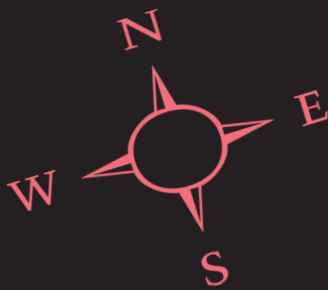


PIRATES, SHIPWRECKS & RUM



treacherous Shoals

The Graveyard of the Atlantic is a region of the ocean just offshore of the Outer Banks where some 3,000 shipwrecks decorate the depths from Kitty Hawk south to Ocracoke. This region of the North Carolina coast once claimed many ships and their crews, due to the treacherous shoals and underwater sandbars that never sat still for any map, and the powerful storms which still capture the attention of a nation. Today, you can view some of these wrecks from shore or by snorkeling, and the area is ripe for scuba diving. The span of craft range from the first colonial ships of the 1500's, to the Civil War and both World Wars, including the most German U-boats sunk off any state coast in America. Learn about them all at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras.



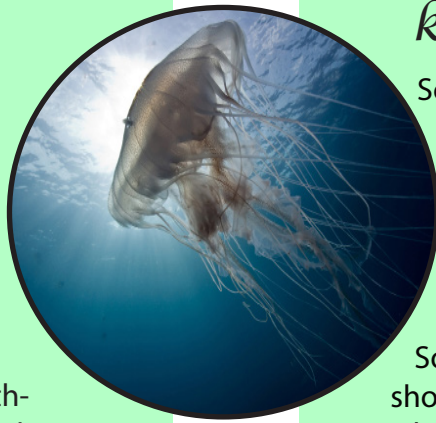
pirates, Runaways & Illegal Traders

In the late 17th-early 18th century the colony of North Carolina was considered a "place which receives pirates, runaways and illegal traders" (Hughson 51). It was generally a lawless colony, with barely any government. The officials that were active in North Carolina often collaborated and took bribes from the pirates.



pocahontas Wreck

Pocahontas shipwreck, sometimes referred to as the Richmond shipwreck, is located right off Sand Street in Salvo, NC. The ship was lost during the Burnside expedition just before the battle of Roanoke Island. The Pocahontas, a wooden paddle wheel steamer, was lost steering during a storm on January 28, 1862. Strong gales made boilers worthless causing a domino effect that ultimately caused it to run ashore. Steering gave way, smoke pipes blew, and after much struggle to save her, the ship sprang a leak that could not be repaired. No lives were lost while 90 of the 114 horses prepped for the 4th Road Island Infantry and 25th Massachusetts perished. Today, the ship remains can be seen 75 yards from shore and is easy to locate because of the paddle wheel shaft that sticks out the water.



kill Devil Rum

Some of the wreckage contained barrels of rum. The town of Kill Devil Hills is believed to have been named for either barrels of rum of the brand name Kill Devil or for a rum that was "strong enough to kill the devil."

Some believe the ships were lured close to shore on dark nights by a lantern hung from a horse's (or nag's) neck and walked along the dunes, causing the ships to wreck on the shallow shoals. This practice gives the adjacent town of Nags Head its name. The story continues with these plundered barrels of rum being hid behind the hill which is now the site of the Wright Brothers Monument. A rarer story talks of the silhouettes of foxes at sunset on the same hill giving the appearance of devil horns, and leading to the name Kill Devil Hill.



Triangle Wrecks located at MP 7 in Kill Devil Hills marks the spot where Carl Gerhard and the Kyzickes ran ashore in the same location, but years apart. December of 1927 marks the first wreck of the Kyzickes, a tanker. Carl Gerhard, a freighter carrying plasterboard, followed two years in 1929 during a torrential storm, cutting the previously wrecked Kyzickes in half, thus the name "Traingle Wrecks".

"The observer at Kitty Hawk reports the United States steamer HURON struck two miles north of No. 7 station. At 1:30 A.M., the foremast and mainmast were gone. The steamer will be a perfect wreck." Today, local divers revere this spot as one of the best shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic that can be accessed from the beach.