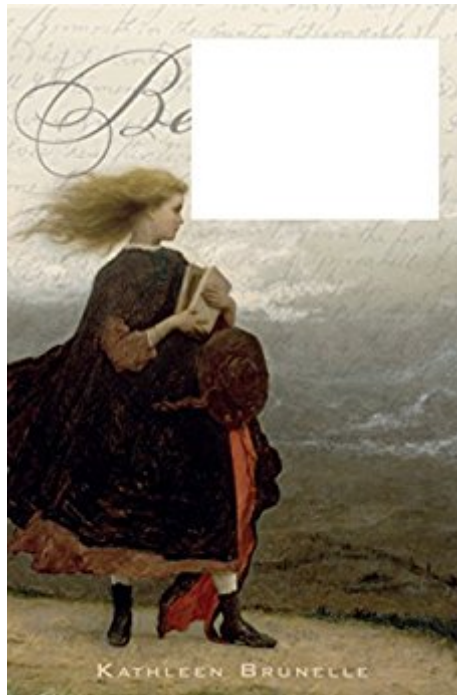


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Bellamy's Bride: The Search For Maria Hallett Of Cape Cod



Synopsis

Venture back to 1715, when a fifteen-year-old Cape Cod girl named Maria Hallett was seduced by a twenty-six-year-old Englishman named Samuel Bellamy. Bellamy soon left her to become one of the most infamous pirates of his day—Black Sam Bellamy. Maria remained on the Cape but was forced to live in solitude after giving birth to Bellamy's child. Two years later, Bellamy returned to his love, and Maria watched from the dunes as his flagship, the *Whydah*, sank in the worst naval disaster in the history of the Cape. The legend of Maria Hallett has been passed down for over two hundred years, and Cape Cod writer Kathleen Brunelle brings a fresh breath of sea air to this epic tale in her search for Bellamy's bride.

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Customer Reviews

This was a wonderful, insightful read full of interesting Cape Cod facts and legends. When I bought this book I thought I was going to be reading a historical fiction novel so it took me a little while to get used to the fact that it is more of a collection of the author's compiled research on the subject. I almost selfishly wish the author would have just picked and chosen from the various accounts she

heard and made one seamless story of the love affair between Maria Hallett and Sam Bellamy. Then at the end she could have written about the conflicting information and listed all the facts found in her extensive research- one source said she had blonde hair, another said she had black, one source said she saw Sam again, another said she did not, etc, etc. I would find that I would suspend reality and really get into the character and then in the next paragraph I would be knocked out of my reverie by having to recreate the character in my head with the new and conflicting information I was given. This however is my own fault for expecting a novel when it clearly was not intended to be one. Overall this is extremely well done and thoroughly researched and I would recommend it to anyone.

Whether Maria Hallett actually existed, I'd like to think that she did, the book Bellamy's Bride weaves an incredibly beautiful story of a time gone by, when huge sailing ships sailed the ocean. If you have ever stood on the great outer beach of Cape Cod on a windy and cold afternoon and looked out to sea, you have to believe that a good part of the Maria Hallett/Sam Bellamy's story just might be true. The Whydah was found a number of years ago just off of Marconi Beach, I believe; the first authentic pirate ship ever found. Thank you to Kathleen Brunelle for writing this beautiful book. A "must read" for anyone who has any interest in the adventures of pirates, and of the women they most often left behind on some windswept cliff or beach. After reading this great book, I felt as though I had met Maria Hallett and Sam Bellamy personally.

A great historical account. Without any factual evidence of Maria ever actually existing, it must not have been easy writing a book about her. I would have loved more details about Maria, but the reality is that there just isn't much documented information about her. Having said that, I still enjoyed it very much.

Good research evident.

Many many good references. Read more like lengthy magazine article than a book. Still- glad to have for my research.

It's a well-researched book, and consolidates a lot of legends and folklore into one place, but the writing style itself is boring and overly sentimental. The idea is good, but the execution was poor.

Much husband loved it!

I would have preferred the author took a stand from the beginning and followed it through. Instead, in a very short book, she incorporated every possible theory in the legend and lore surrounding a character known as Maria Hallett. In the end, the author shares both what her head tells her and what her heart tells her. It's hard to get away from the historical fiction aspect surrounding a legend, so instead of justifying it all by showing off every minutia of research from all the angles, it would have been easier to follow had the author chosen to tell one story. And I always say, "When there is a choice, choose love...so Kathleen, pick the story your heart tells you is true."

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