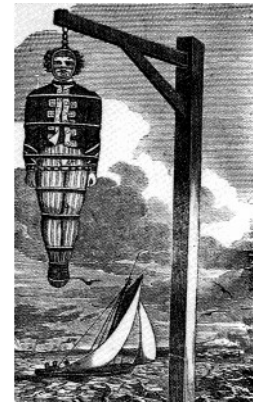


# Salcombe and Hope Cove: Notorious Hotbeds of Piracy and Smuggling



1581 AD

*'A pirate of the sea was hanged in chains upon Stert (Start Point) on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 1581. His name was Henry Muge'.*

1607

*'The inhabitants of Salcombe are sorely oppressed by pirates who come into the town in great numbers, 200 armed men at one time and threaten to burn the town. They steal sheep and other commodities and take from poor fishermen their boats. Moreover, they murder each other and bury them in the sands by night.'*

1615

*'The Dartmouth fishing fleets carrying salt fish to the Mediterranean, or oil and wine back to England are at risk of being attacked by English pirates based in Torbay or Salcombe when they reach home'. (The Mayor of Dartmouth)*

1627

*Sir William Courtenay's mansion at Ilton, near Salcombe, has been robbed by pirates who came up the river from Salcombe in boats and carried away his plate and household goods.*

1636

*Three barks (ships) of Salcombe, the Swan, the Rose Mary and the Catherine laden with coal from Wales, have been chased around Land's End by Barbary pirates (from North Africa). Two of the barks were forced to run on shore, where they have broken up.*

1765

*The Prince of Wales excise cutter has captured a sloop lying at anchor in Salcombe River. She was laden with bricks under which were stowed upwards of thirty half ankers (five gallon tubs) of brandy.*

1783

*Richard Valentine, the Customs Officer at Salcombe, requests the assistance of troopers based in Kingsbridge to deal with the armed horseman that prevent him making seizures.*

1785

*The Customs Officer at Bantham, Richard Cullin has been murdered by smugglers at Hope Cove, who threw him over a cliff.*

1788

*Two Customs men, Philip Cuming and Philip Cove have been savagely assaulted by smugglers at Hope Cove.*

1799

*Fourteen smugglers, who fired into the Customs boat off Salcombe, have been captured and will be taken for trial in London.*

1819

*'The fishermen at Salcombe are too fond of contraband communications with Brittany, and prefer visits to Roscoff to the toil of fishing.'*

1821

*A boat from Roscoff has been captured by the Hope Cove Coastguard and four local men have been sent to Exeter gaol.*

1823

*Eighteen fishermen's wives from Hope, caught carrying smuggled goods by donkey to Churchstow have been sent to Exeter gaol for 'insulting' the coastguard.*

1837

*The Thomas and Susannah, a trawler laden with 214 tubs of spirits, has been taken by the Coastguard in Salcombe harbour.*

1849

*Richard Pepperell of Salcombe, 'the most daring and notorious smuggler in the West of England' has been sent to Exeter Gaol, having been caught for the fifth time smuggling tobacco.*