TIMELINE: The Life and Exploits of Sir Francis Drake

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The Exploits of Sir Francis Drake

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1543	Born in Tavistock, Devon
1552	Family moved to Kent to escape persecution of Protestants by Catholics
1556	Apprenticed on a merchant ship trading with France & Holland
1566	1st voyage to Caribbean, via West Africa, on a slave-trading ship owned by John Hawkins
1569	2nd slave-trading voyage to Caribbean, with Hawkins, ending with Spanish betrayal and attack
1570-71	The turn to piracy - gave up commercial ventures- raided Spanish ships in Caribbean
1572-3	Licensed ('privateer') raid on Nombre de Dios, Panama - taking of the silver-laden mule train
1577-80	Circumnavigation for plunder & pillage; claims 'New Albion' (N California) for England
1586	'The Great Expedition' - successful raids on Santo Domingo, Cartagena, St. Augustine
1587	'Singeing the beard of King Philip' – Raid of Cádiz (and Algarve, Lisbon, Azores)
1588	Defeat of the Spanish Armada
1589	The 'English Counter-Armada' expedition - unsuccessful attacks on Coruña and Lisbon
1596	Drake & Hawkins final expedition: raiding San Juan & Panama- unsuccessful, and both die of illness

For a more detailed timeline of Drake and Hawkins' exploits, see:
http://timelinesandsoundtracks.blogspot.com/2017/04/francis-drake-timeline.html

James Michener on Sir Francis Drake in Caribbean, Chapter 4, 'The Spanish Lake':

" A short, muscular fellow of undistinguished parentage. All gristle and nerves."
"Only five feet four, of a stocky build with a bullet-like head and a jutting chin covered with a closely trimmed beard. His dominant feature was a pair of sharp blue eyes which could flash fire."

"This man will make the oceans quake,
When he comes to take
The Spanish Lake:
Sir Francis Drake! "
-16th-century nursing rhyme

"Traveler, you who sail into the Caribbean in silvered yacht or gilded cruise ship,
pause as you enter these waters to remember that deep below rests Sir Francis Drake
who helped determine the history of this onetime Spanish Lake."