



Chronoscopic Education & the Signs of Literacy initiative

Wednesday, February 6th, 2019

Colin Greenstreet

Chronoscopic Education will be a charitable incorporated organisation

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR OUR AIMS AND OUR PROJECTS



We are registering a charitable incorporated organisation under the name of Chronoscopic Education, to be the legal, funding and technology home for MarineLives, our sister project Maphackathon, and our new community, Signs of Literacy.

The aims of Chronoscopic Education are threefold:

- (1) To further the teaching of palaeographic, digital research and project management skills, at universities and schools.
- (2) To apply insights from small teams in management consultancy and R&D project management, together with tools from data science, to the subject matter of history.
- (3) To build a virtual manuscript-based archive and associated research community, which will foster a culture of collaborative scholarship.

MarineLives



Maphackathon



Signs of Literacy



SOLM-2018



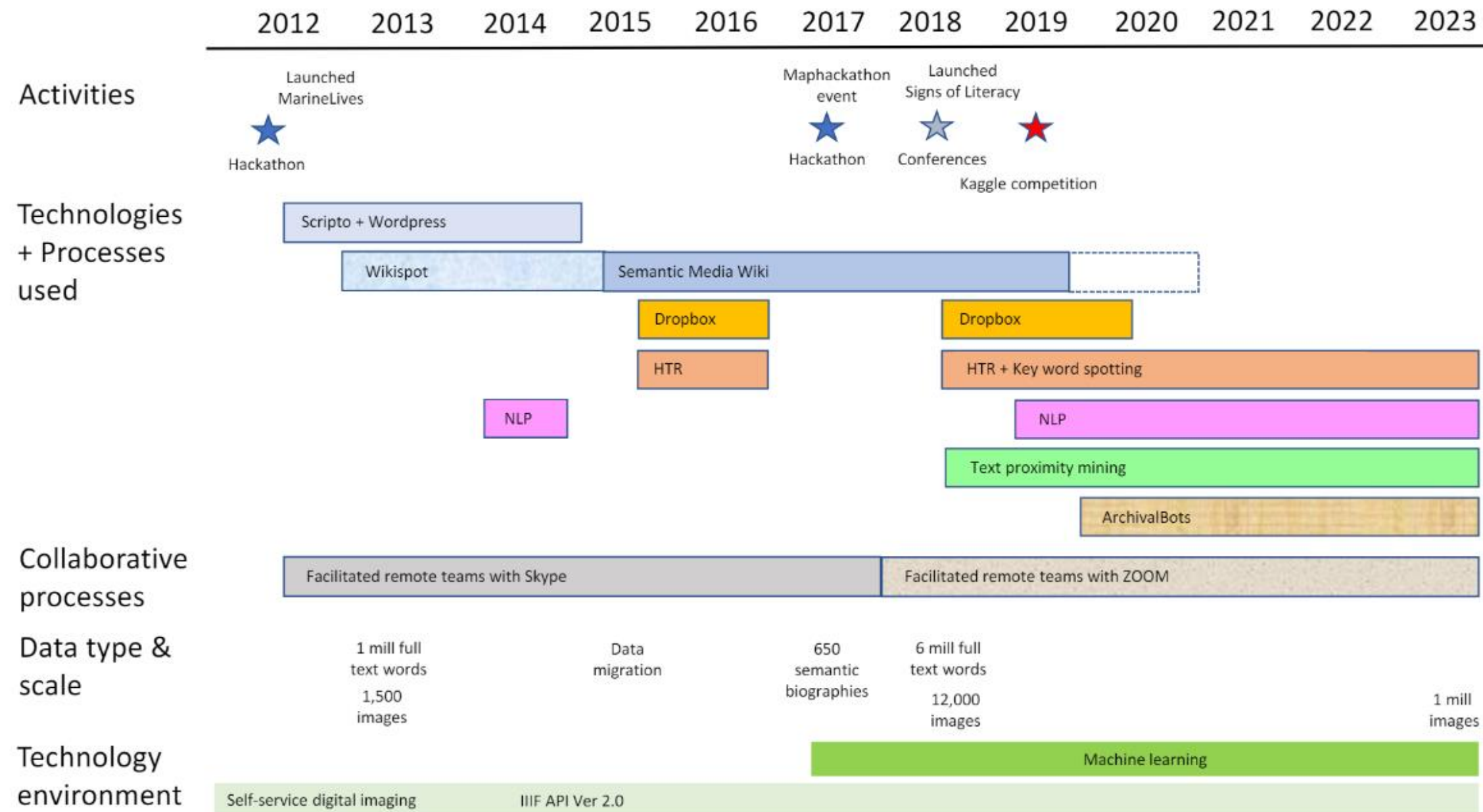
EM Textiles, Garments & Dyestuffs Glossary



EM Maritime & Mercantile Gazetteer



MarineLives & its progeny: changing technology and processes



Thanks to our one hundred and ninety-six contributors since 2012

We would like to recognise and thank our friends and supporters who have contributed to the MarineLives project, to the Maphackathon event, to the Early Modern Textiles, Garments and Dyestuffs glossary, and to the Signs of Literacy initiative, whether as volunteer transcribers, annotators, commentators, glossary contributors, software developers, advisors, interviewees, workshop participants, workshop and conference speakers, or as PhD Forum participants (in alphabetical order)

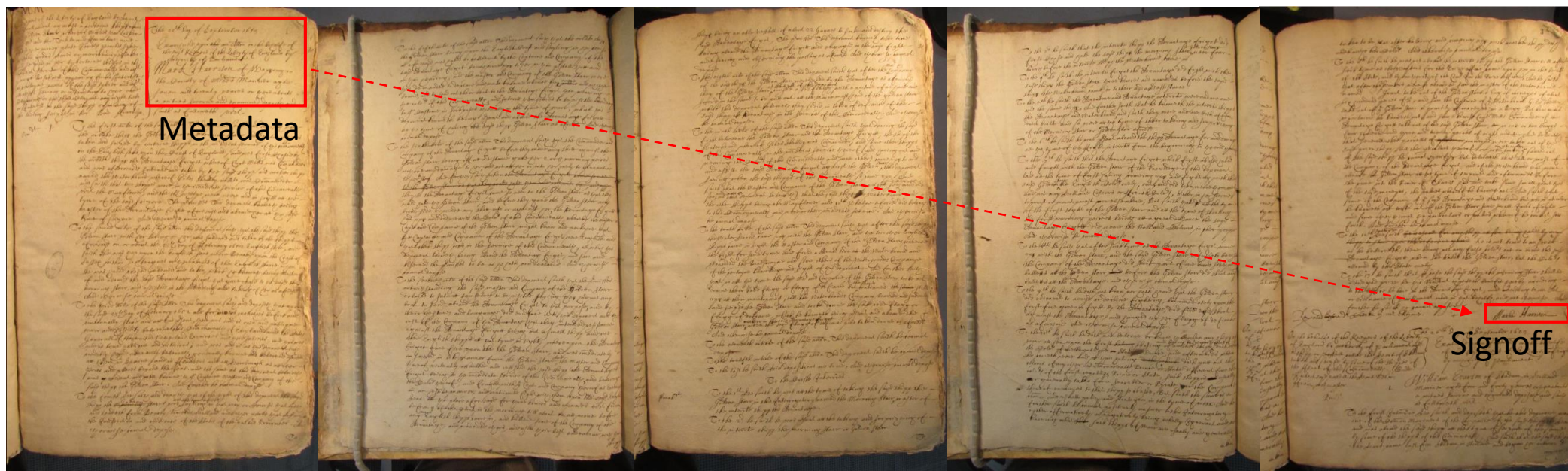
| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr Aquiles Alencar-Brayner | Thomas Davies | Viveka Hansen | M. L. Logue | r Benjamin Redding | Dr Samantha Thompson |
| Dr Kimberly Alexander | Jonathan Dent | Elaine Harrington | Jelle van Lottum | rmila Regulova | Roger Towner |
| Dr Aaron Allen | Melvyn Dresner | Dr Liam Haydon | Ismail Malik | athan Reynolds | Dr Alexis Truax |
| Elizabeth Ames | Dr Stuart Dunn | Phillipa Hellawell | Grace Mallon | aniel Richards | Dr William Tullett |
| Dr Roberta Anderson | Professor Kai Eckert | Laura Herbert | Paula Marmor | arriet Richardson | Martin Turner |
| Vicky Annand | Bob Egan | Dr Helmer Helmers | Simon Marsh | idrew Richens | Oliver Turner |
| Dr Carolyn Arena | Eglantine | Dave Henderson | Dr Alan Marshall | r Mia Ridge | David Underdown |
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| Dr Gary Baker | Louise Falcini | Professor Tim Hitchcock | Dr Angela McShane | r Gavin Robinson | Dr Brodie Waddell |
| Gabor Bakos | Emilie-Jane Farrimond | Dr Philip Hnatkovich | Angela Middleton | en Robson | Rebecca Want |
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| Amber Berkeley | Dr Anthony Firth | Alex Jackson | Dr Shavana Musa | even Schrum | Royline Williams-Fontenelle |
| Dr Richard Blakemore | Erin French | Stefan Jäggi | Maurice Nicolson | idrei Seleznov | Ad van der Zee |
| Lior Blum | Dr Ian Friel | Elin Jones | Stephanie Ostrich | iura Seymour | Dr Kathrin Zickermann |
| Ffion Boyd | Professor Cheryl Fury | Sue Jones | Frances Owen | hn Sheridan | Dr Suze Zijlstra |
| Katie Broke | Steve Garnett | Menno Jonker | Gordon O'Sullivan | r Deborah Sherlock | Dr Cäcilia Zirn |
| Dr James Brown | Dr Perry Gauci | Dr Sam Kaislaniemi | Dr Katherine Parker | r Rainer Simon | and the ever helpful but |
| Dr Andy Burn | Marja Geesink | Ross Keel | Tim Parry-Williams | a Sjöberg | anonymous @_mapnut |
| Elio Calcagno | Jaap Geraerts | Dr Patricia Keller | David Pashley | tr Sloup | |
| Joshua Calloway | Helen Good | William Kellett | Dr Michael Pearce | r Edmond Smith | |
| Michelle María Early Capistrán | Dr Jamie LH Goodall | Sara J Kerr | Dr Cathryn Pearce | lly Smith | |
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| Cynthia Chin | Colin Greenstreet | Iris Kramer | Dr Sophie Pittman | ofessor Humphrey Southall | |
| Nicola Clarke | Francesca Greenstreet | Dr Marcin Krygier | Professor Simone Paolo | r Craig Spence | |
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| Dr Giovanni Colavizza | Dr Adam Grimshaw | John Layt | Dr Peter Pridal | n Stoll | |
| Dr Justin Colson | Karen Gunnell | Deborah Leem | Dr Jo Pugh | ichael Stoner | |
| Sam Cottrell | Yerevag Hagopian | Dr Sjoerd Levelt | Seif Al Rashidi | r Chad Stolper | |
| Kevin Daniels | Dr Mark Hailwood | Amalia Skarlatou Levi | Dr Peter Rauxloh | ter Taylor | |
| Thierry Daunois | Finn Halligan | John Levin | Patrizia Rebulla | r Carl Thompson | |
| Dr John Davies | | M. L. Logue | | | |

Signs of Literacy initiative objectives

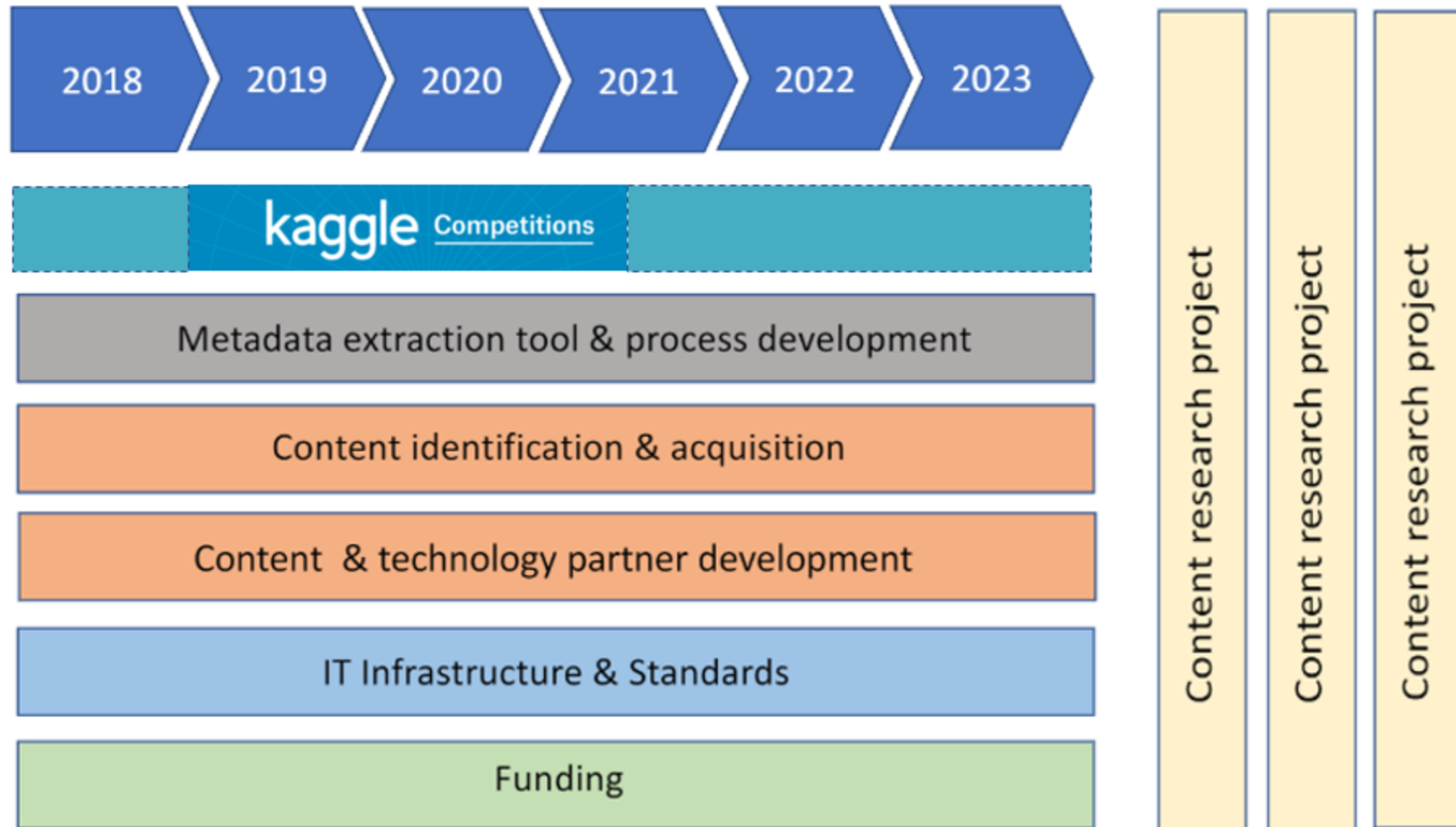
- Develop tools and processes for increasingly automated metadata extraction and linkage from digitised handwritten manuscript pages
- Develop the infrastructure to deliver a highly scaleable data set of one million manuscript pages containing signoffs and front matter
- Stimulate the development of machine learning capability in multiple archival centres of excellence
- Build interest amongst historians and linguists in machine learning applications to support close reading and distant reading approaches to large scale data sets
- Answer important research questions in field of historical literacy

Legal deposition

Deposition of Mark Harrison; mariner and master; resident in Wapping, Middlesex; age 27;
Dated September 21st 1659 (TNA, HCA 13/68, ff. 1r-3r)

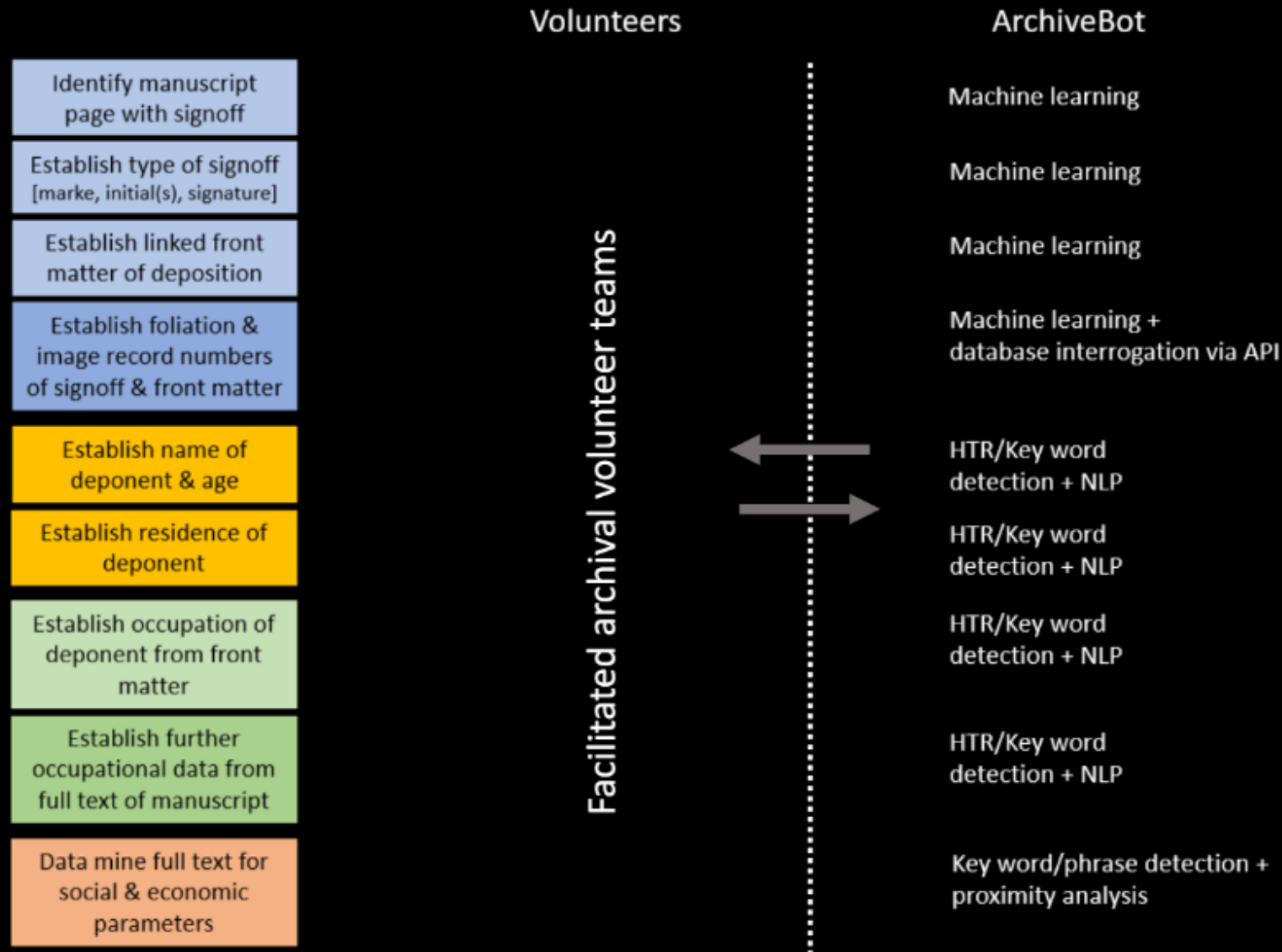


Proposed structure of Signs of Literacy initiative workstreams

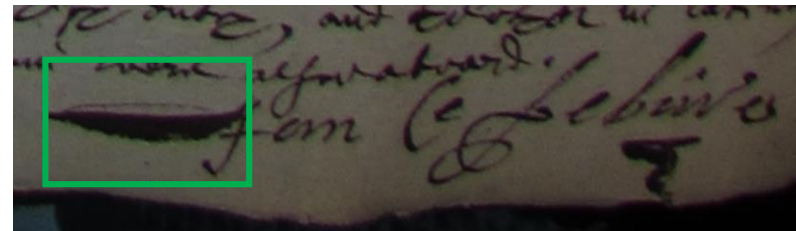
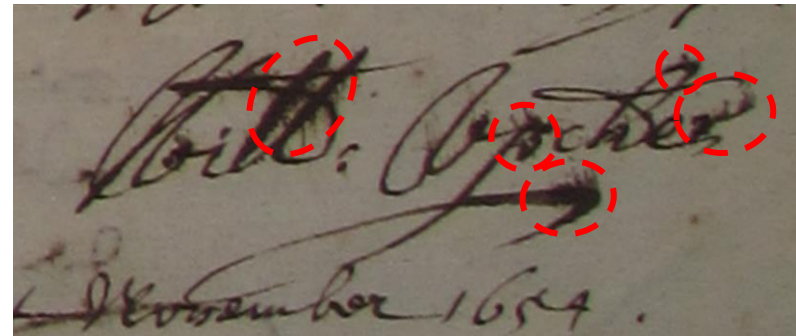
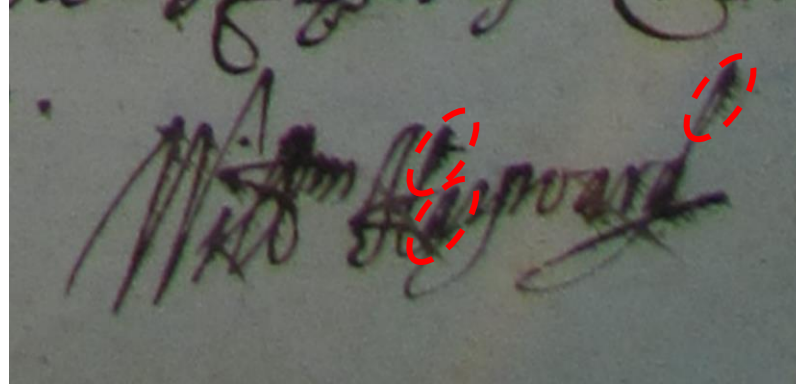
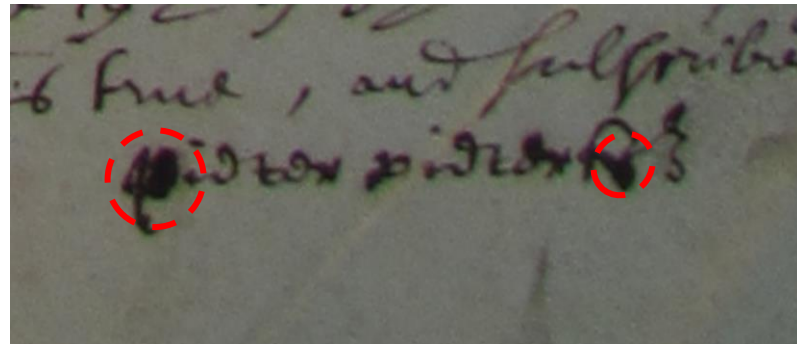
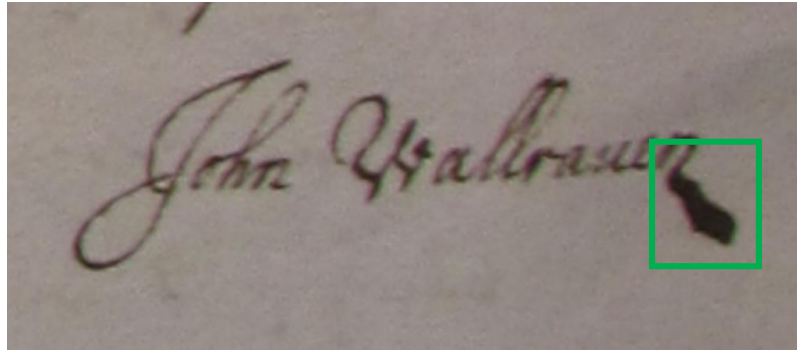
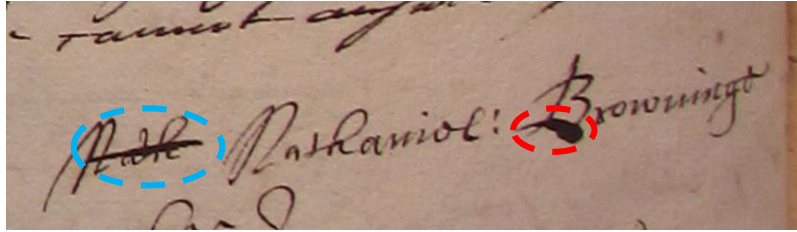


Collective intelligence

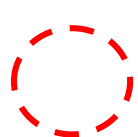
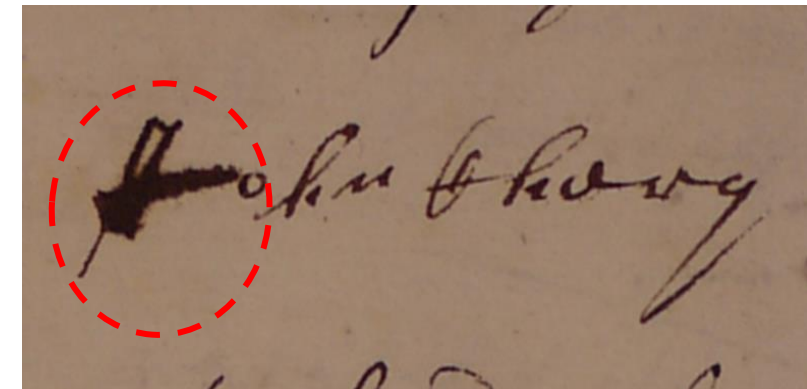
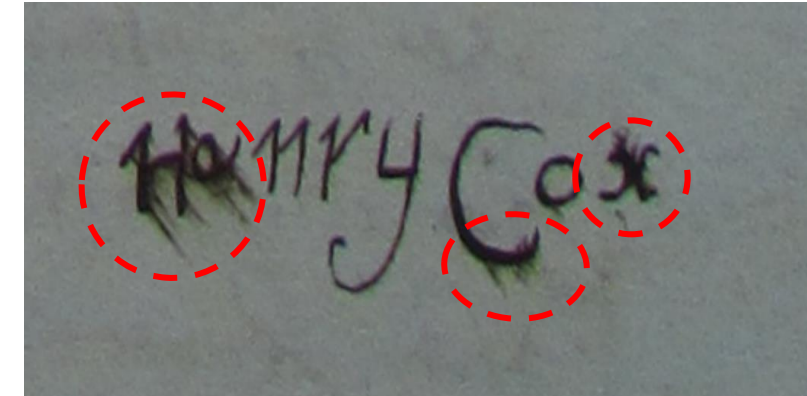
Help us
build a bot



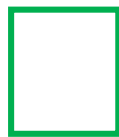
Feature extraction: blots, smudges, stylistic features, & deletions



Source: Clockwise from top LH side:
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.387v.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.13r.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.167r.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1371_f.456r.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.15r.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.19r.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.41v.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.17v.PNG



Ink blots or smudges

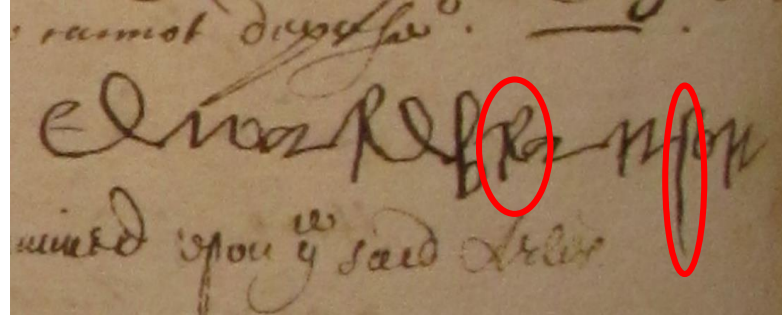
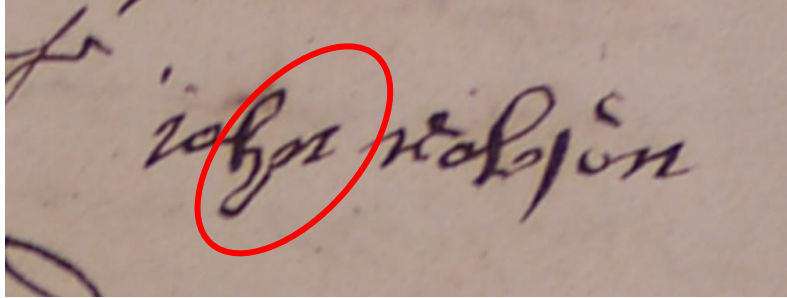


Stylistic feature or smudge?

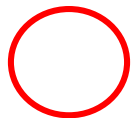
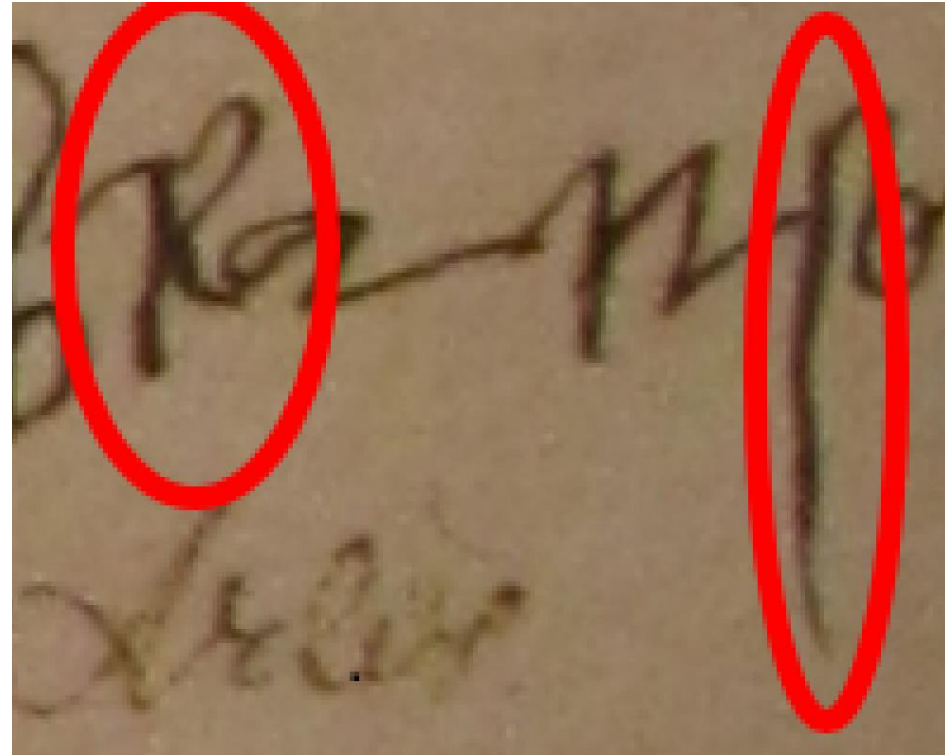
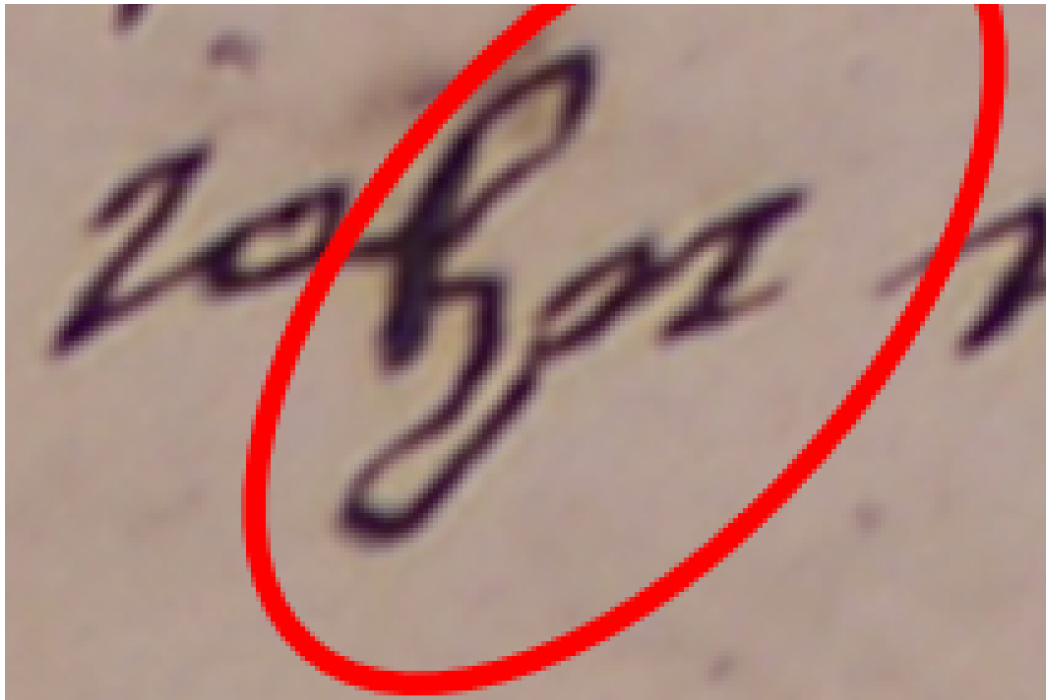


Deletion

Feature extraction: Detection of “shake” in straight and curved lines



HYPOTHESIS: Shaky lines may be a sign of poor signature execution (and by inference, poor handwriting execution) suggesting either lower level of literacy than smooth executed lines, or the effect of illness or age

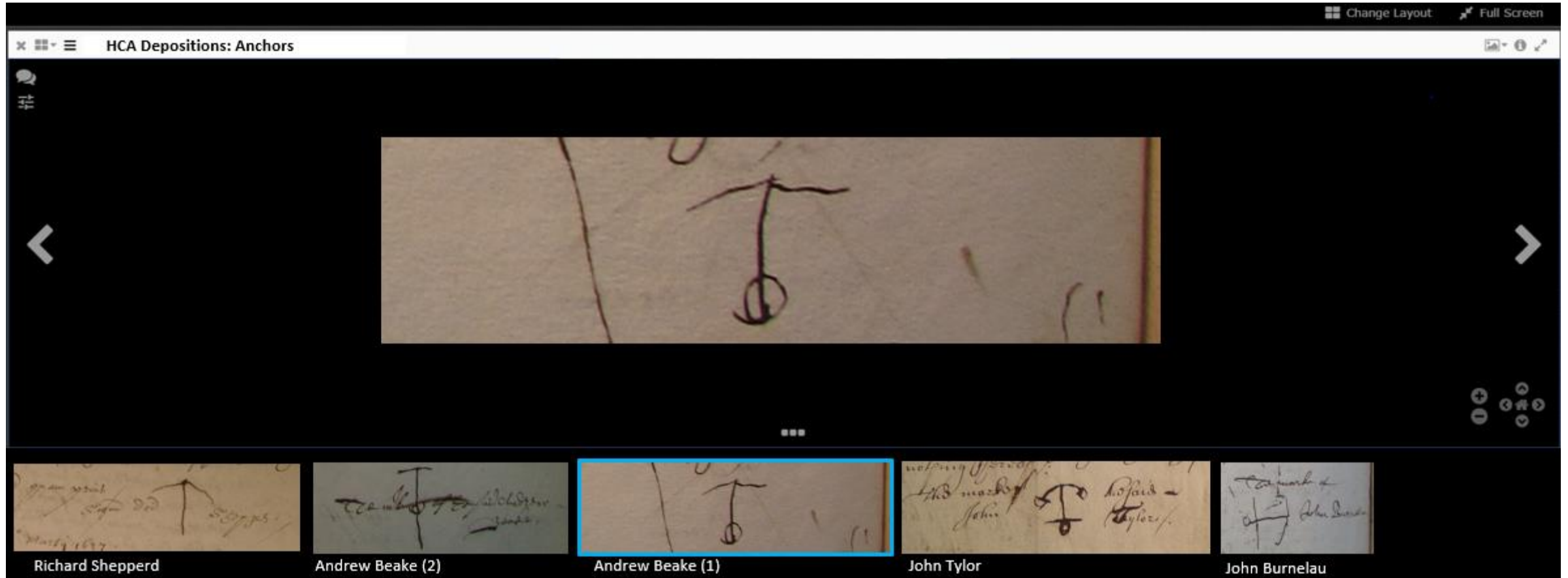


Shaky straight lines and/or loops

Clockwise, from top LH: KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1371_f.435v.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1368_f.483v.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1368_f.483v_PIXELS.PNG,
KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1371_f.435v.PNG_PIXELS.PNG

Close reading using IIIF anchors manifest in Mirador viewer

Anchors



Mockup of a IIIF manifest in Mirador viewer, using <http://projectmirador.org/demo/> ;
http://www.marinelives.org/wiki/HCA_13/70_f.252v_Annotate

Early adopter of Transkribus

Transkribus v0.6.4.3-SNAPSHOT (03.08.2015_15:50), Loaded doc: hca1371sample, ID: 902, Page 1, file: image_001.jpg

Documents | Structure | Jobs | Versions | Pages

Loaded doc: hca1371sample, ID: 902
Current collection: 435 - MarineLives
Current file: image_001.jpg
Key: BUNKJADKOVYPHWEBP
Document metadata... Editorial Declaration...
Logged in as: guenter
Server: https://transkribus.eu/TspServer

Admin area
Sync with local doc

Server documents
Collection: MarineLives / Owner
Documents

ID Title
902 hca1371sample
1059 hca13104sample

Tags
Add tag... Delete tag Find tags...
abbrev group organization person place speech textStyle year
Tags under cursor
abbrev (offset:36; length:5; expans...
Clear tags for selection

Properties of 'abbrev' tag
Add attribute... Delete selected attribute
Property Value
offset 36
length 5
contiguous false
expansion deponents

Line based | Region: H 4 2 / 5 | HTR suggestions CATTI

7 Englishman of warr lying in or neere the downes for the defense and
8 service of this Commonwealth./
9 To the 6:th hee saith, That the said two french men of warr never deserted
10 the pursuite of the said shipp ffortune, till shée was by the English
11 frigatts Companie seized as aforesaid, which was about a League from
12 the English coast according to this depo^s judgement, but not within
13 the Command of any such fort Castle or shipp as is interrare./
14 Piere. 4 Rousel

Transkribus recognition engine has been trained on Admiralty Court records

Planned use of AI

- Scale of targeted Signs of Literacy data set is 1 million manuscript pages vs. current 12,000 MarineLives manuscript pages
- Designed from get go as an exercise in collaborative intelligence, with strong focus on machine-human interface, expecting the role of machine and human to change over time
- Volunteers will be recruited explicitly for their interest in working with machines, rather than for their interests in palaeography and/or history
- Explicit measurement of user satisfaction & productivity as we introduce new tools to support volunteers in their process steps and/or automate specific process steps, allowing volunteers to concentrate on other parts of the overall metadata creation and linkage process

| Start year | End year | Volume | Count | | | | Total | | | | Volume | Count | | | | Total | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|--|--|--|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| | | | Marke | Initials | Signature | | | | | | | Marke | Initials | Signature | | | | | |
| 1574 | 1574 | HCA 13/20 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 20 | | | | | HCA 13/20 | 45.00% | 5.00% | 50.00% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1591 | 1592 | HCA 13/29 | 29 | 6 | 69 | 104 | | | | | HCA 13/29 | 27.88% | 5.77% | 66.35% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1592 | 1592 | HCA 13/30 | 32 | 12 | 130 | 174 | | | | | HCA 13/30 | 18.39% | 6.90% | 74.71% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1604 | 1605 | HCA 13/37 | 18 | 10 | 73 | 101 | | | | | HCA 13/37 | 17.82% | 9.90% | 72.28% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1607 | 1609 | HCA 13/39 | 28 | 12 | 105 | 145 | | | | | HCA 13/39 | 19.31% | 8.28% | 72.41% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1612 | 1612 | HCA 13/42 | 23 | 15 | 124 | 162 | | | | | HCA 13/42 | 14.20% | 9.26% | 76.54% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1619 | 1620 | HCA 13/43 | 20 | 12 | 136 | 168 | | | | | HCA 13/43 | 11.90% | 7.14% | 80.95% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1622 | 1635 | HCA 13/44 | 17 | 10 | 81 | 108 | | | | | HCA 13/44 | 15.74% | 9.26% | 75.00% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1627 | 1627 | HCA 13/46 | 21 | 2 | 95 | 118 | | | | | HCA 13/46 | 17.80% | 1.69% | 80.51% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1632 | 1652 | HCA 13/50 | 30 | 19 | 167 | 216 | | | | | HCA 13/50 | 13.89% | 8.80% | 77.31% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1634 | 1635 | HCA 13/51 | 43 | 22 | 181 | 246 | | | | | HCA 13/51 | 17.48% | 8.94% | 73.58% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1635 | 1636 | HCA 13/52 | 47 | 29 | 319 | 454 | | | | | HCA 13/52 | 10.35% | 6.39% | 83.26% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1637 | 1637 | HCA 13/53 | 54 | 47 | 488 | 569 | | | | | HCA 13/53 | 9.49% | 8.26% | 82.25% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1638 | 1639 | HCA 13/54 | 45 | 31 | 304 | 380 | | | | | HCA 13/54 | 11.84% | 8.16% | 80.00% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1639 | 1640 | HCA 13/55 | 55 | 59 | 519 | 633 | | | | | HCA 13/55 | 8.69% | 9.32% | 81.99% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1640 | 1641 | HCA 13/56 | 53 | 58 | 494 | 605 | | | | | HCA 13/56 | 8.76% | 9.59% | 81.65% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1641 | 1641 | HCA 13/57 | 21 | 17 | 276 | 319 | | | | | HCA 13/57 | 5.15% | 5.33% | 86.52% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1642 | 1642 | HCA 13/58 | 19 | 15 | 115 | 146 | | | | | HCA 13/58 | 10.91% | 10.27% | 78.77% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1644 | 1644 | HCA 13/59 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | | | | | HCA 13/59 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1645 | 1645 | HCA 13/60 | 9 | 13 | 92 | 114 | | | | | HCA 13/60 | 7.89% | 11.40% | 80.70% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1648 | 1649 | HCA 13/61 | 65 | 30 | 307 | 402 | | | | | HCA 13/61 | 16.17% | 7.46% | 76.37% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1647 | 1650 | HCA 13/62 | 44 | 35 | 353 | 432 | | | | | HCA 13/62 | 10.19% | 8.10% | 81.71% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1650 | 1650 | HCA 13/63 | 38 | 37 | 432 | 507 | | | | | HCA 13/63 | 7.50% | 7.30% | 85.21% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1650 | 1650 | HCA 13/64 | 6 | 9 | 176 | 191 | | | | | HCA 13/64 | 3.14% | 4.71% | 92.15% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1651 | 1653 | HCA 13/65 | 2 | 1 | 30 | 33 | | | | | HCA 13/65 | 6.06% | 3.03% | 90.91% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1653 | 1654 | HCA 13/68 | 96 | 54 | 645 | 795 | | | | | HCA 13/68 | 12.08% | 6.79% | 81.13% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1654 | 1656 | HCA 13/70 | 80 | 73 | 668 | 821 | | | | | HCA 13/70 | 9.74% | 8.89% | 81.36% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1654 | 1657 | HCA 13/71 | 48 | 44 | 550 | 642 | | | | | HCA 13/71 | 7.48% | 6.85% | 85.67% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1657 | 1659 | HCA 13/72 | 28 | 39 | 446 | 513 | | | | | HCA 13/72 | 5.46% | 7.60% | 86.94% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1659 | 1661 | HCA 13/73 | 32 | 38 | 345 | 415 | | | | | HCA 13/73 | 7.71% | 9.16% | 83.13% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1666 | 1669 | HCA 13/76 | 46 | 35 | 309 | 390 | | | | | HCA 13/76 | 11.79% | 8.97% | 79.23% | 100.00% | | | | |
| 1683 | 1684 | HCA 13/79 | 7 | 12 | 69 | 88 | | | | | HCA 13/79 | 7.95% | 13.64% | 78.41% | 100.00% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | TOTAL | 1058 | 796 | 8146 | 10000 | | | | | TOTAL | 10.58% | 7.96% | 81.46% | 100.00% | | | | |

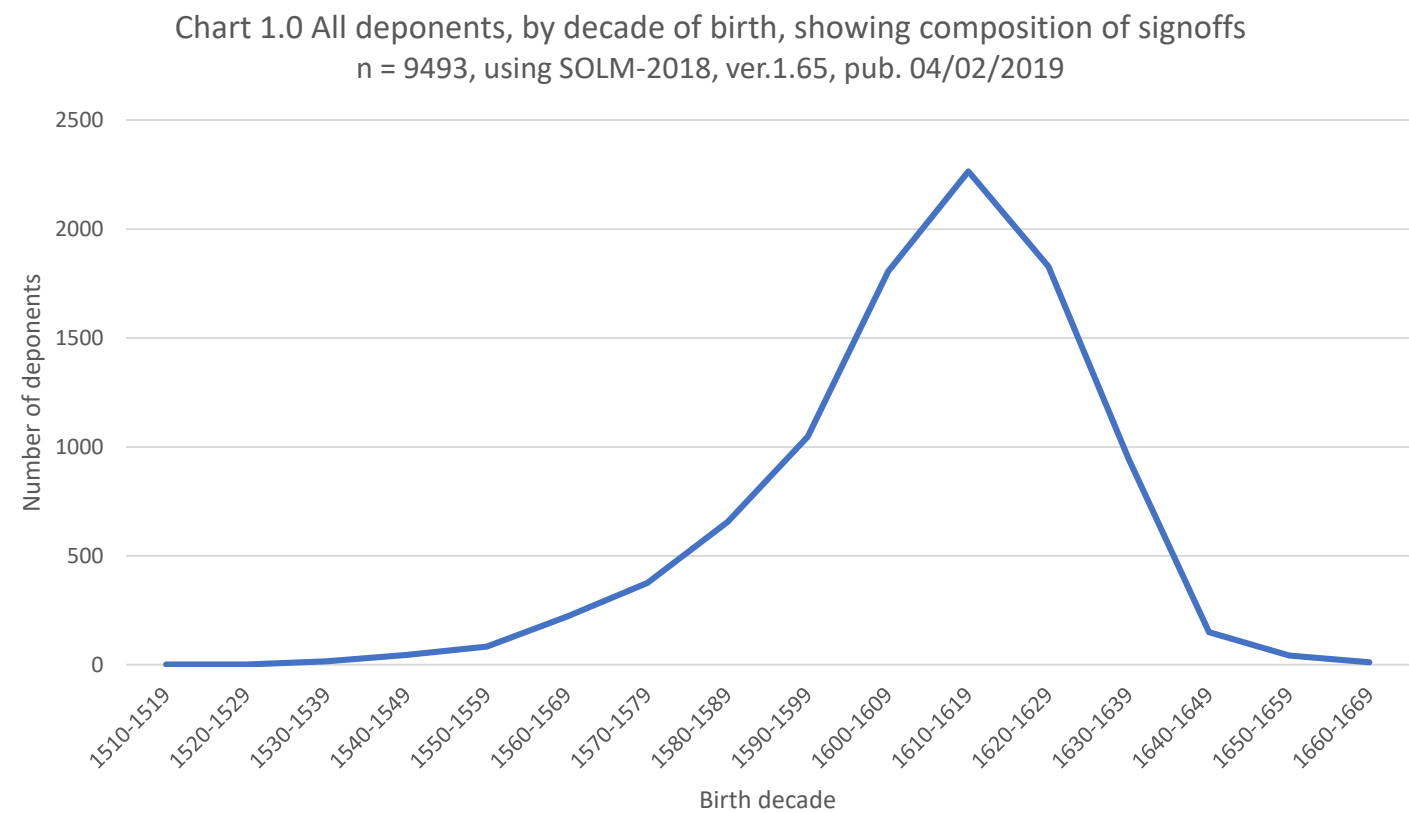
SOLM-2018

Ten thousand rows of data

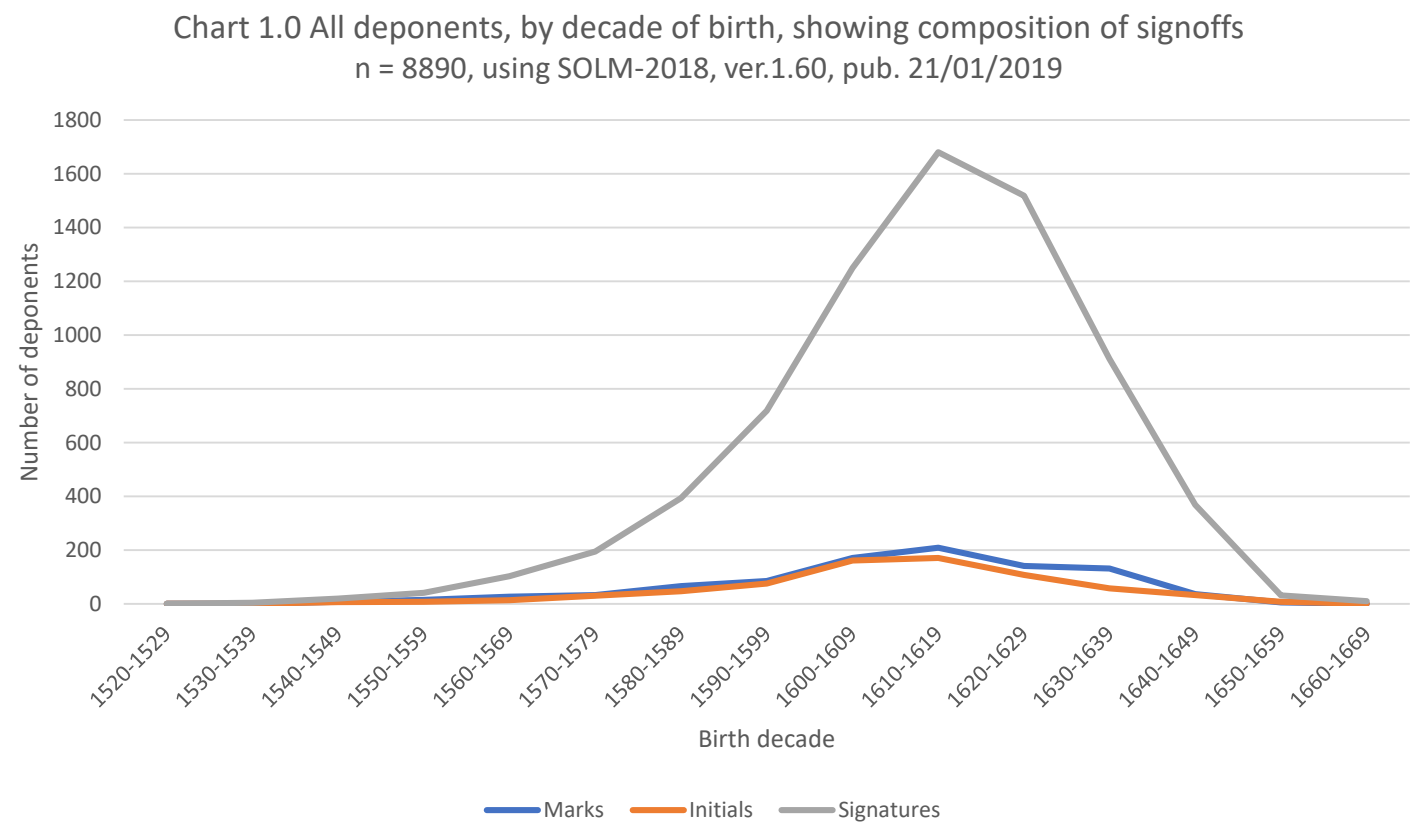
SOLM-2018 signoff composition as of 05/02/2019

| Table 9.1: Signoff composition by HCA volume | | | | | | | Table 9.1: Signoff composition by HCA volume | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|-----------|--|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Data as of 05/02/2019 | | | | | | | Data as of 05/02/2019 | | | | | | |
| Start y | End yea | Volume | Count | Marke | Initials | Signature | Total | Volume | Count | Count | Count | Count | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1573 | 1574 | HCA 13/20 | 9 | 1 | 11 | 21 | 21 | HCA 13/20 | 42.86% | 4.76% | 52.38% | 100.00% | |
| 1589 | 1589 | HCA 13/28 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 16 | HCA 13/28 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | |
| 1591 | 1592 | HCA 13/29 | 29 | 6 | 83 | 118 | 118 | HCA 13/29 | 24.58% | 5.08% | 70.34% | 100.00% | |
| 1592 | 1592 | HCA 13/30 | 32 | 12 | 130 | 174 | 174 | HCA 13/30 | 18.39% | 6.90% | 74.71% | 100.00% | |
| 1604 | 1605 | HCA 13/37 | 33 | 16 | 167 | 216 | 216 | HCA 13/37 | 15.28% | 7.41% | 77.31% | 100.00% | |
| 1607 | 1609 | HCA 13/39 | 34 | 19 | 151 | 204 | 204 | HCA 13/39 | 16.67% | 9.31% | 74.02% | 100.00% | |
| 1612 | 1612 | HCA 13/42 | 27 | 18 | 166 | 211 | 211 | HCA 13/42 | 12.80% | 8.53% | 78.67% | 100.00% | |
| 1619 | 1621 | HCA 13/43 | 23 | 14 | 167 | 204 | 204 | HCA 13/43 | 11.27% | 6.86% | 81.86% | 100.00% | |
| 1622 | 1625 | HCA 13/44 | 19 | 11 | 99 | 129 | 129 | HCA 13/44 | 14.73% | 8.53% | 76.74% | 100.00% | |
| 1627 | 1627 | HCA 13/46 | 21 | 2 | 95 | 118 | 118 | HCA 13/46 | 17.80% | 1.69% | 80.51% | 100.00% | |
| 1632 | 1632 | HCA 13/50 | 30 | 19 | 167 | 216 | 216 | HCA 13/50 | 13.89% | 8.80% | 77.31% | 100.00% | |
| 1634 | 1635 | HCA 13/51 | 43 | 22 | 181 | 246 | 246 | HCA 13/51 | 17.48% | 8.94% | 73.58% | 100.00% | |
| 1635 | 1636 | HCA 13/52 | 50 | 32 | 417 | 499 | 499 | HCA 13/52 | 10.02% | 6.41% | 83.57% | 100.00% | |
| 1637 | 1637 | HCA 13/53 | 54 | 47 | 468 | 569 | 569 | HCA 13/53 | 9.49% | 8.26% | 82.25% | 100.00% | |
| 1638 | 1639 | HCA 13/54 | 45 | 31 | 304 | 380 | 380 | HCA 13/54 | 11.84% | 8.16% | 80.00% | 100.00% | |
| 1639 | 1640 | HCA 13/55 | 57 | 65 | 578 | 700 | 700 | HCA 13/55 | 8.14% | 9.29% | 82.57% | 100.00% | |
| 1640 | 1641 | HCA 13/56 | 53 | 58 | 494 | 605 | 605 | HCA 13/56 | 8.76% | 9.59% | 81.65% | 100.00% | |
| 1641 | 1641 | HCA 13/57 | 37 | 25 | 352 | 414 | 414 | HCA 13/57 | 8.94% | 6.04% | 85.02% | 100.00% | |
| 1642 | 1642 | HCA 13/58 | 16 | 15 | 115 | 146 | 146 | HCA 13/58 | 10.96% | 10.27% | 78.77% | 100.00% | |
| 1644 | 1644 | HCA 13/59 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 9 | HCA 13/59 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | |
| 1645 | 1645 | HCA 13/60 | 9 | 13 | 92 | 114 | 114 | HCA 13/60 | 7.89% | 11.40% | 80.70% | 100.00% | |
| 1648 | 1649 | HCA 13/61 | 65 | 30 | 307 | 402 | 402 | HCA 13/61 | 16.17% | 7.46% | 76.37% | 100.00% | |
| 1647 | 1650 | HCA 13/62 | 44 | 35 | 353 | 432 | 432 | HCA 13/62 | 10.19% | 8.10% | 81.71% | 100.00% | |
| 1650 | 1650 | HCA 13/63 | 38 | 37 | 432 | 507 | 507 | HCA 13/63 | 7.50% | 7.30% | 85.21% | 100.00% | |
| 1650 | 1650 | HCA 13/64 | 8 | 11 | 224 | 243 | 243 | HCA 13/64 | 3.29% | 4.53% | 92.18% | 100.00% | |
| 1651 | 1653 | HCA 13/65 | 2 | 1 | 30 | 33 | 33 | HCA 13/65 | 6.06% | 3.03% | 90.91% | 100.00% | |
| 1653 | 1654 | HCA 13/68 | 96 | 54 | 645 | 795 | 795 | HCA 13/68 | 12.08% | 6.79% | 81.13% | 100.00% | |
| 1654 | 1656 | HCA 13/70 | 80 | 73 | 668 | 821 | 821 | HCA 13/70 | 9.74% | 8.89% | 81.36% | 100.00% | |
| 1654 | 1657 | HCA 13/71 | 48 | 44 | 550 | 642 | 642 | HCA 13/71 | 7.48% | 6.85% | 85.67% | 100.00% | |
| 1657 | 1659 | HCA 13/72 | 28 | 39 | 446 | 513 | 513 | HCA 13/72 | 5.46% | 7.60% | 86.94% | 100.00% | |
| 1659 | 1661 | HCA 13/73 | 32 | 38 | 345 | 415 | 415 | HCA 13/73 | 7.71% | 9.16% | 83.13% | 100.00% | |
| 1666 | 1669 | HCA 13/76 | 46 | 35 | 309 | 390 | 390 | HCA 13/76 | 11.79% | 8.97% | 79.23% | 100.00% | |
| 1683 | 1684 | HCA 13/79 | 7 | 12 | 69 | 88 | 88 | HCA 13/79 | 7.95% | 13.64% | 78.41% | 100.00% | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | 1115 | 835 | 8640 | 10590 | TOTAL | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 10.53% | 7.88% | 81.59% |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 100.00% | | |

SOLM-2018 deponents by birth decade, as of 04/02/2018



The SOLM-2018 dataset is drawn from deponents in the English High Court of Admiralty. The dataset is particularly strong for birth decades 1570-79 through to 1640-59, though the complete range is 1520-29 through to 1660-69. Future editions will strengthen our coverage pre 1570 and post 1660

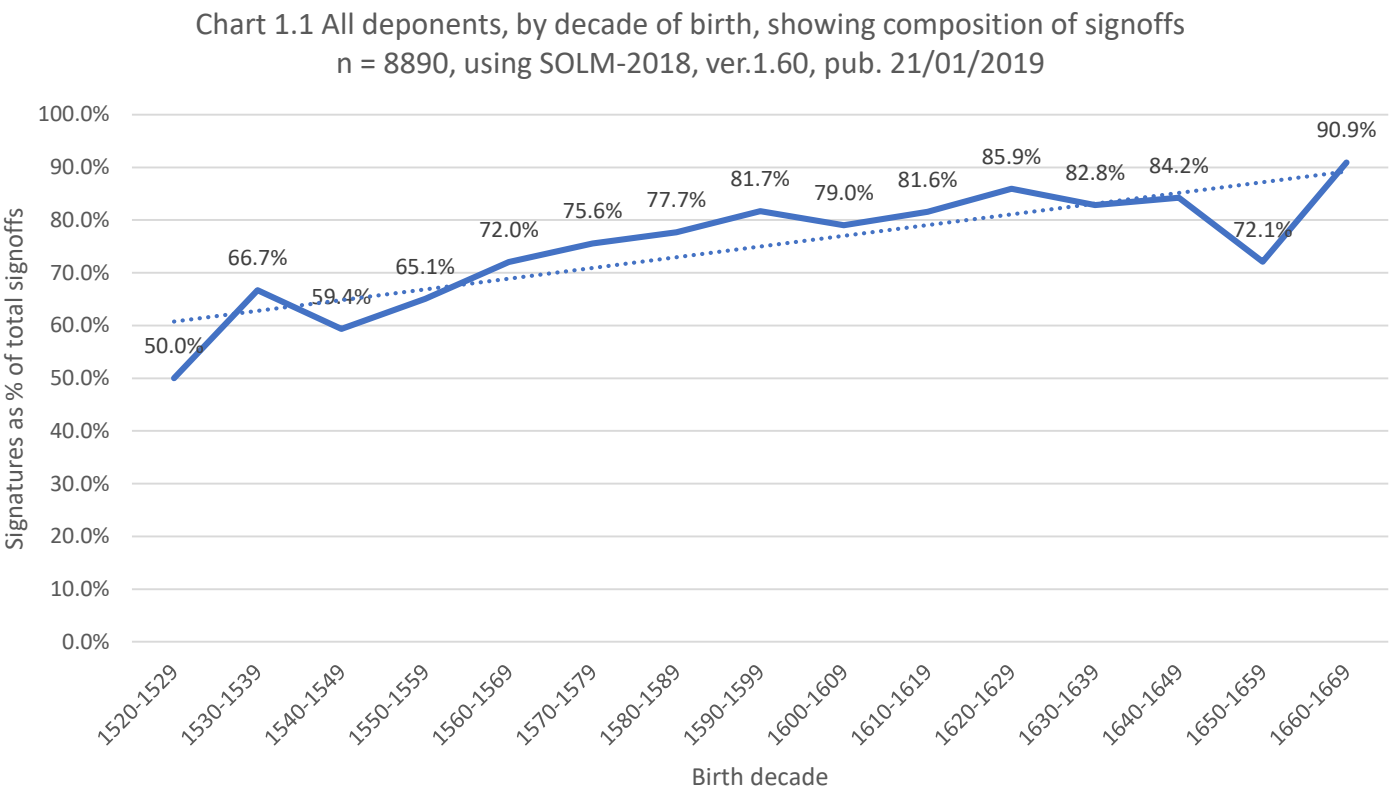


Our dataset is currently just short of 9,000 deponents. We are working on adding a further 1,000 deponents to complete the SOLM-2018 edition of the dataset by end February.

This dataset will then form a core component of the Kaggle competitions we will be running later this year, to explore the application of machine learning to historical data collection.

We will be producing further larger editions of the dataset in the form of SOLM-2019, SOLM-2020 etc., incorporating input from machine learning driven image extraction and continued volunteer effort

At the most aggregate level, with all occupations and with English and non-English deponents, the data show increasing use of signatures as chosen signoff method as the birth decade of deponent increases

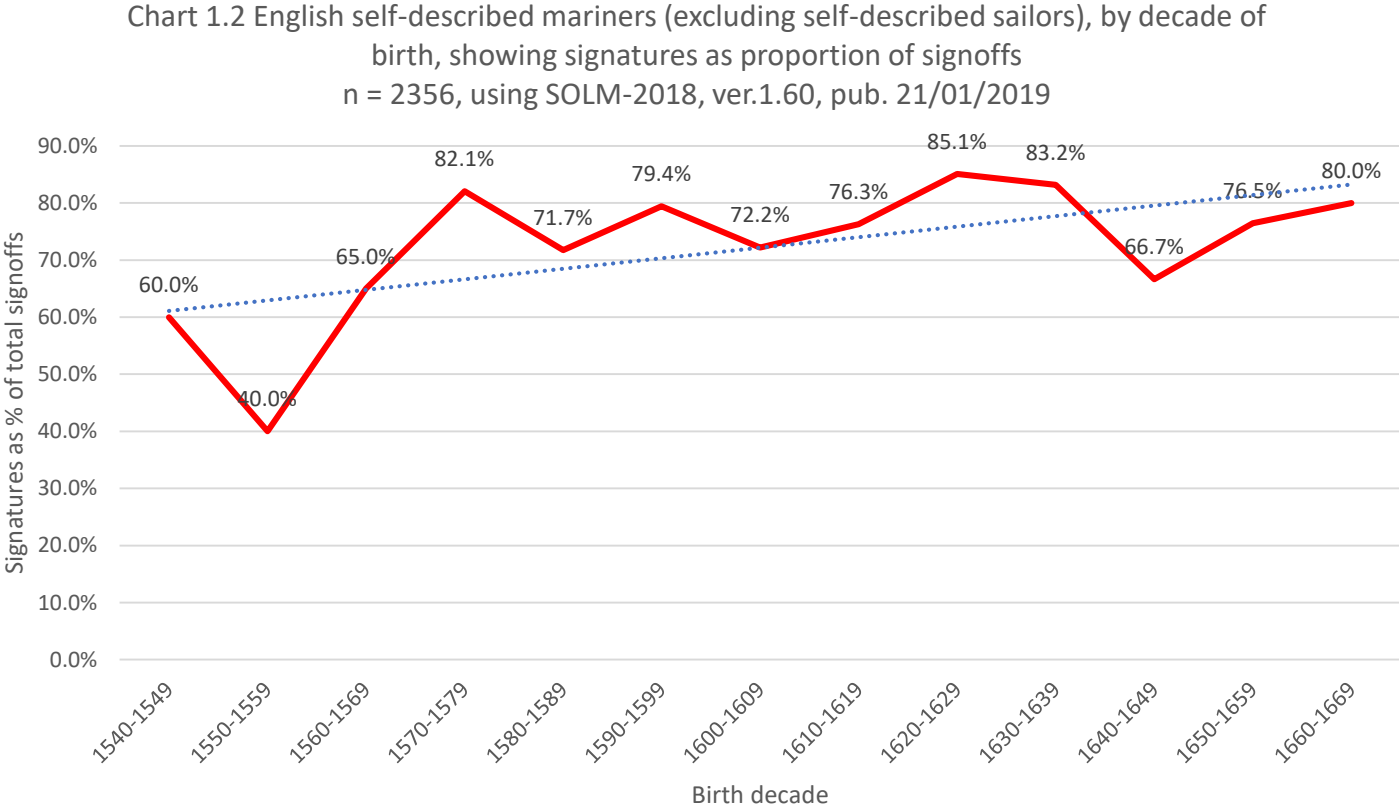


Aggregate level analysis is affected by changing mix of deponents. Non-English deponents increased in number at times of war. Occupational mix also changed over time in response to changing use of the High Court of Admiralty by plaintiffs.

In this aggregate analysis, the high proportion of signatures is driven by large numbers of literate merchants for all birth decades.

Once we have completed the SOLM-2018 dataset (planned for end-February 2019), we will be exploring the use of marks, initials and signatures and their change over time, from both a quantitative and a qualitative perspective

Moving down one level to the broad category of self-described mariners (who could range from master of a transoceanic ship through to common man on a coal or salt ship), our data show increasing use of signatures as chosen signoff method as the birth decade of deponent increases

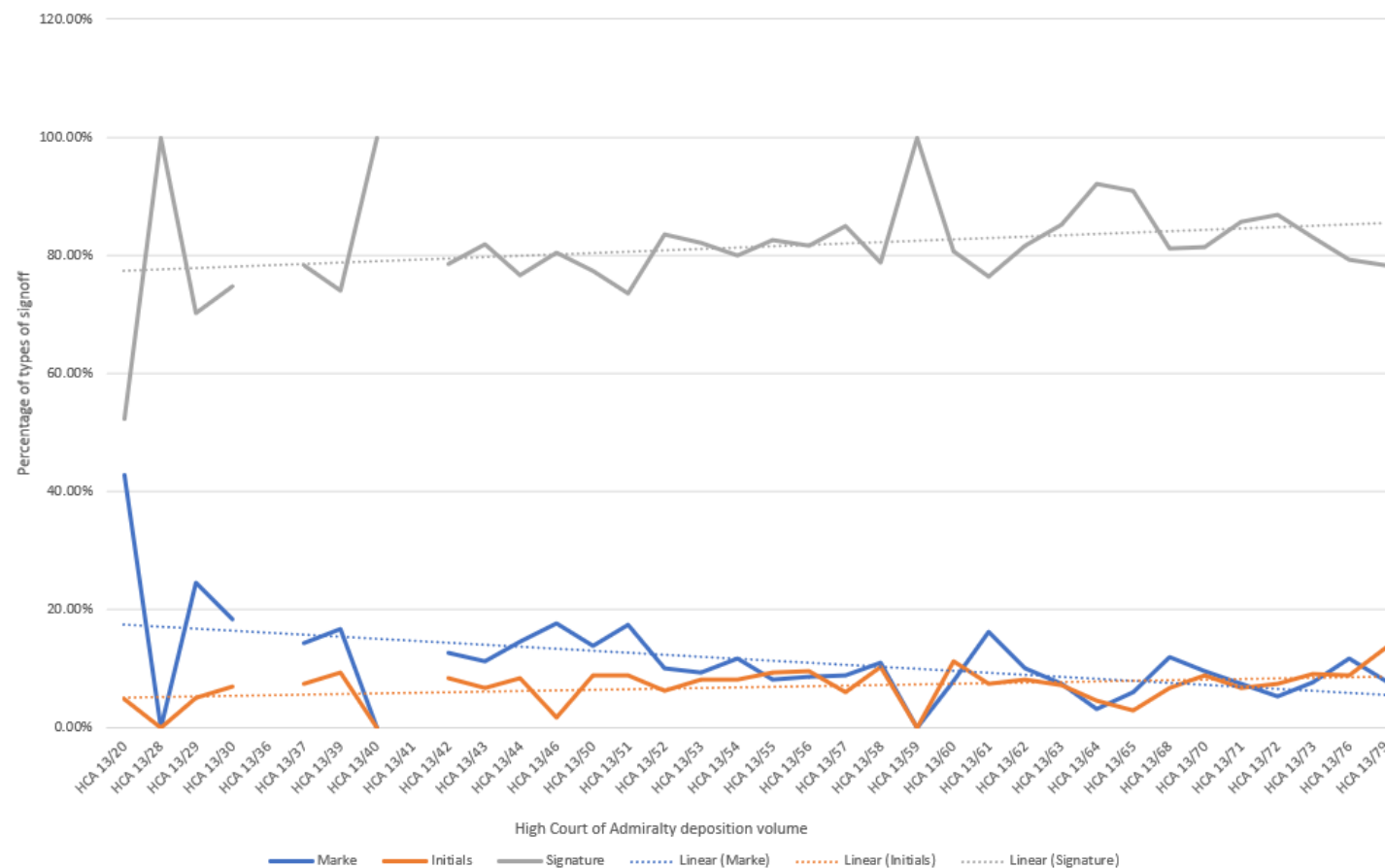


At the level of analysis of self-described mariners, the high proportion of signatures is driven by large numbers of literate masters of ships, master’s mates, boatswains and gunners, with signature rates between the low seventy and mid-ninety percentage points. Self-described mariners, who go on to precisely identify themselves as common men or foremastmen or “one of the company” (which usually excludes officers) are coming in with fifty percent using signatures. Our sample sizes will eventually allow us to do time series analysis for some of the bigger sub-groups, but not for all mariner occupations. Note that the mix of marks to initials varies widely at the level of finer occupational detail. Note too that the sample size is much smaller for early and late birth decades

| Occupation | Mark | Initials | Signature | Total |
|------------------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Purser | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Sopra cargo; Su | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Coxen | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Midshipman | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Collyer | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Stevadore | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Ballastman | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Admiral | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Lightermaster | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |
| Chirurgion [on | 0.00% | 3.03% | 96.97% | 100.00% |
| Commander | 1.63% | 1.63% | 96.75% | 100.00% |
| Master [all shi | 2.20% | 2.56% | 95.24% | 100.00% |
| Steersman | 3.77% | 1.89% | 94.34% | 100.00% |
| Passenger | 3.45% | 6.90% | 89.66% | 100.00% |
| Master's mate | 7.17% | 5.38% | 87.44% | 100.00% |
| Cooper [on shi | 12.50% | 8.33% | 79.17% | 100.00% |
| Pilot | 10.17% | 11.86% | 77.97% | 100.00% |
| Masters [on co | 15.38% | 7.69% | 76.92% | 100.00% |
| Skipper [mainl | 19.23% | 3.85% | 76.92% | 100.00% |
| Steward [on sh | 8.00% | 16.00% | 76.00% | 100.00% |
| Gunner | 12.28% | 14.91% | 72.81% | 100.00% |
| Boatswain | 13.67% | 14.39% | 71.94% | 100.00% |
| Trumpeter | 33.33% | 0.00% | 66.67% | 100.00% |
| Common man/i | 21.74% | 21.74% | 56.52% | 100.00% |
| Seaman | 35.48% | 9.68% | 54.84% | 100.00% |
| One of the com | 28.17% | 17.75% | 54.08% | 100.00% |
| Foremastman | 20.93% | 27.91% | 51.16% | 100.00% |
| Common man [| 28.00% | 20.00% | 52.00% | 100.00% |
| Cabin boy | 16.67% | 33.33% | 50.00% | 100.00% |
| Carpenter [on : | 19.44% | 30.56% | 50.00% | 100.00% |
| Vice admiral | 0.00% | 50.00% | 50.00% | 100.00% |
| Sailor | 37.86% | 14.56% | 47.57% | 100.00% |
| All [on coal shi | 30.95% | 23.81% | 45.24% | 100.00% |
| Quartermaster | 29.58% | 26.76% | 43.66% | 100.00% |
| Masters [on hc | 37.50% | 25.00% | 37.50% | 100.00% |
| Cook [on ship] | 40.38% | 23.08% | 36.54% | 100.00% |
| Waterman | 32.67% | 32.67% | 34.65% | 100.00% |
| All [on hoys] | 40.00% | 26.67% | 33.33% | 100.00% |
| Lighterman | 39.53% | 32.56% | 27.91% | 100.00% |
| Fisherman | 44.44% | 35.56% | 20.00% | 100.00% |
| Ferryman | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Private marine | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Tideboat man | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |

Raw data by
HCA volume,
for period
1573 to 1686




Analysis of signoffs by HCA deposition volume,
HCA 13/20 through to HCA 13/79
n = 10,607, SOLM-2018, ver.1.65, pub. 05/02/2019
Numbers of signoffs captured in SOLM-2018 vary significantly between volume

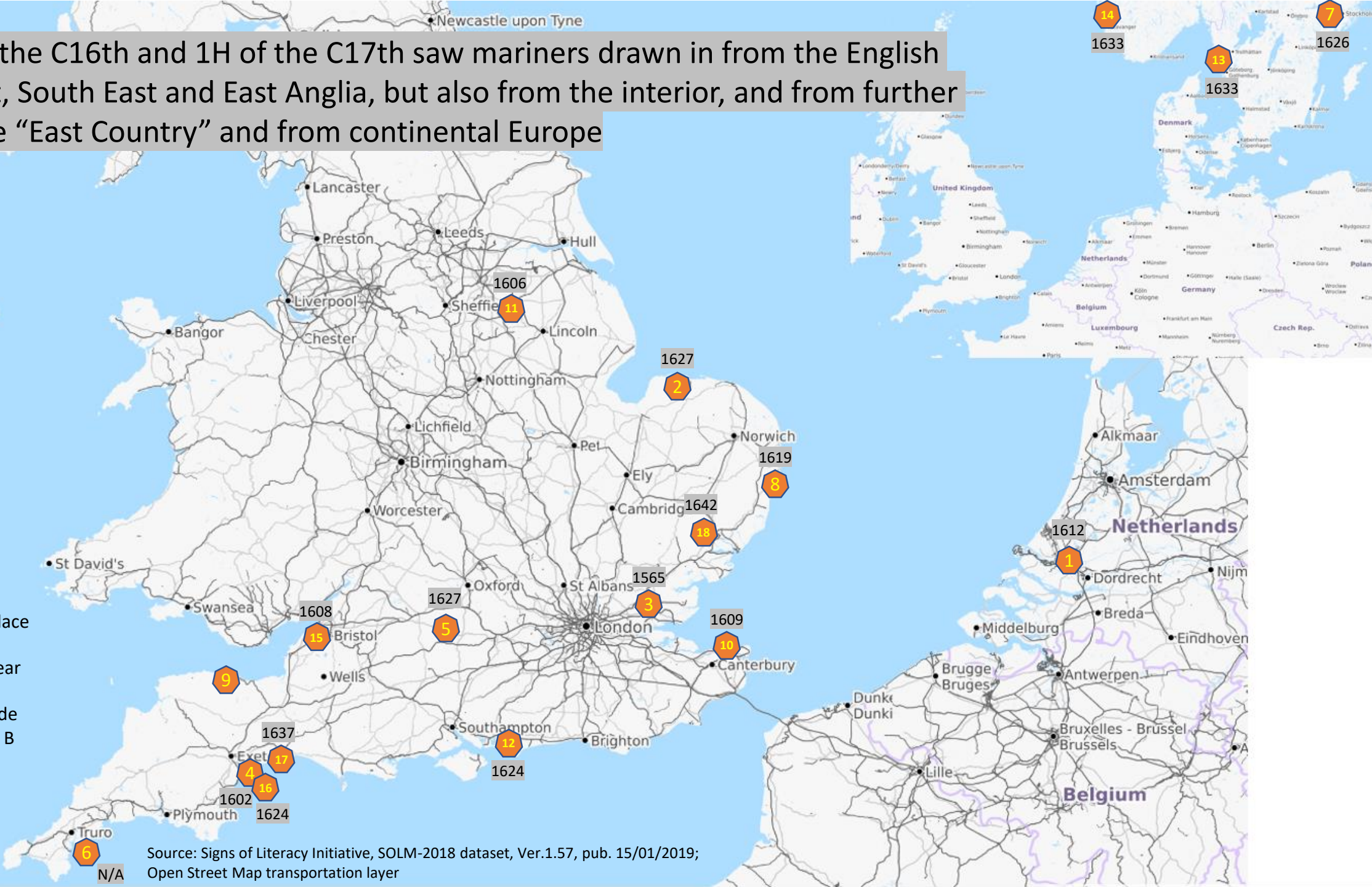


The end of the C16th and 1H of the C17th saw mariners drawn in from the English South West, South East and East Anglia, but also from the interior, and from further afield in the “East Country” and from continental Europe

SLIDE A

KEY:

-  Mariner birth place
-  Mariner birth year
-  Match no. in Slide A to no. in Slide B to see where mariners later lived

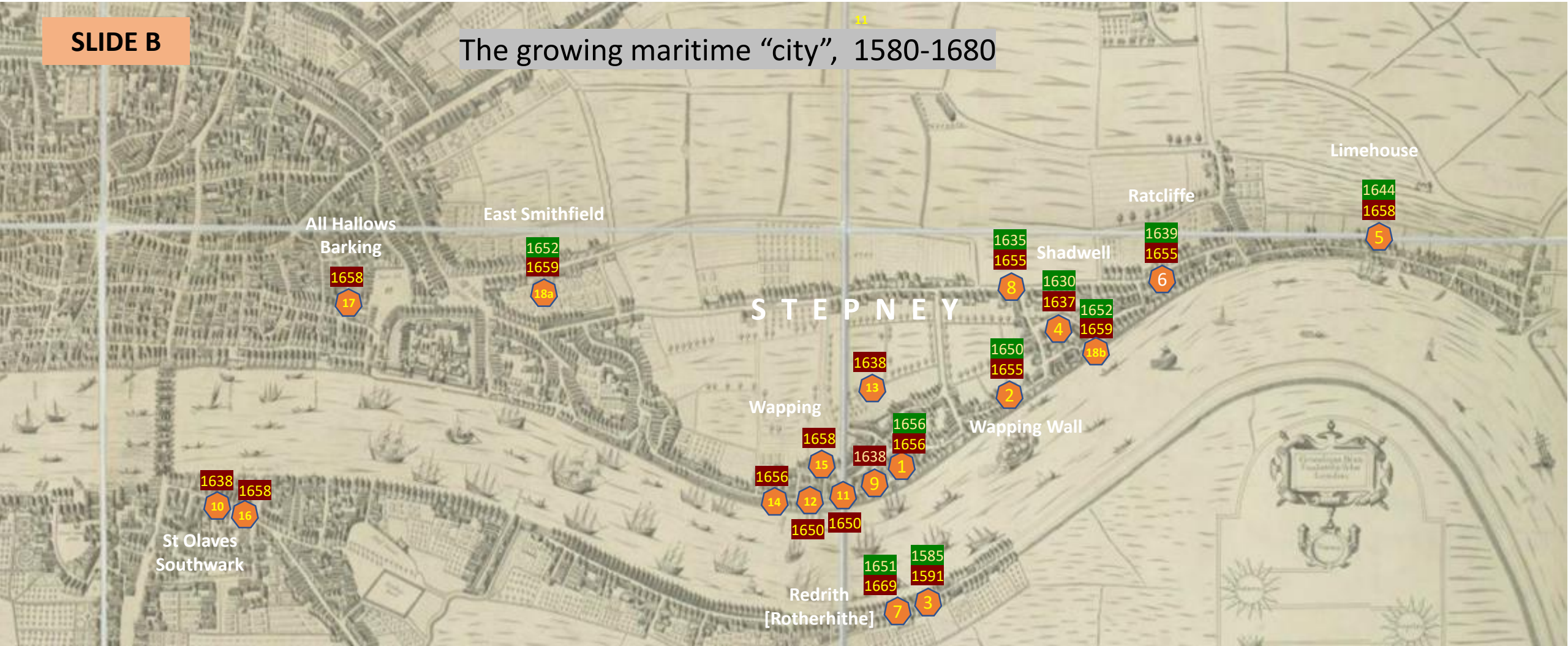





Source: Signs of Literacy Initiative, SOLM-2018 dataset, Ver.1.57, pub. 15/01/2019;
Open Street Map transportation layer

To the East and South-East of London was a rapidly growing strip of hamlets, yards, docks and businesses serving marine trade

SLIDE B

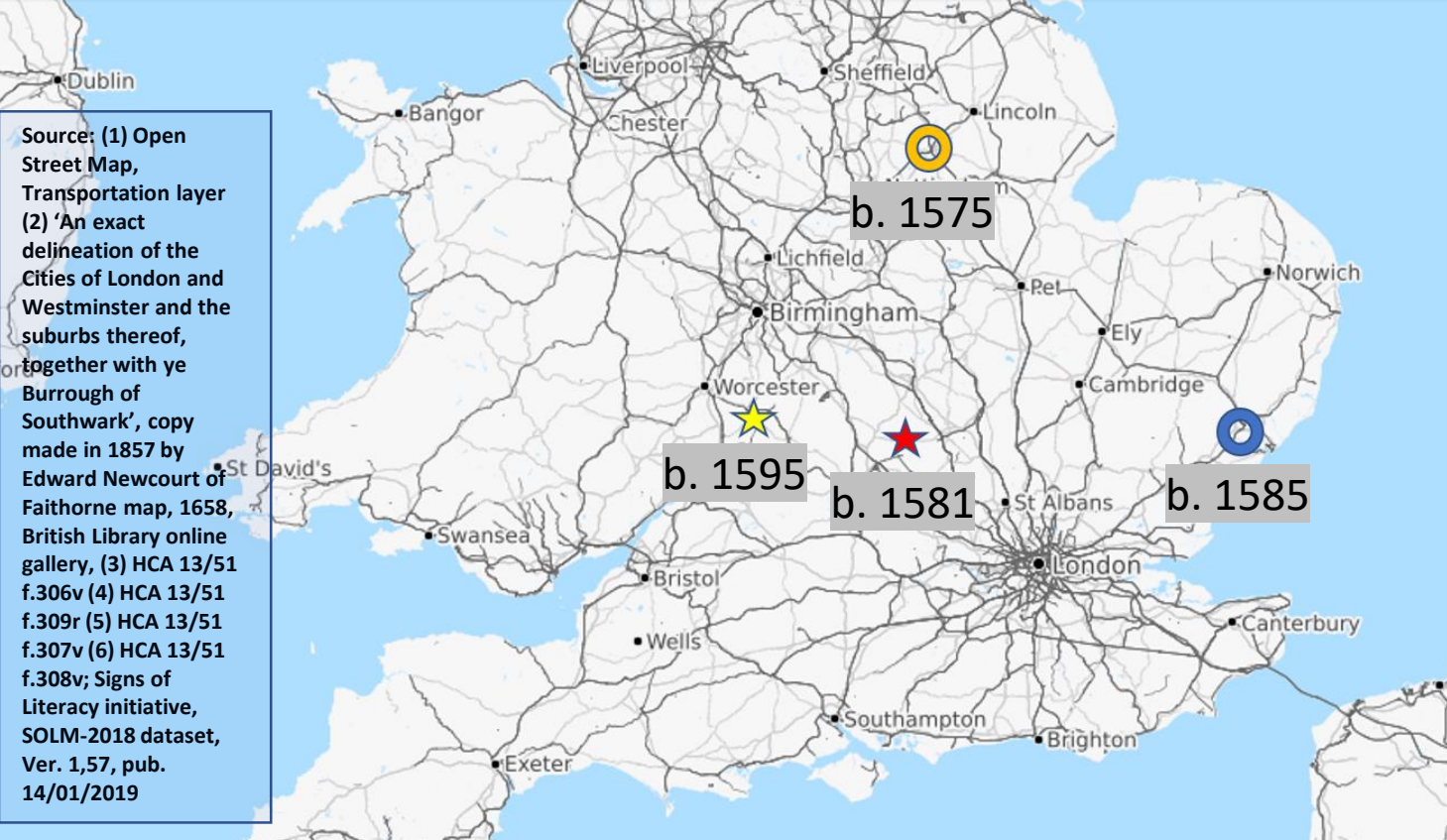
The growing maritime “city”, 1580-1680



KEY:  Mariner place of residence, when not at sea  1630 Year became resident  1638 Year deposited in English High Court of Admiralty

Source: Signs of Literacy Initiative, SOLM-2018 dataset, Ver.1.57, pub. 15/01/2019; ‘An exact delineation of the Cities of London and Westminster and the suburbs thereof, together with ye Burrough of Southwark’, copy made in 1857 by Edward Newcourt of Faithorne map, 1658, British Library online gallery

Source: (1) Open Street Map, Transportation layer (2) 'An exact delineation of the Cities of London and Westminster and the suburbs thereof, together with ye Burrough of Southwark', copy made in 1857 by Edward Newcourt of Faithorne map, 1658, British Library online gallery, (3) HCA 13/51 f.306v (4) HCA 13/51 f.309r (5) HCA 13/51 f.307v (6) HCA 13/51 f.308v; Signs of Literacy initiative, SOLM-2018 dataset, Ver. 1.57, pub. 14/01/2019



Giles Lucas, fifty-four year old labourer, living at Ratcliffe in Stepney ★



"Hee was borne at Bourton in the county of Buckingham, and for almost thirty yeares laste paste hath dwelte in Ratcliffe and hee sayeth that he hath known Andrew and Samuell Burrell the parties producent for these five or sixe yeares last paste and Mathewe Wood and Josias Jay the parties against whom hee is produced he hath known by sighte onely since a day or two before...Hee is noe subsidy mann but a poore labourer and worth as hee thinketh forty shillings or thereabouts...Hee is a labouring mann and in that quality most commonly employed by the foresaid Samuel Burrell and getteth most of meanes of livelihood in the employment of the said Samuel Burrell"[3]

William Baylie, forty year old labourer, living at Shadwell in Stepney ★



"Hee was borne at Broadway in the countye of Worcestre and that he hath dwelt by the space of these fower yeares or thereabouts in the parish of Stepney and before that tyme he dwelt at Sambersey in the county of Worcestre aforesayd by the space of two yeares, and before that at Hembury in the same countye by the space of a yeare or therabouts, and that he hath knowen Mr Andrewe Burrell by sight onely for these three yeares last past and Mr Samuell Burrell for the speace of a yeare or therabouts, but knoweth not Mathewe Wood and Josias Jay the parties against whom he is produced...He is noe subsidye man, but is worth 20 shillings his debts payd...He is ordinarily employed as a workman to heave ballast for the sayd Andrewe and Samuel Burrell, and maintaineth himselfe chiefly by that which he getts under them, but is at his owne disposinge to worke for any other men, that will imploye him."[4]

William Hart, fifty year old lighterman, living at Ratcliffe in Stepney ○



"Hee was borne at ffreston in the county of Suffolke and for these seaven yeares laste paste hath dwelte in Shadwell and is not conversant with the partys producent....He is a servant hired by the weeke to the parties producent and getteth his meanes of livelihood in their employment and hee hath donn for above seaven yeares laste paste...Hee was not one of those that broughte downe the ballaste, but sayeth two messingers came from Mr Wood one of the defendants to this rendent the same day that the said lighter of ballaste was sent to the Hopewell, and willed him not to saile that day to sende a lighter of ballaste aboard that shipp."[5]

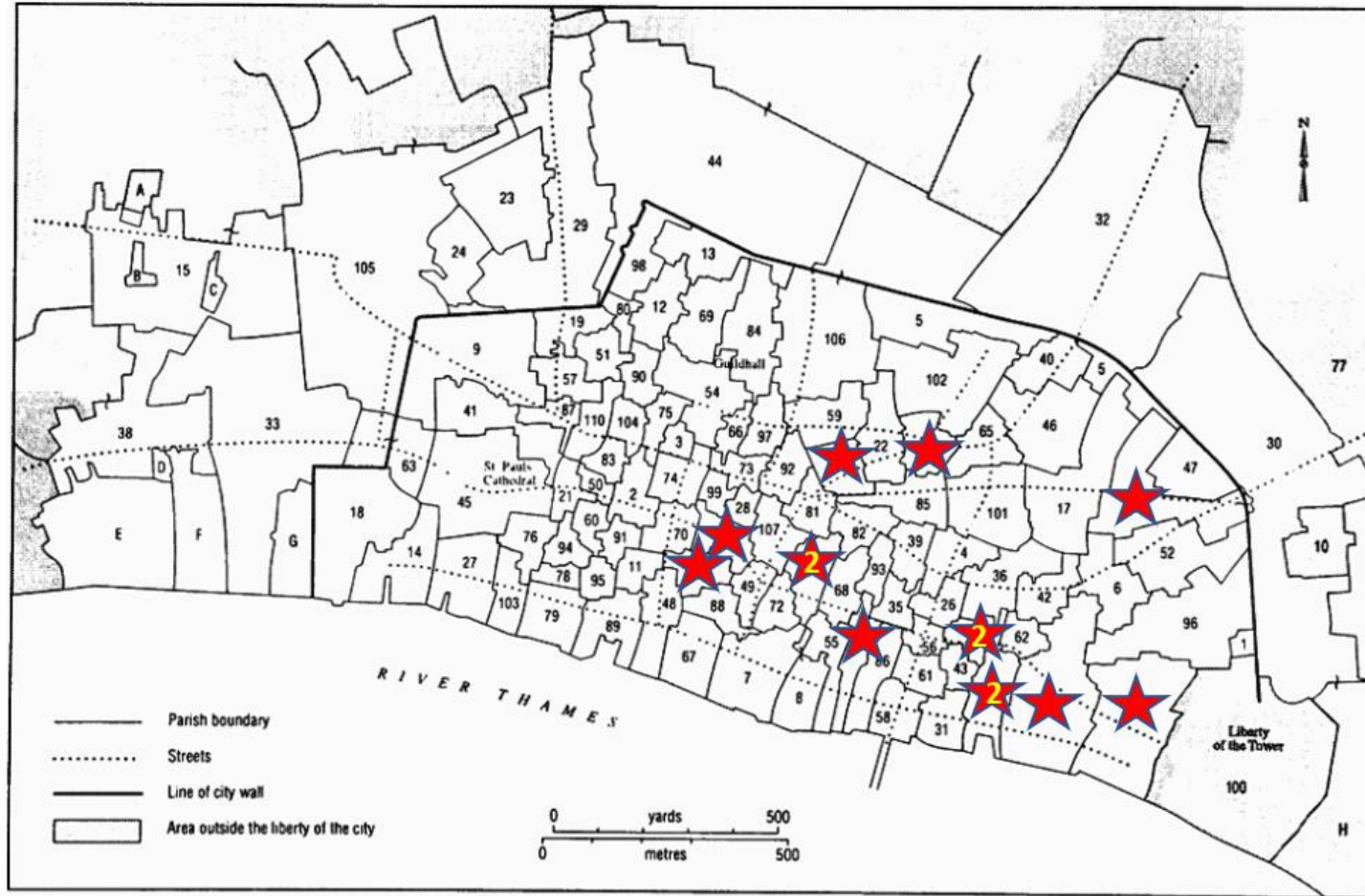
Edward Ridge, sixty year old lighterman, living at Shadwell in Stepney ○



"Hee was borne at Newarcke in the county of Notingham, and for these fower yeares last paste hath lived in Shadwell, and for many yeares before at Wapping Wall and sayeth that the parties producent hee hath knowen for these seaven yeares but the parties against whom hee is producent hee saieth hee knoweth not...Hee is noe subsidye mann but thincketh that hee is worth forty shillings his debts paid."...Hee is altogether ymployed as a lighterman by the parties producent, and they pay him for his labour, and sometymes for the use of a lighter of his, and hee getteth his meanes of livelihood in their ymployment."[6]



London destinations of goods sent by ship from Rotterdam – eleven merchants, a grocer, a brasier and a girdler (1636)



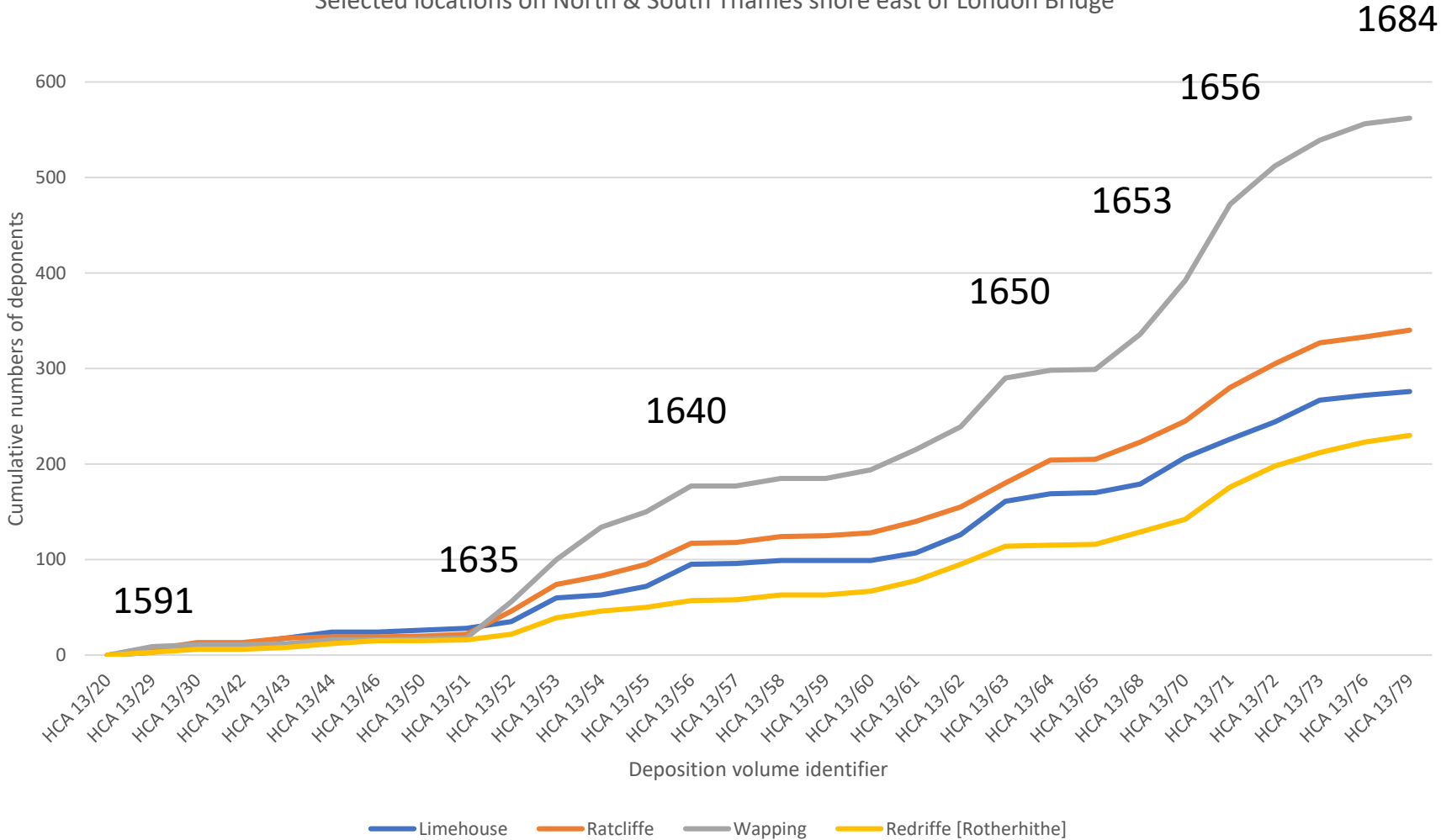
© Loreen L. Giese and London Record Society

Goods shipped in the *Mary Anne* of Margate at Rotterdam, which went ashore on the coast of Kent

2 fats of brasse kettles
40 pieces of Holland
1 barrel containing 38 pieces of Holland
1 barrel containing 200 round brass bottoms
119 pounds of black skellett
1 hogshead of nuttmeggs
1 piece of a winch of cable yarne containing 13,374 pounds
3 bales of mather
1 barrel of cloves
43 barrels of codd fish
1 drye fatt containing 67 pieces of tufted canvas and 37 pieces of shaggs
3 winches of cable yarne weighing about 14 hundred weight
5 matts of flaxe containing about 10 hundred weight
5 matts of towe containing about 7 hundred weight
1 matt of towe containing about 2 hundred weight
2 fats of bottles containing 27 hundred weight 2 steaves or winches of cable yarne weighing 788 pounds Flemish weight
60 pieces of Holland
3 winches of cable yarne containing 1696 pounds Rotterdam weight
1 barrel of codfish
31 [?] loose
1 case containing 1 piece of purled tuft taffatyes
1 piece of velvet grogram
4 pieces of fugered sattyn
1 fattcontaining 18,500 tennis balls
200 grosse of blacke hayre buttons
80 bundles of white juckle
1 presse for napkins

Source: HCA 13/52 ff.325r-329r; SOLM-2018 dataset, ver.1.52; 'Map of London parishes', in *London Consistory Court Depositions, 1586-1611: List and Indexes*, ed. Loreen L Giese (London, 1995), pp. 2-3. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol32/pp2-3> [accessed 4 January 2019].

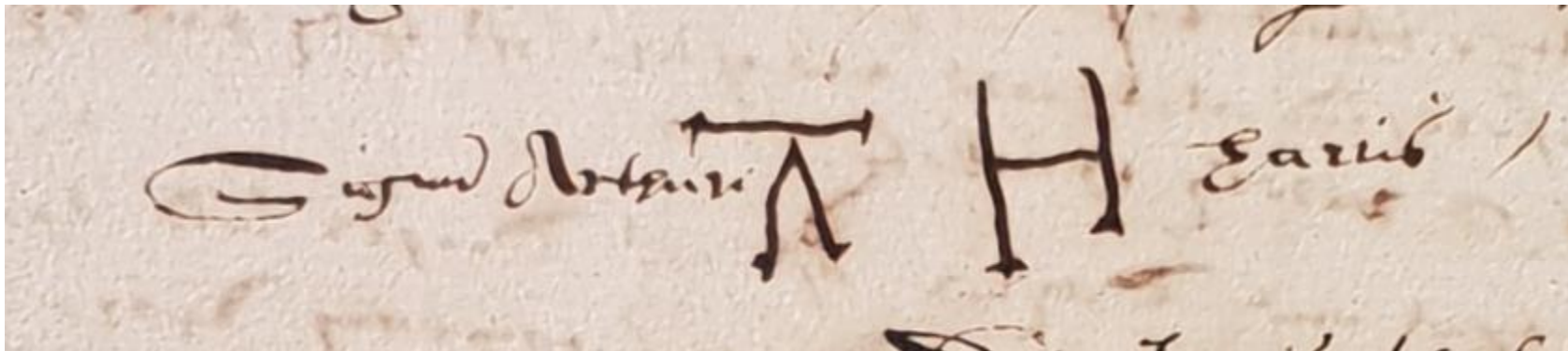
Residential location of English High Court of Admiralty deponents, 1592 – 1684
 Selected locations on North & South Thames shore east of London Bridge



Arthur Harris (b.1546), sixty-one year old mariner, living in Hullbridge in Essex,
deposed in English High Court of Admiralty, November 23rd , 1607

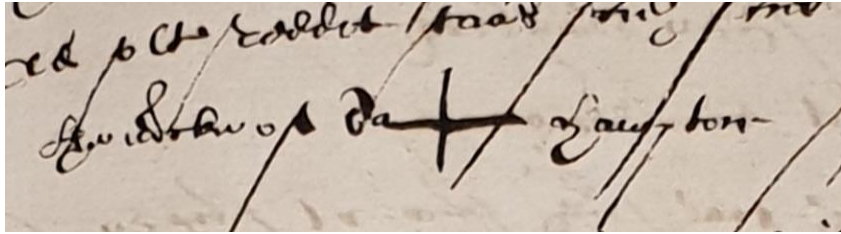
A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature is written in dark ink on aged, slightly stained paper. The letters are connected, and the overall style is characteristic of the early 17th century. The signature appears to be 'Arthur Harris'.

First version

A close-up photograph of a second handwritten signature in cursive script, similar to the first but with distinct differences. The signature is written in dark ink on aged paper. The letters are more upright and less connected than in the first version. The signature appears to be 'Arthur Harris'.

Second version,
same day, no cross
bar on the "A" and
no cross bars on
top of the "H"

Tabitha Hampton, a 50 year old widow, and Dorothea Hutton, wife of a Ratcliffe mariner, add to Alice Sturmond's dirt throwing about Elizabeth Grigg and Rabitch Lee

A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive script and appears to read 'Tabitha Hampton'.

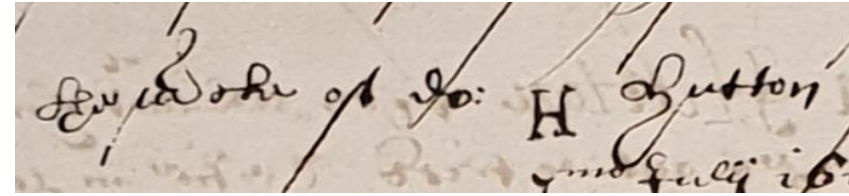
Tabitha Hampton, 50 year old widow, resident in Ratcliffe in the parish of Stepney.

Deposed on July 1st 1612.

MARK [CROSS]

"Shee hath hearde the arlate Rebitch Lee her selfe saie and confesse that shee was excommunicated at the Courte in [?Ximles] for a [?truis] with a house carpenter an other womens husbände, and shee this examine allsoe saieth that shee hath hearde the arlate Elizabeth Grigg saie and confesse her owneselfe that shee hath had a bastard by one Henries sonne, and had donne penance for it in Stepney church in a white sheet...The said Lee and Grigg are verie poore women, and in Ratcliffe where they dwell are accounted verie lewd women, and of [?XXX] credite....

Shee liveth now her husband is dead by her owne worthe and the helpe of good friends that shee hath...Shee is little worth...Shee laye prisoner in Newgate upon a special supplications that one Roger [?Guneston] [?XX] by the space of 12 weekes." [1]

A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive script and appears to read 'Dorothea Hutton'.

Dorothea Hutton, 56 year old wife of mariner William Hutton, resident in Ratcliffe in the parish of Stepney.

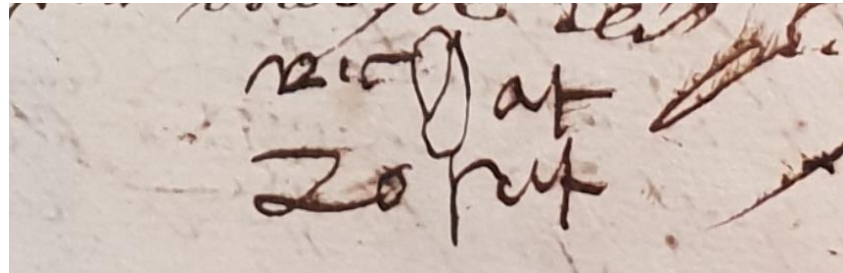
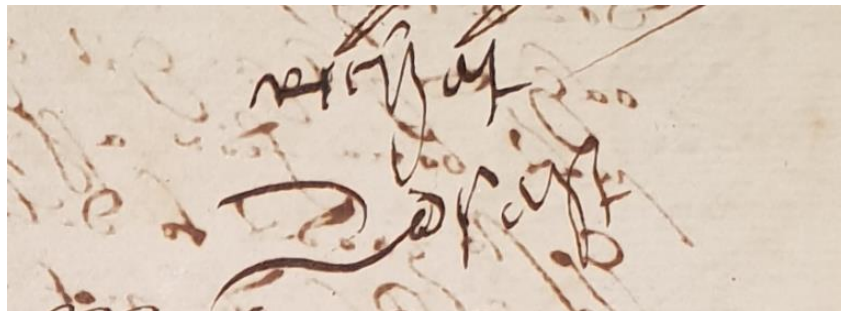
Deposed on July 1st 1612.

ONE INITIAL

"Elizabeth Griggs is a verie poore women and living upon the alms of the parish...aboute a dozen years paste...the said Elizabeth Griggs had a bastard by one Henries sonne which is a thinge soe manifestlie known that the said Elizabeth Griggs her selfe will not denye it....Shee hath hearde the arlate Rabitch Lee her selfe confesse and saye that shee was excommunicated in the Courte in [?PXXX] upon a [?causa] of incontencie with [?a] capenter that was an other womans husband...The said Rabitch Lee and Elizabeth Grigg are very poore people and helde to bee of noe credite in the place where they dwell...

Her husband and her sonne goe to sea as sailors and helpe to maintaine her, and shee herselfe doth mende stockings...Shee For charges and losse of time in comeinge to bee examined shee hath received 12 *d* of the partie producent...Shee knoweth not her husbands estate, but saieth that hee is noe subsidie man" [2]

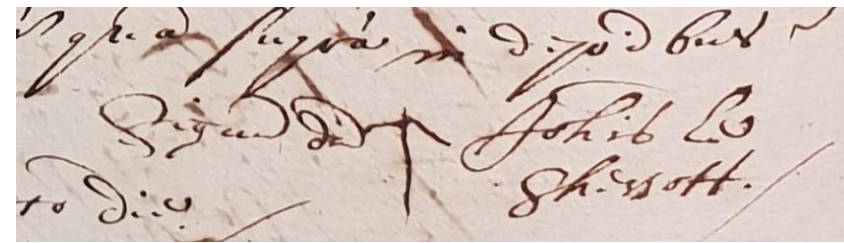
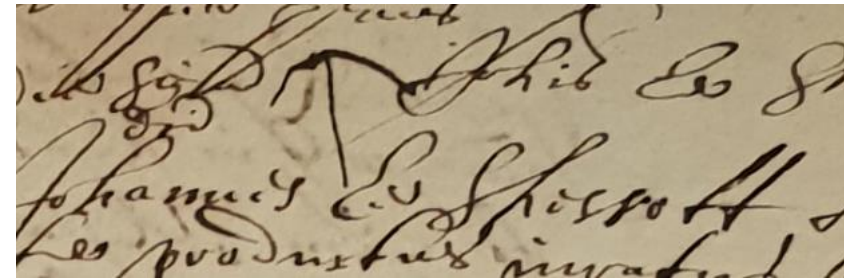
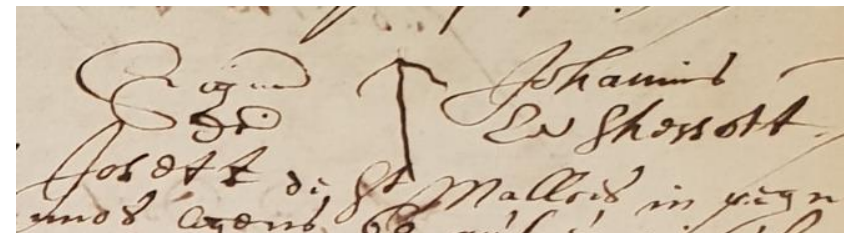
Two French mariners. Three goes each at writing their signature [the 60 year old] and making their mark [the 38 year old]. [1649]

A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Josett' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Josett' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Josett' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.

Richard Josett [as rendered by an English Notary]
(b. ca. 1567), sixty year old mariner, of Saint-Malo in France.
Hired (allegedly) to sail in the *Golden Catt* from Saint-Malo to Rotterdam, the ship carrying figs, raisins, almonds, wines and some packs of linen cloth.

Deposed on March 17th 1627.

BASIC SIGNATURE

A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Shesshott' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Shesshott' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Shesshott' being the most legible part. There are some ink smudges and a large, dark, irregular mark below the signature.

John Le Shesshott [as rendered by an English Notary]
(b.ca. 1589), thirty-eight year old mariner, of Saint-Malo in France. Also hired (allegedly) to sail in the *Golden Catt* from Saint-Malo to Rotterdam, the ship carrying figs, raisins, almonds, wines and some packs of linen cloth.

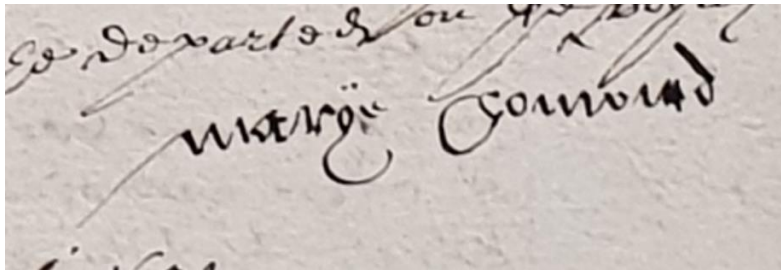
Deposed on March 17th 1627.

MARK. PROBABLY INTENDED TO BE AN ANCHOR

Richard Gomond: Invited by Robert Bishopp on a fishing voyage on the coast of Scotland in the ship the *Nathan* “to be his interpreter for the Dutch tongue if occasion should require” and otherwise to wait on him.^[2] Richard was Bishopp’s godson. Agreed pay was 16 s per month. His mother states Richard had served under “one Mr Rowden merchant, and afterwards on Mr Gallen”. He could “write and read well, and can speake the Spanish and Dutch tongues, and hath bene in Spayne and at Saint Christophers”^[1] Until three week’s before going on a voyage with Bishopp he had dwelt with Mr Gallen and “had three pounds a yeare for his service besides his meat drincke washinge and lodging”.^[3]

Law suits: For reasons which are unclear, following the fishing voyage, Richard was languishing in prison at the suit of Bishopp, and had himself brought suit against Bishopp for his unpaid wages.

Mary Gomond [the mother] : Her house was in Wrestler’s Court, Bishopsgate Street. She dwelt there with her two daughters, Hanna and Mary, together with sons Richard and James. All were present in the house when Richard was visited by his godfather Robert Bishopp, shortly after Shrovetide, 1633. Mary, the mother, signed her name well at the bottom of her deposition in the English High Court of Admiralty. Surprisingly, his two teenage sisters, initialled, rather than signed their depositions, and neither sister shows particularly good pen control. Richard himself could read and write, and could speak Spanish and Dutch (at least to some degree). The case is curious.

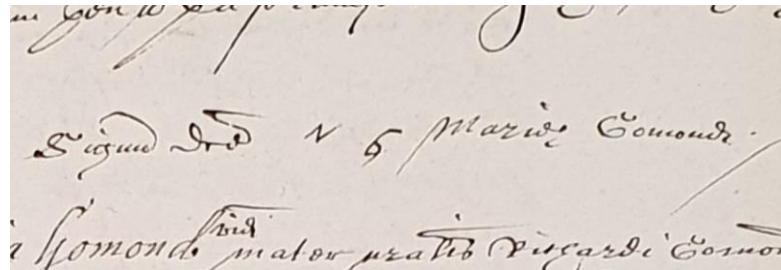


Mary Gomond, 40 year old, resident in the parish of Ethelborowe near Bishopsgate. Wrestler’s Court, Bishopsgate Street.

Mother of Richard Gomond, OF second son James, and OF daughters Mary and Hanna.

Deposed on June 25th 1634.

SIGNATURE

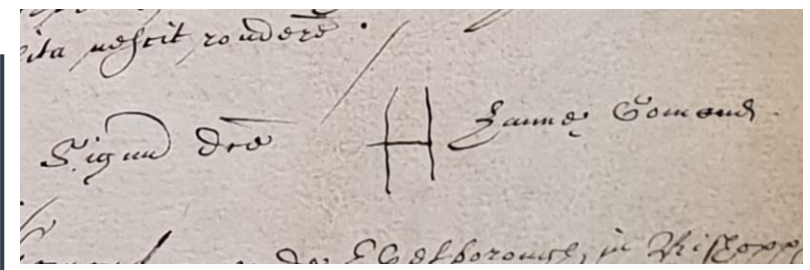


Mary Gomond, 19 year old, resident in the parish of Ethelborowe near Bishopsgate.

Daughter of Mary Gomond, and sister of Richard Gomond.

Deposed on June 25th 1634.

TWO INITIALS



Hanna Gomond, 18 year old, resident in the parish of Ethelborowe near Bishopsgate.

Daughter of Mary Gomond, and sister of Richard Gomond.

Deposed on June 25th 1634.

ONE INITIAL

Quantitative history skills programme

The MarineLives team is developing a quantitative history skills programme based on High Court of Admiralty material transcribed by our volunteers over the last five years. [Please share your ideas with us.](#)

The idea is to explore the growing MarineLives C17th ship database, which abstracts quantitative characteristics of commercial and some naval shipping from our full text corpus.

We propose to run this programme in summer 2018, but in the meantime need your input to help shape the programme. The programme will be facilitated and will be free to participants.

What would you like to see in such a programme?

- **Developing and interrogating small scale databases?**
- **Simple and complex charts derived from databases?**
- **Simple statistical measures applied to historical data, including an understanding of the implications of normal and skewed distribution of data?**
- **Modelling the basic economics of a commercial ship to understand the drivers of profitability?**
- **Exploring travel times between ports and dwell times at ports statistically?**
- **Extracting data from the MarineLives wiki through our API?**

| MarineLives C17th ship database worksheet names |
|--|
| Frontpage |
| Main DB |
| Chart 1 - Home ports |
| Chart 2 - Time profile |
| Chart 3a - Ton freight rates |
| Chart 3b - Mthly freight rates |
| Chart 4 - Ship age |
| Chart 5 - Crew size & guns |
| Chart 6 - Ship tonnage |
| Chart 7 - Ship value |
| Chart 8 - Bought & built ships |
| Chart 9 - Complexity |
| Chart 10 - Victuals & wages |
| Chart 11a - Commodity list |
| Chart 11b - Commodity prices |
| Chart 11c - Currency |
| Chart 11d - Weights & measures |
| Chart 12 - Sources |
| Chart 13 - Cargo values |
| Chart 14 - Ordinance costs |
| Chart 15 - Setting out costs |
| Chart 16 - Tackle, furniture & apparel costs |

About the database: The MarineLives C17th ship database draws on a corpus of nearly 6 million words of full text transcriptions of English High Court of Admiralty documents. It is supplemented by data from English East India company records and from English State Papers

Author: MarineLives project team (Jul-Oct 2017)

Period: 1625-1677, with focus on 1630s-1650s

Scope: 1093 ships (commercial: 967; private men of war & naval: 126); Algerians, Biscayans, Brabanters, Bremeners, Danes, English, Danzigers, Dutch, Emdeners, Flandrians, French, Friesians, Hamburgers, Holsteiners, Irish, Lubeckers, New Englanders, Norwegians, Pomeranians, Portuguese, Prussians, Scots, Spanish, Swedish, Welsh, Zealanders

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GitHub:

<https://github.com/Signsofliteracy/Signoff>

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Working
with:

