

*Adventures on the American Frontier*

# PIRATES AND PRIVATEERS

Part Two

First Mate Henry King  
and the Privateer



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This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

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P.O. Box 399  
41 First Avenue  
Unionville, NY 10988-0399  
(845) 726-4444  
fax: (845) 726-3824  
email: [mail@rfwp.com](mailto:mail@rfwp.com)  
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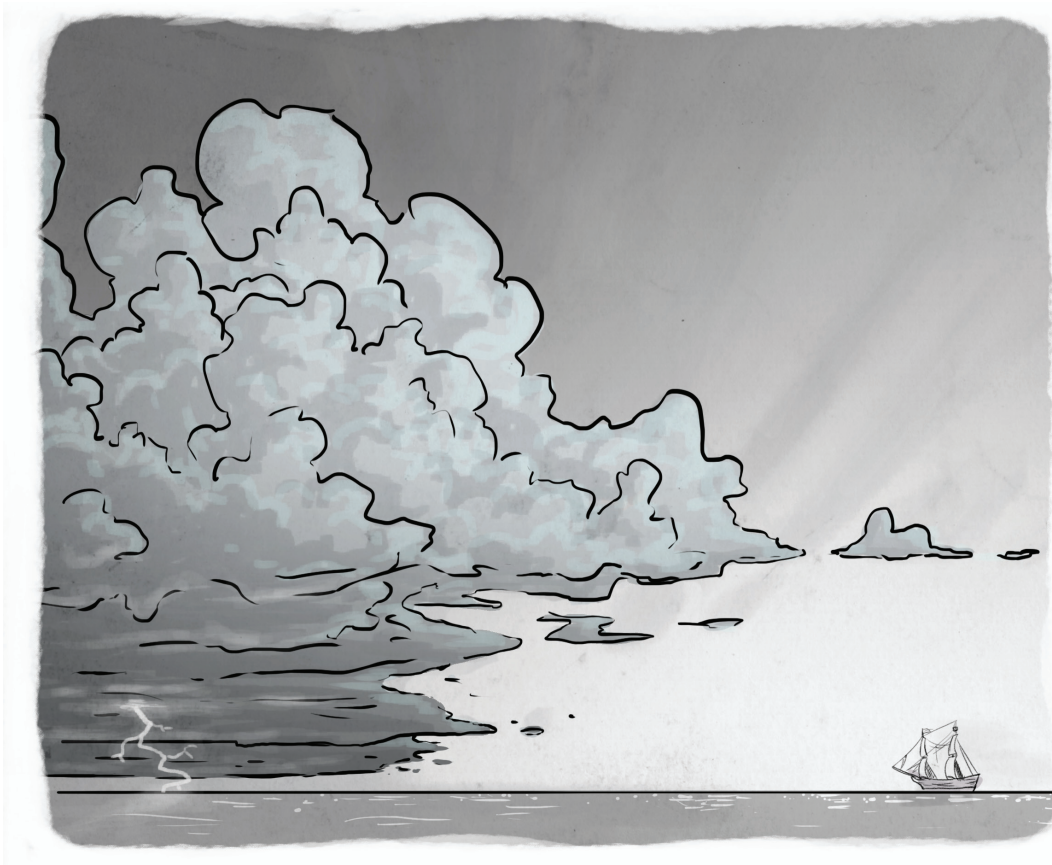
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Out at sea, many miles away from the Virginia coast, the English merchant ship *Providence* began to roll and toss as a storm moved in. The ship's mate, young Henry King, barked out orders. "Shorten all sails to storm rig! Batten the hatches! Secure all lines!"



The crew sprang into action, shouting over the wind's howl. The ship's tall masts creaked as they swayed.

When all was set, Mate Henry King stood before Captain Raddon. "She's ready to ride out the storm, sir," he said.

"Good," said Captain Raddon. "After our long wait to get started on this voyage, I would hate to lose the ship now."

The *Providence* had been loaded and ready to sail to Virginia in December of 1672. Now it was April of 1673. All winter



the *Providence* had sat at anchor in England.

In her hold were boxes and bales of warm clothing and supplies for the American colony of Virginia.

If the people in the colony were hoping to get their supplies before winter was over, they must have been unhappy, for all winter the *Providence* was not allowed to leave the English harbor.

“I can’t give you your sailing papers until there’s a convoy ready to go,” the harbor master told Captain Raddon.

Captain Raddon frowned, but the harbor master went on. "You can't go out to sea alone. If a Spanish privateer doesn't get you, a Dutch one will."

A privateer was a ship whose owner had been given papers from his country's government giving him the right to attack other ships, much as a pirate might do. It was what countries at war did in those days.

England was at war that winter with Spain and Holland. There were English privateers that attacked Spanish and Dutch



ships, and Spanish and Dutch privateers that attacked English ships. Being a pirate was against the law, but being a privateersman was not.

At last, in the spring, there were several ships ready to set sail. Warships took the merchant ships part way, past the waters of greatest danger. After that, the ships sailed in small groups, but as they got farther and farther from Europe, they slowly broke away from one another, and before long they were sailing alone.