

Was pirate Black Sam Bellamy found? DNA test could tell

February 19 2018

Researchers are working to use DNA to identify whether a human bone recovered from a Cape Cod shipwreck belongs to the infamous pirate Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy.

The Whydah (WIH'-duh) Pirate Museum in Yarmouth, Massachusetts, publicly displayed the bone Monday. It was found near what's believed to be Bellamy's pistol.

The objects were pulled from the Whydah Gally (GAH'-lee) shipwreck several years ago.

The museum has enlisted forensic scientists to extract DNA and compare it with DNA from a living Bellamy descendant. Testing will take about a month.

The Whydah sank in 1717. The wreck was discovered in 1984. Most of its treasure is thought to remain on the ocean floor.

Forbes has listed Bellamy as the highest-earning pirate ever, plundering about \$120 million worth of treasure in a little over a year.

© 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Was pirate Black Sam Bellamy found? DNA test could tell (2018, February 19) retrieved 20 March 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2018-02-museum-discuss-efforts-bones-pirate.html



This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.