



# The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

## Adventure XIX – The Adventure of the Gloria Scott

### Publishing History

# 19 of the 60 stories

First published in *The Strand Magazine*, April 1893

In the US, *Harper's Weekly*, April 15, 1893

Part of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* collection, by

George Newnes, Ltd., London, 1894

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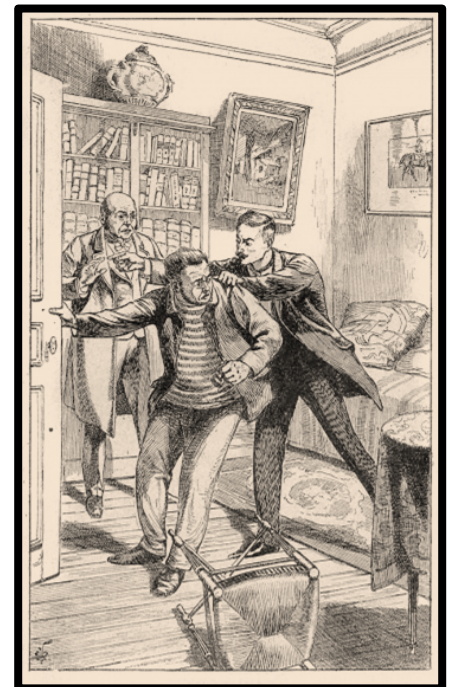
British Illustrator – Sidney Paget

### Chronology

Baring-Gould places the dating of the story at Sunday, July 12 to Tuesday, August 4, & Tuesday, September 22, 1874 which makes it 1<sup>st</sup> of the 60. This means that Holmes is 20 and Watson 22. Holmes and Watson have yet to meet.

### Christopher Morley Says

“Squire Trevor, father of Holmes’s college friend Victor Trevor, fainted when young Holmes (then a college student) remarked on the initial tattooed on his arm. The mystery of Trevor’s past is well told, but equally interesting is the glimpse of Holmes’s youth.”



## Dummies Short Summary

“The normally secretive Sherlock suddenly opens up and tells Watson about his very first case, an adventure that took place during college.”

## How Many Words

At 7,892 words GLOR has the 28<sup>th</sup> most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 if NAVL – 12,701)

## Classifying This Case

This case is one of 7 classified as fear of physical harm or public scandal. The others were COPP, CREE, SCAN, SUSS 3STU, and TWIS.

## The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

- 1999 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it 38<sup>th</sup> of the 56 short stories.
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London voted it the 29<sup>th</sup> of the 56 short stories.

## What Else Happened That Year (1874)

- Gold Coast becomes colony.
- Fiji annexed.
- Gladstone resigns his first ministry, Disraeli becomes prime minister.
- Liverpool Street Station opens.
- London School of Medicine for Women founded.
- Formation of Women's Trade Union League.
- Sliding scale of wages in mining industry, based on selling price of coal.
- Factory Act: 10-hour day; minimum age raised to 9 years (10 after 1875).
- Lawn tennis invented.
- First zoological gardens in the U.S.A., opened in Philadelphia.
- First Impressionist exhibition.
- Hardy, *Far from the Maddening Crowd*, a novel.
- Manet joins Monet at Argenteuil; they paint in the open air.
- Johann Strauss, *Die Fledermaus*.
- Verdi, *Requiem*.
- Andrew Hill of the U.S.A. lays the foundations of osteopathy.

## Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

Holmes tells story to Watson as they share quarters at 221B. The actual case took place before Holmes and Watson met. Holmes then had his own living quarters in London but no location is specified.

## Dramatis Personae

- **Victor Trevor**, classmate of Holmes at college
- **Senior Trevor**, father of Victor. A justice of the peace.
- **Beddoes**, aka **Evans**, a fellow prisoner on the ***Gloria Scott***
- **Jack Prendergast**, a fellow prisoner on the ***Gloria Scott*** and leader of the mutiny.
- **Wilson**, Prendergast's partner. He posed as a chaplain on the ***Gloria Scott***.
- **James Armitage**, Senior Trevor's real name.
- **Dr. Fordham**, treated senior Trevor after his first stroke.
- **Hudson**, a former seaman on the ***Gloria Scott***.

## Quotable Sherlock

Since Holmes is telling the story it is difficult to quote yourself.

- “And that recommendation, with its exaggerated estimate of my ability which with he prefaced it, was, if you will believe me, Watson, the very first thing which ever made me feel that a profession might be made out of what had up to that time been a merest hobby.”

## Holmes' Fee

None. Holmes was a student, and had not yet become a professional.

## Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen

We are surprised that this story ever appeared in a screen because it follows nothing of the “formula” characteristics of the rest of the Canon.

- 1921 *The Gloria Scott* with Eille Norwood was one of the 47 Canonical tales by Norwood.
- 2001 *The Gloria Scott* as an episode of *Sherlock Holmes in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century* (Animated TV series)

## Fainting In The Canon

“Mr. (Victor) Trevor stood slowly up, fixed his large blue eyes upon me with a strange wild stare, and then pitched forward, with his face among the nutshells which strewed the cloth, in a dead faint.”

## Annotated Sherlock

- Holmes smokes a pipe in 35 adventures & probably in 3 others, talks about his pipe in 1 but doesn't seem to smoke it. Cigars in 8 tales and probably one other. Cigarettes in 9 and probable one other. In only 11 cases is there no mention of smoking. – no mention ever of a pipe with a curved stem.
- the term “*the long vacation*” is what American schools refer to as Summer vacation
- the term “*the broads*” refers to pieces of fresh water formed by the broadening out of a waterway or marsh
- the term “*the harness cask*” refers to a cask or tub with a rimmed cover on board a ship to keep salt meats for current consumption
- a “*dog cart*” is a sportsman's vehicle, a one-horse cart with 2 seats back-to-back, the rear seat being so constructed that it could be shut to form a box for carrying a dog.
- the term “*sentenced to transportation*” in criminal law is the sending away of a convict to a remote place and held there as a measure of punishment
- the term “*the dibbs*” (actually dibs) was a slang for money
- the term “*junk*” was hard salted beef supplied to ships
- “*a Barque*” today, a bark – a three-master schooner with fore and main mast square-rigged
- “*main-truck*” The cap at the top of the mast.
- “*cut the painter*” The rope attached to the bow.

## Holmes The Author

None mentioned because Holmes has yet to become an authority on any subject.

## Weapons

A lot of weapons here due to the violent “back story.”

- **Best Rifle** - Of the eldest Trevor, which he loaned on occasion to Hudson, the “acid-looking” seaman, who was also a blackmailer.
- **Brace of Pistols** - Which each of the convicts aboard the *Gloria Scott* taking part in the mutiny were armed with.

- **Muskets** - Fixed with bayonets, which the soldiers aboard the *Gloria Scott* used in a futile attempt to quell the uprising of the convicts.
- **Pistol** - Which the bogus minister aboard the *Gloria Scott* used to blow out the brains of the captain of that ill-fated vessel.
- **Knives** - Which the poaching gang uncovered by Justice of the Peace Trevor threatened him with, and which he used in the attack upon Sir Edward Holly
- **Knife** - Which one of the convicts aboard the *Gloria Scott*, presumably Jack Prendergast, used to slit the throat of the ship's surgeon and which he had with him when he went after the first mate.
- **Bayonets** - Fixed to muskets of the soldiers aboard the *Gloria Scott*, used by them in a vain attempt to fight off the convicts.
- **Stick** - Weighted with lead at the head, which the elder Trevor armed himself with after receiving threats from the local poaching gang.
- **Fists** - Of Victor Trevor, which he used to roughen up Hudson, the lecherous blackmailer of his father.
- **Threat** - Used by Hudson to blackmail Trevor, because of the latter's roll in the *Gloria Scott* incident.
- **Gunpowder** - Aboard the convict-ship *Gloria Scott*, which the first mate aboard her ignited, thereby blowing up himself, the ship, and most of the cutthroat convicts aboard her.

**Frank Mentzel**