

Book of Mormon Plagiarism

Moroni and Comorah Are locations written about in The Adventures of Captian Kidd

Captain Kidd was an infamous pirate whos stories were read by many people in the New England area during Joseph Smith's time. Kidd was hung for a crime committed near the capital port of Mormoni, in the Comoros Islands. An 1808 map of Africa refered to the Islands as "Camora."

PALMER: *Joseph Smith, Captain Kidd, Cumorah, and Moroni*

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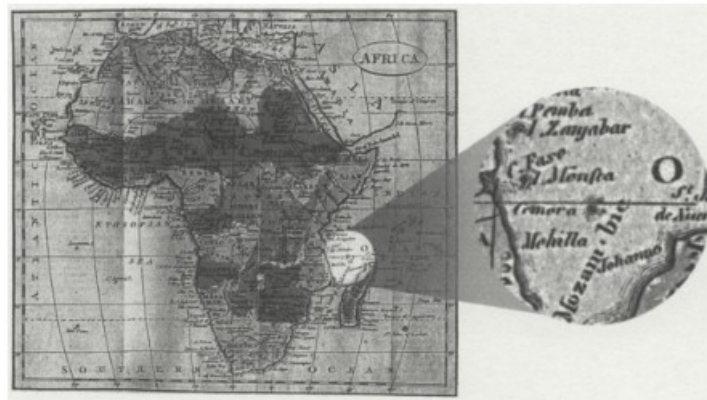


Figure 3.1: "Camora" (in the center of the enlarged inset at right) on an 1808 map of Africa (left).

was in the Comoros in 1697–98.¹⁷ He was returned to England in 1700 where he was tried, found guilty, and executed on May 23, 1701. Soon after his arrest, a small quantity of booty, believed to be his, was found on Gardiners' Island, off the east coast of Long Island, New York. Since that time people have been looking for the rest of Captain Kidd's buried treasure.¹⁸

Professor Ronald Huggins has written: "The fact that the pirate [Kidd] was hanged for crimes allegedly committed in the vicinity of Moroni on Grand Comoro [Island] is significant."¹⁹ For example, the words Cumorah and Moroni are unusual names, yet are often used in the same sentence by many of the churches based on the movement started by Joseph Smith Jr., when describing the origins of the Book of Mormon. Church members are generally unaware and surprised to learn that off the eastern coast of Mozambique, Africa is the "Comoros" Islands. Today the spelling has been standardized but this has not always been so. An 1808 map of Africa (reproduced above as figure 3.1) refers to these Islands as "Camora."²⁰

17. De Costa, *Ibid.*, 745.

18. For extensive background information on Captain William Kidd, see researcher/historian Paul Hawkins, "Ultimate Captain William Kidd" found under a section called, "History," accessed July 2013, <http://captainkidd.org/NY%2000%20Madagascar.html>; See also, Ronald V. Huggins, "From Captain Kidd's Treasure Ghost to the Angel Moroni: Changing Dramatis Personae in Early Mormonism," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 36, no. 4 (Winter 2003): 17–19.

19. Huggins, "From Captain Kidd's Treasure Ghost to the Angel Moroni," 19.

20. The 1808 map of Africa is found at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/africa>, retrieved February 10, 2014. A cropped version appears at: <http://www.2think.org/hundredsheap/bom1830/changes.shtml>.