

The Gloria Scott

A Quiz and Discussion for the
Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem
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by Bill Mason

What athletic activities did Sherlock Holmes pursue while in college?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

How long was Holmes “laid by the heels” because of the dog bite from Victor Trevor’s bull-terrier?

- 3) _____

What was Trevor’s home town?

- 4) _____

What killed Trevor’s sister?

- 5) _____

What did the elder Trevor carry with him as protection against the poaching gang?

- 6) _____

According to Holmes’s observations, which two countries had Trevor, Sr., visited?

- 7) _____
- 8) _____

Where did the elder Trevor faint when confronted with Holmes deductions?

- 9) _____

What important comment did the elder Trevor make to Sherlock Holmes, and what is its significance?

10) _____

Why did Sherlock Holmes decide to leave Trevor's house earlier than originally planned?

11) _____

How long did Hudson say it had been since he had seen Trevor?

12) _____

How did Holmes spend his time during the remaining weeks of his vacation?

13) _____

What position was Hudson ultimately given in the Trevor household?

14) _____

What happened when the elder Trevor received the letter from Beddoes?

15) _____

What was the crime that the elder Trevor committed to get him transported to Australia?

16) _____

How many of the prisoners were left out of the mutiny plot?

17) _____

What two ship's officers were a part of the plot?

18) _____

19) _____

What caused the destruction of the *Gloria Scott*?

20) _____

Who was pulled from the sea by those in the lifeboat?

21) _____

What was the name of the ship that picked up the survivors?

22) _____

What was the fate of the younger Trevor?

23) _____

Match the Names with Their Identities

24) Armitage

Beddoes

25) Evans

chaplain

26) Hoby

chief mutineer

27) Martin

poaching gang opponent

28) Mercer

second mate

29) Pendergrast

ship's lieutenant

30) Wilson

Trevor

Questions for Discussion

The Gloria Scott

What does Holmes mean by saying that the *Gloria Scott* case was “the first in which I was ever engaged? What exactly did Holmes do to consider himself “engaged”?

Why did a simple dog bite keep Holmes laid-up for such a long time? What sort of ankle injury must it have been? Who tended to his needs during this period? Is there any indication in Holmes’ later career that this injury had a long-lasting effect (as, for instance, Watson’s bullet wounds did)?

Holmes said that his system of “observation and inference” was only “the merest hobby” up until the time of this case. He also said that, at college, “my line of study was quite distinct from that of other fellows.” So, what was Holmes’ “line of study?” Does this story and a subsequent episode in Holmes’ life provide a strong clue?

How do we resolve the chronology issues? Both Hudson and Trevor, Sr., say that the incident of the *Gloria Scott* occurred “30 years earlier,” and more specifically in the year 1855, “when the Crimean War was at its height.” And Trevor, Sr., had been back in England for 20 years, allowing for his marriage and the birth of the younger Trevor. But that would make the case take place in 1885—long after Watson and Holmes were together and ten years after the likely time of Holmes’ college career (which almost all Sherlockians put in the mid-1870s).

Young Trevor says his father collapsed in his presence, his paralysis deepened, and he never regained consciousness. How, then, can we account for this statement about an addendum to the old man’s written confession? “Underneath is written, in a hand so shaky as to be hardly legible, ‘Beddoes writes in cipher to say H. has told all. Sweet, Lord, have mercy on our souls.’”

What do you make of the two theories about the fate of Hudson and Beddoes? Do you think it’s likely that one of them killed the other, then fled the country?

Can you name three other Sherlockian stories in which he deciphered coded messages?