



Scuttlebutt's Secret

Scuttlebutt is a marine term meaning shipboard rumours or gossip. The scuttlebutt was a cask that held water and other potables (drinkable contents such as soup). Sailors generally gathered around the scuttlebutt and would chat. It is the historic equivalent of the water cooler in an office, where workers often gather and gossip!

Cats were often kept on board a ship to help catch rats. It was believed that cats had foreknowledge of doomed ships and no sailor would embark on a voyage without a cat on board.