

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01148-8 - The Hawkins' Voyages During the Reigns of Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth, and James I

Edited by Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

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THE VOYAGE
OF
WILLIAM HAWKINS
(1530),
AND THE
THREE VOYAGES
OF HIS SON
SIR JOHN HAWKINS
(1562-1568).

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A Voyage to Brasill, made by the worshipfull
M. William Haukins of Plimmouth, father to
 sir Iohn Haukins, Knight, now liuing, in the yeere
 1530.

OLDE M. William Haukins of Plimmouth, a man for his wisdome, valure, experience, and skill in sea causes much esteemed, and beloued of King Henry the eight, and being one of the principall Sea Captaines in the West partes of England in his time, not contented with the short voyages commonly then made onely to the knowen coastes of Europe, armed out a tall and goodlie ship of his owne, of the burthen of 250. tunnes, called the Pole of Plimmouth wherewith he made three long and famous voyages vnto the coast of Brasill, a thing in those days very rare, especially to our Nation. In the course of which voyages he touched at the Rieur of Sestos,¹ vpon the coast of Guinea, where he trafiqued with the Negroes, and tooke of them Oliphants' teeth, and other commodities which that place yeeldeth: and so arriuing on the coast of Brasil, used there such discretion, and behaued himselfe so wisely with those sauage people, that he grew into great familiarite and friendship with them. Insomuch that in his 2. voyage, one of the sauage kings of the Countrey of Brasill was contented to take ship with him, and to be transported hither into England: whereunto M. Haukins agreed, leauing behinde in the countrey as a pledge for his safetie and returne againe, one Martin Cockeram of Plimmouth. This Brasilian king

¹ Rio Cestos, in 5° 30' N., on the Grain Coast of Guinea.

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4 VOYAGE TO BRAZIL MADE BY WILLIAM HAWKINS.

being arrined, was brought up to London, and presented to King Henry 8. lying as then at Whitehall: at the sight of whome, the king and all the Nobilitie did not a little marueile, and not without cause: for in his cheekes were holes made accordinge to their sauage manner, and therein small bones were planted, standing an inche out from the said holes, which in his own Countrey was reputed for a great brauerie. He had also another hole in his nether lippe, wherein was set a precious stone about the bignesse of a pease: all his apparell, behauiour, and gesture, were very strange to the beholders.

Hauing remained here the space almost of a whole yere, and the king with his sight fully satisfied, M. Haukins, according to his promise and appointment, purposed to conuey him againe into his Countrey: but it fell out in the way, that by change of ayre and alteration of diet, the saide Sauage king died at sea, which was feared woulde turn to the loss of the life of Martin Cockeram, his pledge. Neuerthesse, the Sauages being fully perswaded of the honest dealing of our men with their Prince, restored againe the said pledge, without any harm to him, or any other man of the companie: which pledge of theirs they brought home againe into England, with their shippe freighted, and furnished with the commodities of the Countrey. Which Martine Cockeram, by the witnessse of sir Iohn Haukins, being an officer in the towne of Plimmouth, was liuing within these fewe yeeres.

I have bene informed by M. Anthony Garrard, an ancient and worshipful marchant of London, that this voyage to Brasil was frequented by Robert Reniger, Thomas Borey, and diuers other wealthie marchants of Southampton, about 50 yeeres past, to wit, in the yeere 1540.

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The First Voyage of the right worshipfull and valiant
knight, sir Iohn Haukins, now treasurer of
 her Maiesties nauie Royall, made to the West
 Indies 1562.

MASTER Iohn Haukins hauing made diuers voyages to the yles of the Canaries, and there by his good and vpright dealing being growne in loue and fauour with the people, informed himself amongst them by diligent inquisition, of the state of the West India, whereof he had receiued some knowledge by the instructions of his father, but increased the same by the aduertisements and reports of that people. And being amongst other particulars assured that Negroes were very good marchandise in Hispaniola, and that store of Negroes might easily be had upon the coast of Guinea, resolued with himselfe to make trial thereof, and communicated that deuise with his worshipfull friends of London : namely, with sir Lionel Ducket,¹ sir Thomas Lodge,² M. Gunston,³ his father-in-lawe, Sir William Winter, M. Bronfield, and others. All which persons liked so well of his intention, that they became liberall contributors and adventurers in the action. For which purpose there were 3. good shippes immediately provided. The one called the Salomon of the burthen of 120. tunne, wherein M. Haukins himselfe went as Generall; the 2. the Swallow, of 100 tunnes,

¹ Lord Mayor of London in 1573. Sir Lionel was an Adventurer in Frobisher's three Arctic voyages.

² Sir Thomas Lodge, son of William Lodge of Cresset, in Shropshire, was a Governor of the Russia Company in 1561; Lord Mayor in 1563. He was of the Grocers' Company.

³ Benjamin Gonson, Treasurer of the Admiralty, 1553-70.

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wherein went for Captaine M. Thomas Hampton: And the 3. the Ionas, a barke of 40. tunnes, wherein the Master supplied the Captaine's roome: in which small fleete, M. Haukins tooke with him not aboue 100. men, for feare of sickenesse, and other inconueniences, whereunto men in long voyages are commonly subiect.

With this company hee put off and departed from the coast of England in the moneth of October 1562, and in his course touched first at Teneriffe, where he receiued friendly intertainment. From thence hee passed to Sierra Leona,¹ upon the coast of Guinea, which place by the people of the country is called Tagarin, where he stayed some good time, and got into his possession, partly by the sword, and partly by other meanes, to the number of 300. negroes at the least, besides other marchandises, which that Country yeeldeth. With this praye he sailed ouer the Ocean sea vnto the Island of Hispaniola, and arriued first at the port of Isabella: and there hee had reasonable utterance of his English commodities, as also of some part of his Negroes, trusting the Spaniards no further, then that by his owne strength he was able still to master them. From the port of Isabella he went to Porte de Plata, where he made like sales, standing always vpon his gard: from thence also hee sailed to Monte Christi,² another port on the north side of Hispaniola, and the last place of his touching, where he had peaceable trafique, and made vent of the whole number of his Negroes: for which he received in those 3. places by way of exchange, such quantitie of merchandise, that he did not onely lade his owne 3. shippes with hides, ginger, sugers, and some quantitie of pearles, but he freighted also two

¹ Discovered by Pedro de Cintra in 1462, who named the mountain "Sierra Leona" on account of the roaring of the thunder, which is constantly heard on its cloud-enveloped summit.

² Isabella, Port Plata, and Monte Christi, were all ports on the north shore of Hispaniola or St. Domingo.

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SIR JOHN HAWKINS.

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other hulkes with hides, and other like commodities, which he sent into Spaine.¹ And thus leauing the Island, hee returned and disimboked, passing out by the Islands of the Caycos,² without further entring into the bay of Mexico, in this his first voyage to the West India. And so with prosperous succeſſe and much gaine to himſelfe, and the aforeſaide adventurers, he came home, and arriued in the moneth of September 1563.

¹ He ſent his ſecond in command, Captain Hampton, to Cadiz to diſpoſe of this merchandiſe; but the cargo was confiscated, and Hawkins thus loſt half his profits. An order was alſo ſent to the Indies that no Engliſh veſſel ſhould be allowed to trade there.

² The Caicos Bank, north of St. Domingo.

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The voyage made by the worshipful M. Iohn Haukins,
Esquire, now Knight, Captaine of the Iesus of Lubek,
 one of her Maiesties shippes, and Generall of the Salomon, and
 her two barkes going in his companie to the coast of
 Guinea, and the Indies of Noua Spania, being in
 Affrica, and America: begun in An. Dom. 1564.

October 18. MASTER Iohn Haukins with the Iesus of Lubek, a shippe of 700. and the Salomon, a ship of 7. score, the Tiger, a bark of 50. and the Swallow of 30. tunnes, being all well furnished with men to the nomber of one hundreth, threescore and tenne, as also with ordinance, and victuall requisite for such a voyage, departed out of Plimmouth the 18. day of October, in the yere of our Lord 1564, with a prosperous winde; at which departing, in cutting the foresaile, a marueilous misfortune happened to one of the officers in the shippe, who by the pullie of the sheat was slaine out of hande, being a sorrowfull beginning to them all. And after their setting out tenne leagues to the sea, he met the same day with the Minion, a ship of the Queenes Maiesties, whereof was Captaine Daud Carlet, and also her consort, the Iohn Baptist of London, being bounde to Guinea also, who hailed one the other after the custome of the Sea, with certaine pieces of ordinance for ioy of their meeting; which done, the Minion departed from him to seeke her other consort, the Merline of London, which was a starne out of sight, leauing in M. Haukins companie the Iohn Baptist, her other consort.

The Minion,
 the John
 Baptist, and
 the Merline,
 bound for
 Guinea.

Thus sayling forwards on their way with a prosperous winde until the 21. of the same moneth, at that time a great storme arose, the winde being at Northeast about 9. a clocke

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in the night, and continued so 23. houres together, in which storme M. Haukins lost the companie of the Iohn Baptist aforesaid, and of his pinnesse called the Swallow, his other 2. shippes being sore beaten with the storme. The 23. day the Swallow, to his no small reioicing, came to him againe in the night, 10. leagues to the Northward of Cape Finister, he having put roomer not being able to double the Cape, in that there rose a contrary winde at Southwest. The 25. the wind continuing contrary, he put into a place in Gallicia, called Ferroll, where hee remained five dayes, and appointed all the Masters of his shippes an order for the keeping of good companie in this manner: the small shippes to be alwayes a head and a weather of the Iesus, and to speake t̄wise a day with the Iesus at least: if in the day the Ensigne bee ouer the poepe of the Iesus, or in the night two lightes, then shall all the shippes speake with her. If there be three lights aboard the Iesus, then doeth she cast about: If the weather be extreme, that the small shippes cannot keep companie with the Iesus, then all to keep companie with the Salomon, and foorthwith to repaire to the Island of Teneriffe, to the Northward of the road of Sirroes: If any happen to any misfortune, then to shewe two lights, and to shoote off a piece of Ordinance. If any loose companie, and come in sight againe, to make three yawes, and strike the Myson¹ three times: Serue God dayly, loue one another, preserve your victuals, beware of fire, and keepe good companie.

The 26. day the Minion came in also where he was for the reioicing whereof hee gave them certaine pieces of Ordinance, after the courtesie of the Sea, for their welcome, but the Minion's men had no mirthe, because of their consort, the Merline, whome, at their departure from M. Haukins vpon the coast of England, they went to seeke: and having mette with her, kept companie two dayes together, and at

¹ Mizen.

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last by misfortune of fire (through the negligence of one of their gunners) the powder in the gunners' roome was set on fire, which with the first blast stooke out her poope, and therewithall lost three men, besides many sore burned (which escaped by the Brigandine being at her sterne), and immediately, to the great losse of the owners, and most horrible sight to the beholders, she sanke before their eyes.

The 30¹ day of the Moneth M. Haukins with his consorts and companie of the Minion, hauing nowe both the Brigandines at her sterne, wayed ancre, and set saile on their voyage, hauing a prosperous winde thereunto.

The fourth of Nouember they had sight of the Islande of Madera, and the sixt day of Teneriffe, which they thought to haue bene the Canaries, in that they supposed themselves to haue bene to the Eastward of Teneriffe, and were not : but the Mynion being a three or foure leagues ahead of vs, kept on her course to Teneriffe, hauing better sight thereof than the others had, and by that meanes they parted companie. For Master Haukins and his companie went more to the West, vpon which course, having sailed awhile, he espied another Island, which he thought to be Teneriffe, and being not able, by the meanes of the fogge upon the hils, to discerne the same, nor yet to fetch it by night, went roomer, untill the morning, being the 7. of Nouember, which as yet he could not discerne, but sailed along the coast, the space of two howres, to perceauie some certaine marke of Teneriffe, and found no likelihood thereof at all, accompting that to be, as it was in deede, the Isle of Palmes :² and so sailing forwards, espied another Island, called Gomera,³ and also Teneriffe, with the which he made, and sailing all night, came in the morning the next day to

The Isle of
Palmes.
Gomera and
Teneriffe.

¹ 20th in edition of 1810.

² Palma, the north-westernmost of the Canaries.

³ Gomera, south-east from Palma, the island from which Columbus sailed.

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the port of Adecia,¹ where he found his pinnesse which had departed from him the sixt of the moneth, being in the weather of him, and espying the pike of Teneriffe all a high, bare thither. At his arriual, somewhat before he came to anker, he hoysed out his shippe's pinnesse rowing a shoare, intending to haue sent one with a letter to Peter de ponte, one of the Gouvernours of the Island, who dwelled a league from the shoare: but as he pretended to haue landed, suddenly there appeared vpon the two pointes of the roade men leuelling of basses and harquebusses to them, with diuers others to the number of 80. with halberts, pykes, swordes, and targets, which happened so contrairie to his expectation that it did greatly amase him, and the more, because he was nowe in their danger, not knowing well how to auoide it without some mischiefe. Wherefore he determined to call to them, for the better appeasing of the matter, declaring his name, and professing himself to be an especiall friend to Peter de ponte, and that he had sundry things for him, which he greatly desired. And in the meane time, while he was thus talking with them, whereby he made them to hold their hands, he willed the marriners to rowe away, so that at last he gat out of their danger: and then asking for Peter de Ponte, one of his sonnes being Signior Nicholas Ponte, came forth, whome he perceauing, desired to put his men aside, and he himself would leape a shoare, and common with him, which they did: so that after communication had betweene them of sundry things, and of the feare they both had, Master Hawkins desired to haue certaine necessaries prouided for him. In the meane space, while these things were prouiding, he trimmed the maine mast of the Iesus, which in the storme aforesaid was sprong: here he soiourned 7. daies, refreshing himselfe and his men. In the which time Peter de ponte, dwelling at S.

¹ Adexe, on the west side of the island of Teneriffe.