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Historiography and Advanced Methods

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Lab Assignment: Slavevoyages.com

Sailor and Pirate Bartholomew Roberts

Bartholomew Roberts was born into a Welsh-Baptist family and would later become one of the most feared pirates of the seas.

Bartholomew Roberts, known to be a mate on the *Princess* or *Princess Gally* (as shown in the records), later became a navigator for Captain Plumb. The ship was a 140 Guineaman and sailed out of London heading towards Sierra Leone.

See map of voyage: <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/database/search.faces>

Voyage 76602, *Princess Gally* (1719)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ship, nation, owners** | **Voyage identification number** | 76602 |
| **Voyage in 1999 CD-ROM** | Yes |
| **Vessel name** | Princess Gally |
| **Flag** | Great Britain |
| **Place constructed** | London |
| **Year constructed** | 1715 |
| **Place registered** | London |
| **Year registered** | 1715 |
|
| **Tonnage** | 140 |
| **Standardized tonnage\*** | 254 |
| **Vessel owners** | Harris, Richard |
| **Voyage Outcome** | **Particular outcome of voyage** | Sold slaves in Americas - subsequent fate unknown |
| **Outcome of voyage for slaves\*** | Slaves disembarked in Americas |
| **Outcome of voyage if ship captured\*** | Not captured |
| **Outcome of voyage for owner\*** | Delivered slaves for original owners |
| **Voyage Itinerary** | **Place where voyage began\*** | London |
| **First place of slave purchase** | Sierra Leone estuary |
| **Principal place of slave purchase\*** | Sierra Leone estuary |
| **First place of slave landing** | Kingston |
| **Principal place of slave landing\*** | Kingston |
| **Region where voyage began\*** | England |
| **First region of slave purchase** | Sierra Leone |
| **Principal region of slave purchase\*** | Sierra Leone |
| **First region of slave landing** | Jamaica |
| **Principal region of slave landing\*** | Jamaica |
| **Voyage Dates** | **Year arrived with slaves\*** | 1719 |
| **Date voyage began** | 1718-12-23 |
| **Date vessel arrived with slaves** | 1719-12-09 |
| **Date vessel departed for home port** | 1720-04-06 |
| **Voyage length, home port to slaves landing (days)\*** | 351 |
| **Captain and Crew** | **Captain's name** | Plumb, Abraham |
|  | **Total slaves embarked\*** | 139 |
| **Number of slaves arriving at first place of landing** | 125 |
| **Total slaves disembarked\*** | 125 |

In 1719, two ships, the *Royal Rover* and the *Royal James* commanded by Captain Howell Davis, captured the *Princess*. Davis asked the crewmembers of the *Princess* if they wanted to join the pirates. Even though Roberts eventually became a pirate, initially he was hesitant to join Davis. The pirates boarded the ship due to amount of liquor aboard.

As a pirate known as “Black Bart”, Roberts became head of the ships and would terrorize the West Coast of Africa and America. He disliked the slave-trading industry and would capture all crewmen and captains who partook in the shipping of slaves.

Research about Bartholomew Roberts or “Black Bart” continues with the following secondary sources:

Conlin, Dan. (2009). *Pirates of the Atlantic: Robbery, murder and mayhem off the Canadian East Coast*. Formac, 2009.

Johnson, Charles (1724). *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates* (1998 ed.). Conway Maritime Press.

Rediker, Marcus. *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age*. Beacon Press, 2004.

Rediker, Marcus. *The Slave Ship: A Human History.*  Penguin, 2008.

Sanders, Richard. *If a Pirate I Must Be ... The True Story of "Black Bart," King of the Caribbean Pirates*. Aurum Press, Ltd, 2007.