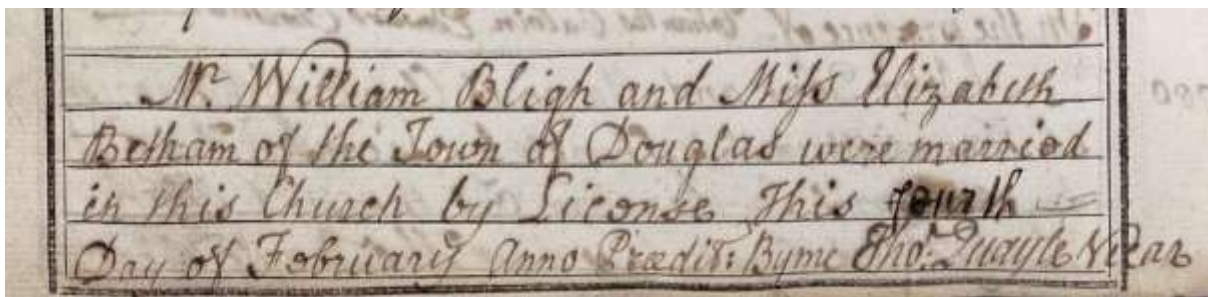




THE MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY - LINKS WITH THE ISLE OF MAN

The Naval Mutiny on HMAV (His Majesty's Armed Vessel) *Bounty* took place in the South Seas in 1789. It has been the subject of numerous books and articles and, in more recent years, several Hollywood films. The Isle of Man has strong links with this famous episode in naval history. This select bibliography showcases some of the material available in our collections; printed material will be obtainable from other libraries world-wide.

The Master of *Bounty*, the lead mutineer and an officer who stayed with the ship after the incident all have connections to the Isle of Man.



Onchan register entry of 1781 recording signatures of William Bligh and his bride MS 09754/3/1

William Bligh was from Plymouth and the son of a customs officer. At the age of 7 he was signed for the Royal Navy and aged 16 he joined the crew of the *HMS Hunter*. Bligh visited Douglas, Isle of Man frequently in the 1770s whilst serving as a Midshipman on the *HMS Ranger*. Here he met customs officer Richard Betham and his family. Later he sailed with Captain Cook to the Pacific and was promoted to Lieutenant, returning to England in 1780. Bligh married Richard Betham's daughter Elizabeth at Onchan Parish Church on 4 February 1781. After their marriage the couple lived in Douglas, where their daughter Mary was christened at St Matthew's Church on 7 July 1784. The family eventually settled in Lambeth, London. In 1787, Bligh took command of the HMAV *Bounty*.

Peter Heywood was born at the Nunnery, Braddan in 1772 but lived there only a year before the family's large estate was sold. He spent part of his childhood in Whitehaven and was schooled at St Bees before joining the Navy aged 14 in 1786. The family returned to the Island and was acquainted with the Bethams who helped Peter secure a commission as one of Bligh's officers for the *Bounty* voyage. At the time of the mutiny, Heywood was only 16 and stayed with the mutineers on the vessel after the uprising. Members of the crew would later provide conflicting accounts of Heywood's actions during the mutiny. Some said that he stayed with *Bounty* against his will, others that he actively took part in the outbreak. When the mutineers were ultimately caught, Heywood was arrested, court-martialled and sentenced to death. Thanks to the efforts of his sister Nessy and the Heywood family he was eventually pardoned.



Left: Peter Heywood, Officer of HMAV *Bounty*, captured, court martialled and condemned to death with five mutineers in 1792, but ultimately pardoned (ref: PG/12840). Right: Hester 'Nessy' Heywood was instrumental in securing the release and pardon of her brother (PG/12841)

The leader of the mutineers, Fletcher Christian, was born in 1764 in Cockerham, England. Although from Cumberland, his father's family was descended from the Christians of Milntown near Ramsey. Fletcher started a career in the Navy at the age of 17. He served with Bligh and was well acquainted with his family - the two were said to be friends. Bligh commissioned Christian as Master's Mate aboard *Bounty*. After the 28 April 1789 mutiny Christian was considered an outlaw.

This guide is intended as a starting point for access to the vast amount of material available to the researcher. In his book *Fragile Paradise* (1982), Glynn Christian stated that the bibliography of the *Bounty*/Pitcairn story exceeds 2,500 items, a figure that has undoubtedly grown since. Some titles include extensive, useful bibliographies as noted here and MNH-held resources can be searched using our iMuseum portal or by requesting summaries in our search room or from the library team by email.



The mutineers turning Bligh and some of the officers and crew adrift from HMAV *Bounty*. Aquatint by Robert Dodd, 1790 (NP 12 L)

PRINTED RESOURCES

Barrow, Sir John- The eventful history of the mutiny and piratical seizure of the HMS *Bounty*: its causes and consequences
London: John Murray, 1831
Library ref: G.88/1/BAR

Barrow, Sir John- The Mutiny on the *Bounty*

Boston: David R Godine, 1980

A modern edition of the above title edited by and with an introduction by Gavin Kennedy which refers to sources which have been found since the original publication and work on them by scholars.

Library ref: G.88/1/BAR

Bligh, William- A narrative of the mutiny on board HMS Bounty: and the subsequent voyage of part of the crew in the ship's boat...

London: Printed for George Nicol, 1790.

Library ref: G.88/1/BLIq

Bligh, William- A voyage to the South Sea...in HMS the Bounty

London: Printed for George Nicol, 1792.

Library ref: G.88/1/BLIq

Bligh, William- Bligh and the 'Bounty': his own unabridged narrative

Edited and illustrated by Laurence Irving

London: Methuen, 1936

A reprint of Bligh's voyage to the South Sea in 1792.

Library ref: G.88/1/IRV

Mackness, George (ed.) - A Book of the Bounty

London: J.Dent, 1938

This volume combines the following works: 1.

Bligh's A Voyage to the South Sea; 2. *A*

Narrative of the Mutiny on board HMS Bounty;

3. *Barney's Report of the Court Martial of ten*

of the Mutineers with an appendix by Edward

Christian; 4. *Bligh's answer to Edward*

Christian's assertions; 5. *A selection of Bligh's correspondence*.

Library ref: G.88/1/MAC

Rutter, Owen- The Court-Martial of the 'Bounty' Mutineers

Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, 1931

A reprint of the Court-Martial proceedings

with an introduction by Owen Rutter.

Library ref: G.88/1/RUT

INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS

Alexander, Caroline- The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty

London: Harper Collins, 2003

A reinterpretation of events using a wide range of material.

Library ref: G.88/1/ALE

Belcher, Diana, Lady- The mutineers of the Bounty and their descendants in Pitcairn Islands and Norfolk Islands...

London, John Murray, 1870

Includes extracts from James Morrison's Journal.

Library ref: G.88/1/BEL

Denning, Greg- Mr Bligh's Bad Language: Passion Power and Theatre on the Bounty

Cambridge University Press, 1992

An attempt to interpret the mutiny in the context of its historical and cultural representations.

Library ref: G.88/1/DEN

Danielson, Bengt- What happened on the Bounty

London: George Allen & Unwin, 1962

A reconstruction of what happened on the Bounty, the adventures of the survivors and the subsequent Court-Martial.

Library ref: G.88/1/DAN

Du Rietz, Rolf- Studia Bountiana 1: the causes of the Bounty mutiny, some comments on a book by Madge Darby Uppsala, 1965.

This author has written numerous articles about the Bounty and this is a critique which provides a discussion of the various ways the events have been interpreted.

Library ref: G88/1/DUR(1)

Hough, Richard- Captain Bligh & Mr Christian: The Men and the Mutiny

London: Hutchinson, 1972

A study of the leading characters in the mutiny Library.

Library ref: G.88/1/HOU

Kennedy, Gavin- Captain Bligh: the man and his mutinies

London: Duckworth, 1989

Developed from his biography of Bligh

Issued in the bicentenary year of the mutiny.

Library ref: G.88/1/KEN



McFarland, Alfred- Mutiny in the Bounty and story of the Pitcairn Islanders

Sydney: J. J. Moore, 1884

A compilation from the various books about the Bounty aimed at the Australian reader
Library ref: G.88/1/MCF

Shapiro, H.L.- Heritage of the Bounty: The story of Pitcairn through six generations

London: Victor Gollancz, 1936

The author, formerly Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, wrote a number of articles on matters related to the Bounty
Library ref: G.88/1/SHA

Wahlroos, Sven- Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure

Topsfield: Salem House, 1989

Part 1 is a chronicle of events

Part 2 a Bounty Encyclopaedia with a 27 page sample

Library ref: G.88/1/WAH

HMS PANDORA

Gesner, Peter- HMS Pandora Project: A report of five seasons of excavation (vol.2, part 1)

Brisbane: Memoirs of Queensland Museum Cultural Heritage, 2000

Library ref: G.88/1/MEM

Gesner, Peter- Pandora: An Archaeological Perspective

Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1991

Library ref: G.88/1/GES

Hamilton, George- A Voyage Round the World in His Majesty's Frigate Pandora

Horden House: Australian National Maritime Museum, 1998

Facsimile reprint with an essay by Peter Gesner, Curator of Maritime Archaeology, who was involved in the Pandora excavation

Library ref: G.88/1/HAM

Thomson, Basil (ed.)- The Voyage of the HMS Pandora: despatched to arrest the mutineers of the 'Bounty' in the South Seas, 1790- 91

London: Francis Edwards, 1915

This tells the story of the treatment of the mutineers on the voyage back to England to be put on trial.

Library ref: G.88/1/HAM

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Murray, Thomas Boyles- Pitcairn Island, the People and the Pastor

London: SPCK, 1853

This volume was frequently re-printed with the last edition published in 1909

Library ref: G.88/1/MUR (1909 ed.)

Young, Rosalid Amelia- Mutiny on the Bounty and Story of Pitcairn Island 1790- 1894

Wellington: Pastor David Nield, 1924

Written by a descendent of the mutineers, who was born and lived on Pitcairn

Library Ref: G.88/1/YOU



HMAV *Bounty* nearing Pitcairn Island. Oil on wood by Richard Bentley Fairclough, 1932. (1954-6979/4)

THE PERSONALITIES

Bligh, Christian and Heywood

Kennedy, Gavin- Bligh

London: Duckworth, 1978

A bibliography using the most recently discovered sources

Library ref: G.88/1/KEN

Mackness, George- The Life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh

Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1931
Two volume comprehensive account
Library ref G.88/1/MAC

Montgomerie, H.S.- William Bligh of the 'Bounty' in fact and in fable

London: Williams and Norgate, 1937
A biography
Library ref: G.88/1/MON

Rawson, Geoffery- Bligh of the Bounty

London: Philip Allan, 1930
With sixty pages on the Mutiny
Library ref: G.88/1/RAW

Rutter, Owen- Turbulent Journey [Bligh]

London: Ivor Nicholson and Watson
Library ref: G.88/1/RUT

Beach, Susan Hicks- The Yesterdays Behind the Door: a family biography [Christian]

Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1956
This volume deals with the Christian family history and includes details about Fletcher Christian
Library ref: G.90/CHR

Christian, Glynn- Fragile Paradise: the discovery of Fletcher Christian Bounty mutineer

London: Hamish Hamilton, 1982
An interesting interpretation of the events leading up to the subsequent Mutiny by a decedent of Fletcher Christian. It also includes the Christian family tree
Library ref: G.88/1/CHR

Moore, A.W., SHK- Nussy Heywood

Douglas: Brown and Sons, 1913
Nussy was actively involved in securing her brother's pardon from his conviction for his involvement in the Mutiny. This book contains all the published letters of Nussy and Peter Heywood
Library ref: G.88/HEY

Tagart, Edward- A memoir of Captain Peter Heywood, R.N. with extracts from his diaries and correspondence

London: Effingham Wilson, 1832
Extensive coverage of his naval career, the Bounty voyage and subsequent court martial
Library ref: G.88/1/HEY

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

If you want to discover more relevant resources, the following have useful bibliographies. They provide a vivid indication of the amount of material available to researchers.

Alexander, Caroline- The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty

London: Harper Collins, 2003
A reinterpretation of events using a wide range of material
Library ref: G.88/1/ALE
pp 441- 448 sources
pp 449- 467 select Bibliography

Denning, Greg- Mr Bligh's Bad Language: Passion Power and Theatre on the Bounty

Cambridge University Press, 1992
An attempt to interpret the mutiny in the context of its historical and cultural representations
Library ref: G.88/1/DEN
pp 397- 427 over 620 references

Kennedy, Gavin- Captain Bligh: the man and his mutinies

London: Duckworth, 1989
Developed from his biography of Bligh
Issued in the bicentenary year of the mutiny
Library ref: G.88/1/KEN
pp 307- 310 updated and condensed list

Lucas, Charles Sir- The Pitcairn Island Register Book

London: SPCK, 1929
Library ref: G.88/1/LUC
pp 165-178 has 83 references divided by theme

Rutter, Owen- The Court-Martial of the 'Bounty' Mutineers

Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, 1931
A reprint of the Court-Martial proceedings with an introduction by Owen Rutter
Library ref: G.88/1/RUT
pp 200-202 23 references

Wahlroos, Sven- Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure

Topsfield: Salem House, 1989
Part 1 is a chronicle of events
Part 2 a Bounty Encyclopaedia with a 27 page sample
Library ref: G.88/1/WAH
Pp 439- 466 references

MANUSCRIPT RESOURCES

Heywood family correspondence- The letters and papers of Peter and Hester (Nessy) Heywood

A descriptive list is available in the reading room
Archives ref: MS 09519

Websites:

There is a wealth of information about the Bounty available on the Internet. Try running searches using terms such as 'Bounty Mutiny' and 'Pitcairn Island'.

At the time of writing this guide, a useful site was <https://bountyproject.co.uk/mutiny/>



South Quay as it appeared at the time of the mutiny within a 1789 map by Peter Fannin (pXX 2 L)

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Check our Library and Archives opening times (Weds to Sat with exceptions). Write down any facts you know for sure. Be prepared to stow your bags in a locker and use only pencil. Bring a USB key if you want to save digital data and also a camera. Allow sufficient time for research and possible visits to sites of interest. You will need to register with us so bring some ID showing your home address. You can find a welcome leaflet, contact details and other available guides on our library page <https://manxnationalheritage.im/collections/library-and-archives/>

To give advance notice of a visit or if you have material of possible interest to us you are welcome to email the team at library@mnh.im

MNH website home page: <https://manxnationalheritage.im/>