sir Francis Drake</a>
1582			Shakespeare married
1585	Sept	9	<a href="#">War with Spain broke out</a>
1586			<a href="#">Sir Francis Drake attacks Cartagena</a>
1587	Feb	2	Mary Queen of Scot beheaded by Elizabeth
1587			<a href="#">Drake destroys Spanish fleet at Cadiz</a>
1587	Sept	9	<a href="#">King Philip II give final orders for the armada - invasion of England</a>
1587	Oct	10	<a href="#">Armada gathered in Lisbon Spain and due to sail</a>
1588	May	5	<a href="#">Armada finally set sail for England</a>
1588	June	6	<a href="#">Armada put in to La Coruna due to storms</a>
1588	July	7	<a href="#">Armada Set sail again - 138 ships 24,000 soldiers</a>

1588	Aug	8	English ships attack Spanish Grand Griffon
1588	Aug	8	Spanish armada ordered home and defeated
1588			John Hawkins Knighted
1589	April	4	England send 126 ships to attack Spain
1595	Nov	11	Sir John Hawkins killed
1595			Amsterdam "From Afar" company sends Merchant fleet to East Indies ( See info on Ship Duyfken)
1596			King Philip II of Spain declares bankruptcy yet again (3rd time)
1596			Shakespeare writes Romeo and Juliet
1598			Philip II of Spain Dies
1603	March	3	Queen Elizabeth I dies
1603			England makes peace with Spain
1603			James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England
1618			Sir Walter Raleigh Dies

[http://www.dauntlessprivateers.org/historical\\_links.htm](http://www.dauntlessprivateers.org/historical_links.htm)