left on the island, William had a musket, a knife, a small horn of powder, and a few shot. When his ammunition was expended, he contrived by notching his knife to saw the barrel of his gun into small pieces, which he made into harpoons, lances, hooks, and a long knife by heating the iron and hammering it out with stones. His clothes were soon worn out, and he clad himself with a skin about the waist. From the skins of Seals he manufactured fishing lines, and built himself a hut half a mile from the shore which he lined with goat skins.

At the time of Cook's visit in 1684, the buccaneers found a good supply of provisions, consisting of wild vegetables, Goats, Fur Seals, Elephant Seals, and Fish. Pigs are not mentioned.

At the end of 1687 five men voluntarily remained at Juan Fernandez from another buccaneer ship commanded by Captain Edward Davis. A canoe, arms, ammunition, and various implements were furnished them, together with a stock of maize, and each buccaneer had a negro attendant landed with him. They remained on the island until October 1690, when the English ship "Welfare," Captain John Strong, anchored there and took them off. Nothing is said of the manner in which they employed themselves, except that they lived in subterranean places and had tamed a large number of goats. When they landed first, dogs are reported to have been placed on the island by the Spaniards with a view of destroying the goats, but as mention is made by Dampier in 1704 that there were then no dogs, it is probable that these five buccaneers had managed to exterminate them.

In February 1704 Dampier called at Juan Fernandez, and whilst there, Captain Stradling of the "Cinque Ports Galley" quarrelled with his men, forty-two of whom deserted, but were afterwards reconciled by Dampier; five seamen however remained on shore. In October 1704 the "Cinque Ports Galley" returned to Juan Fernandez and found two of these men, the others having apparently been captured by the French.

During this visit, Captain Stradling had some disagreement with the master of his ship, Alexander Selkirk, who in the first heat of his dissatisfaction demanded to be landed, preferring to be left on a desert island rather than remain any longer under the command of Stradling. His desire was complied with and he was sent on shore with his clothes, bedding, a firelock, one pound of gunpowder, a hatchet, cooking utensils, some tobacco, and his books. Before the ship departed Selkirk changed his mind and desired to return on board, but was refused admittance into the ship. Selkirk remained at Juan Fernandez until February 1709, when Captain Woodes Rogers in the ship "Duke" called at the island and found him there. Captain Rogers was accompanied by another vessel named the "Duchess," commanded by Captain Edward Cook, and they both wrote accounts of their voyage, and gave a description of Selkirk's residence on shore.

During Selkirk's stay of four years and four months, several ships passed by the