

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

July 6, 2012

“The Real Pirates of the Caribbean”



If you were a sailor in the 1600's in the Caribbean Sea, you had a choice. You could be beaten and not paid by a royal navy or you could become a pirate, vote for the captain and share the spoils of the crew's plunders.

John Simmons, a lawyer and history buff from Scottsbluff Nebraska, has studied pirates for years and will give a presentation entitled “The Real Pirates of the Caribbean” at the Norfolk Public Library on July 10 at 6:30 pm.

“It's more than Peter Pan and Captain Hook. Many pirates had better lives than most sailors so they were easy to recruit. They got better pay and literally had a life of wine, women and song,” Simmons said recently by phone interview.

He will be speaking as part of the summer lecture series at the library and will explain how the gold discovered in Mexico and the silver in Peru brought about the organizing of pirates wanting to plunder the treasure traveling across the Caribbean.

“Many pirates were heroes and patriots as they stopped ships from enemy countries. Francis Drake was a famous pirate who was knighted. The economies of entire towns were based on pirates,” Simmons said.

On Tuesday he will tell about pirate life, pirate law, their terrorist tactics; pirate terminology and other famous pirates including John Hawkins, Henry Morgan and some notorious women pirates.

There is no fee for people attending the presentation. The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) provides major funding for this program. The NHC receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and private donations.