



Early Modern mariner literacy: The literacy intensity of work

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1. Functional framework
2. Evidence and measurement
3. Findings
4. Future research
5. Documentation
6. Appendix

Appendix

[Signoff examples: Mariners](#)

[Signoff examples: River trades](#)

[Signoff examples: Materials handling](#)

[Signoff examples: Formally educated hands](#)

[Further literacy calibration material](#)

[Ship literacy maps](#)

[Shore trade literacy maps](#)

[Manuscript document examples](#)

[AI analysis](#)

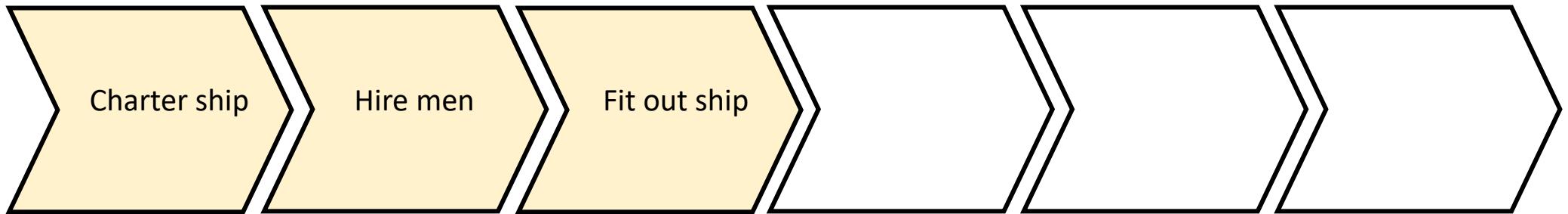
[Twitter poll and thought experiment](#)



1. Literacy is a functional elective skill
2. Task content of specific occupations drive skill needs

Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain

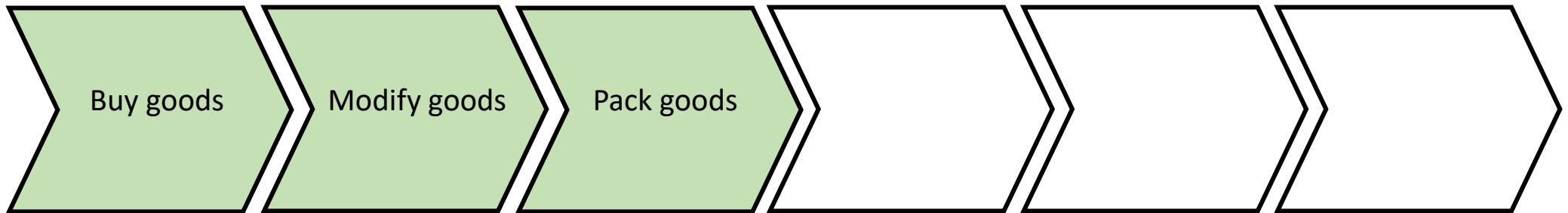
Pre-voyage at port of departure



	Pre-voyage at port of departure		
	Charter ship	Hire men	Fit out ship
Owners	Letters Charter party copies Receipt book Cash book	Cash books Account books	
Mariners	Master: Charter party original	Master's and/or purser's wage book Mariners: Letters of attorney	Gunner's inventory Carpenter's inventory Steward's book Master's book Journals
Merchants	Letters Charter party copies Receipt book Cash book		
Suppliers	Scrivener: Charter party drafts and copy Scrivener's book	Cash books Account books Tallies Invoices/bills/notes Receipts	
Revenue			

Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain

Pre-voyage at port of departure



Owners

Mariners

Merchants

Letters
Receipt book
Cash book

Receipt book
Cash book

Receipt book
Cash book

Suppliers

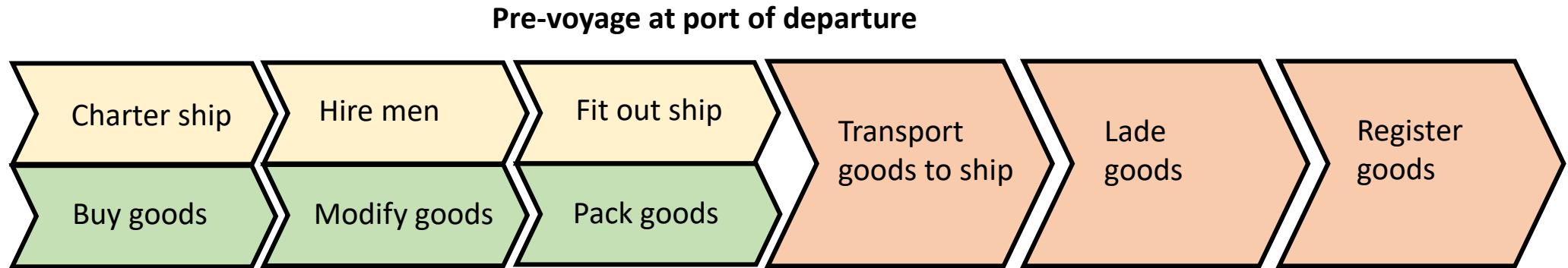
Letters
Invoice
Receipts
Account book

Cloth drawers/Dyers:
Invoice/bill
Receipts
Receipt book
Cash book

Packers:
Invoice/bill
Receipts
Receipt book
Cash book

Revenue

Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain



Owners

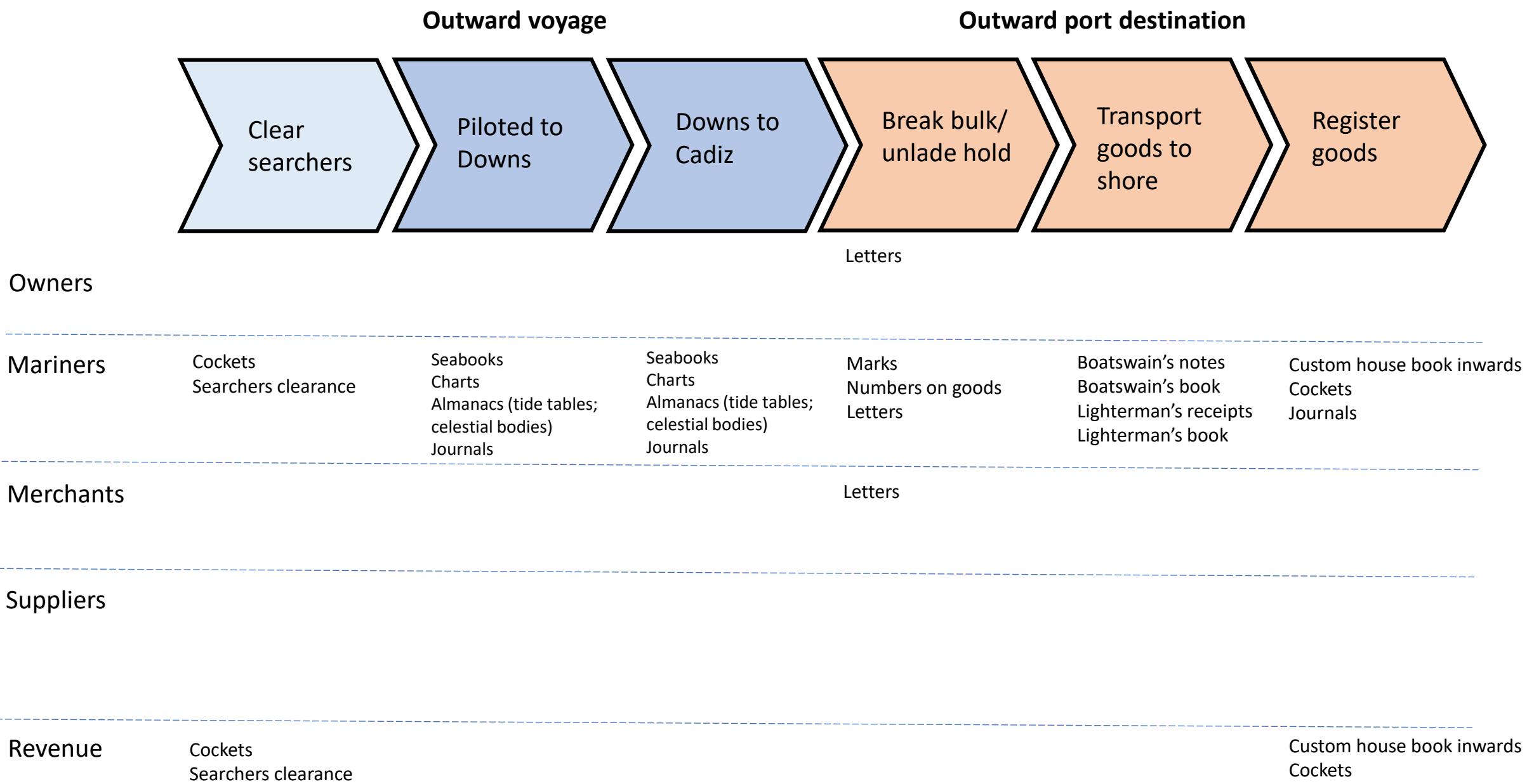
Mariners	Lighterman Waterman Wherryman Notes/Receipts Lighterman's book	Boatswain's receipts Boatswain's book Record of marks, numbers & quantities Bills of lading Master's book	Custom house book outwards Cockets Ordnance declaration
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Merchants

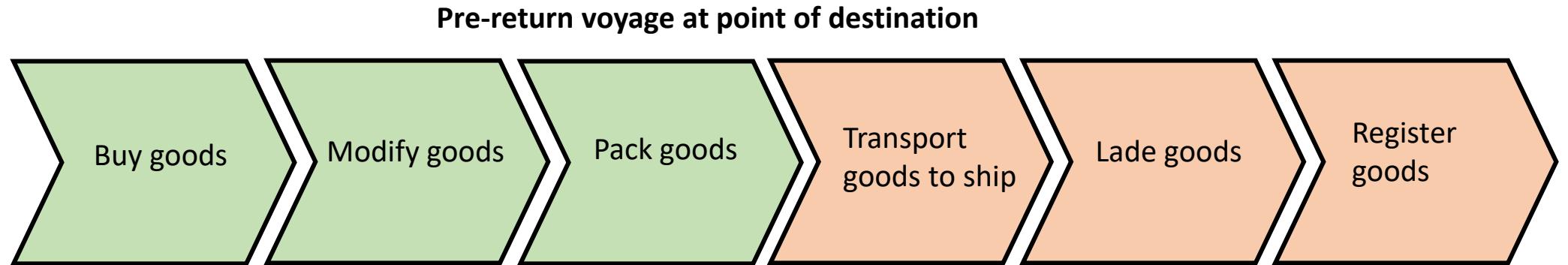
Suppliers	Receipt book Cash book Record of marks, numbers & quantities	Porters: Notes/Receipts	Wharfinger: Wharfinger's book
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Revenue	Custom house book outwards Cockets
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Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain



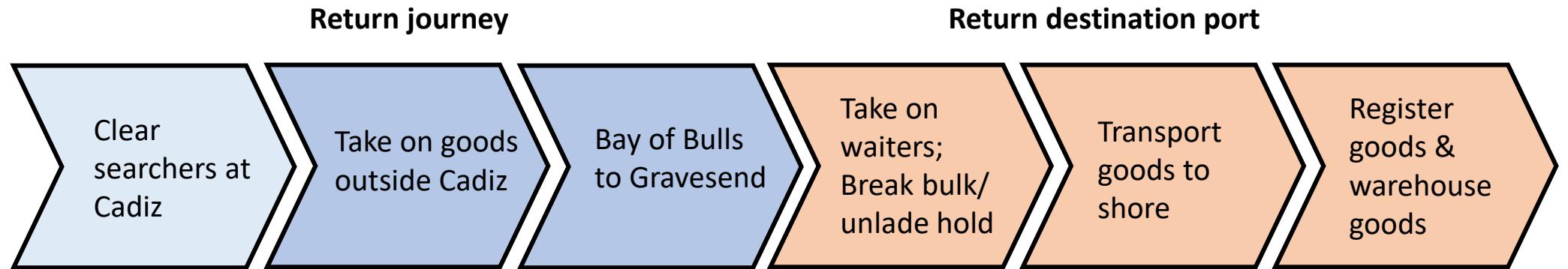
Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain



Owners

Mariners		Bargeman Waterman Notes/Receipts	Boatswain's receipts Boatswain's book Record of marks, numbers & quantities Bills of lading Master's book	Custom house book outwards Cockets Licence for bullion Journals
Merchants	Letters Receipt book Cash book	Receipt book Cash book	Receipt book Cash book Record of marks, numbers & quantities	
Suppliers	Letters Invoice Receipts Account book		Porters: Notes/Receipts Wharfinger: Wharfinger's book	
Revenue				Custom house book outwards Cockets Licence for bullion

Fuctional framework: Textiles supply chain



Owners

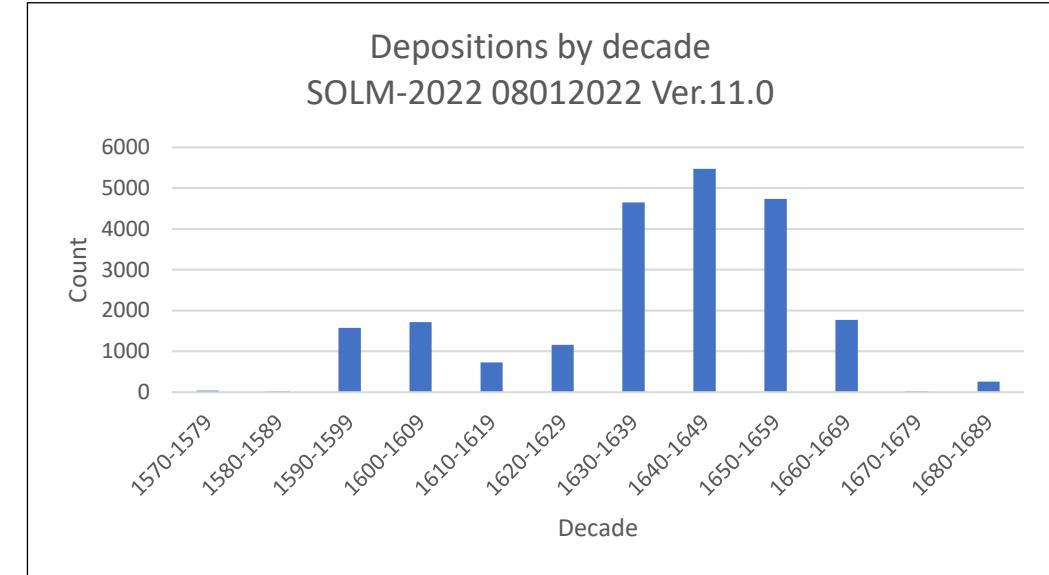
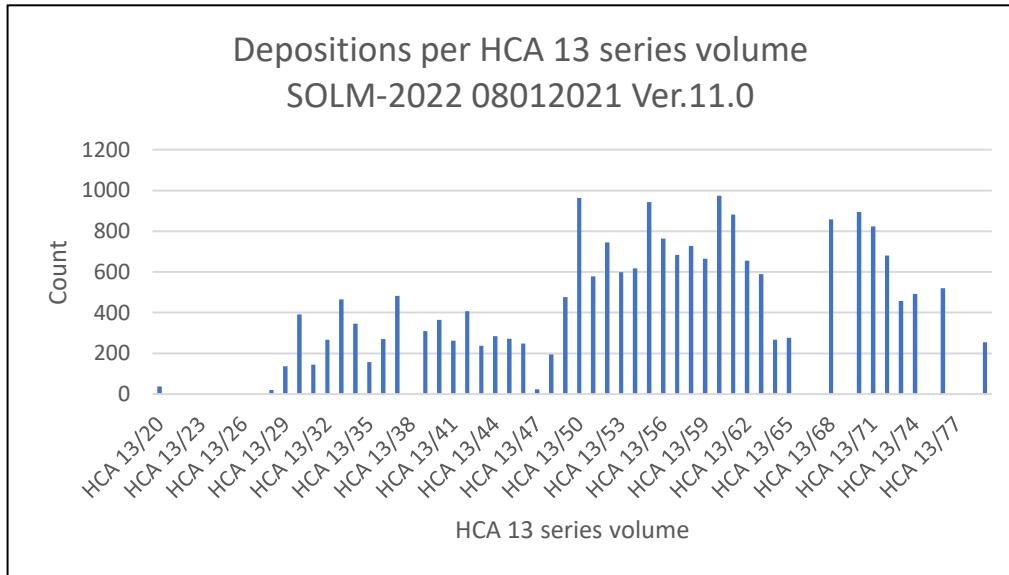
Mariners	Cockets Licence for bullion Searchers clearance	Colourable bills of lading	Seabooks Charts Almanacs (tide tables; celestial bodies) Journals	Custom house waiter's book Custom house waiter's notes Marks Numbers on goods	Boatswain's notes Boatswain's book Lighterman's receipts Lighterman's book Landwaiter's book Landwaiter's notes Wharfinger's book	Custom house scales note Custom house book inward
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Merchants

Suppliers		Cooper's notes Cooper's book	Porter's receipts Warehouse receipts Warehouse book
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Revenue	Cackets Licence for bullion Searchers clearance		
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SOLM-2022 overview



Evidence and measurement: Extracting occupational data and linking to signoffs



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



English High Court of Admiralty signoffs

Esquado - Persays
John # 831099

Signature of
Matthew M 4 K
John

Pro bono pleas

WATER JOHN

I send you the news of
Ohio two weeks.

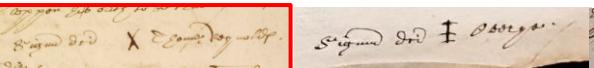
van Esquado Persays
Riyant D Wintoo.

✓ Edward Gurney
Edward Gurney
✓ Edward Gurney
✓ Edward Gurney
✓ Edward Gurney
✓ Edward Gurney

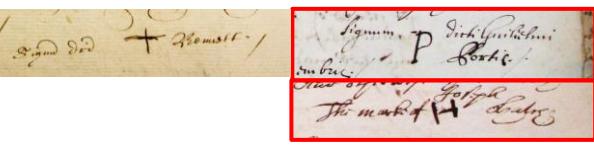
John Cutshaw
William V. Bower
J. Marks.
Sam. Haughton
John Brinley
H. W. Munro

Unable to write or read

MASTERS

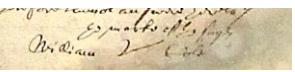


HIGHER OFFICERS

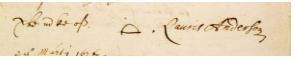


"He cannot write nor read written hand"

LOWER OFFICERS



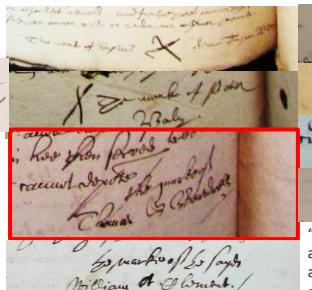
"Hee cannot write nor reade and soe kept noe journall of the shipp's passage from place to place"



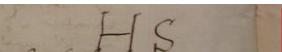
COMMON MEN



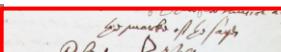
"For what accompte or to whom they were there to bee delivered hee cannot declare, nor how they were marked because hee cannot write nor read nor knows any letters."



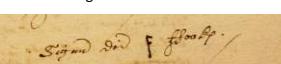
"Hee cannot write nor kepty any accompt how the windes stood the tyme interrogated"



"Hee can speake the North sea language and Lowe Dutch and noe other language, and that North sea is his mother tongue, and other hee learnt in his youth...hee can neithe reade nor write"

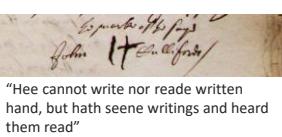
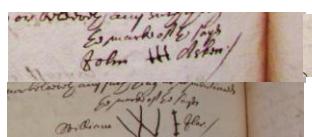


"The time hee cannot particularly remember not knowing how to write or reade"

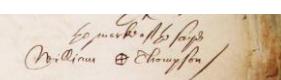


"He beinge not able to write or reade did not keepe any iournall what day the sayd shipp came to Nants, but in regard of his wages kepte an accompte of howe many dayes she stayed there"

FISHERMEN



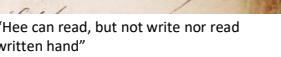
"Hee cannot write nor reade written hand, but hath seene writings and heard them read"



"Hee can read, but not write nor read written hand"

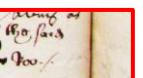


"Hee can write his name but not reade written hand very perfectly"

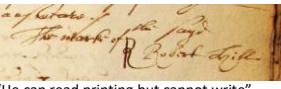


"Hee can both write and read and hath divers tymes seene writings in the hands and custodie of the stewards for the tyme being of the mannor and hundred of ffaversham"

Able to read not write

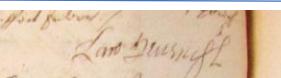
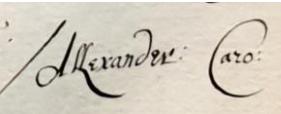


"Hee can neither write nor reade, but yet can keep accompt of times, by a sort of cyphering which hee hath learnt for his owne use, and thereby remembreth the time"

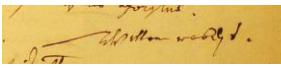


"He can read printing but cannot write"

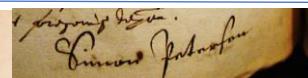
Able to write and read



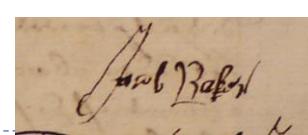
"This hee knoweth for that hee kept a journall"



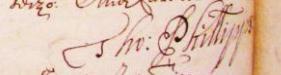
"Hee can write and reade, and learned the same when hee was a youth...hee can reade written hand well, and understandingly"



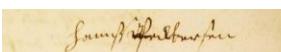
"Hee saith hee can write and read written hand, and sawe and tooke notice of all the goods aboard and of what was as aforesaid embeazled and wanting"



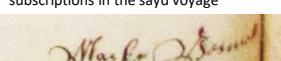
"[He] kept a journall of the sayd voyage or memoriall of such tymes as the sayd shipp sett sayle from any place and of her arrival at any place during the sayd voyage"



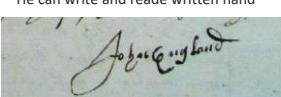
"Being accompt keeper for and on the behalfe of the said shipp's boateswaine, who could not write, this examinee entred the said goods and marks and for whose accounts the same were, into the said boateswaine's booke"



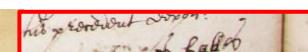
"All the sayd bills of lading are subscribed with the proper hand writinge of the sayd Wybrants havinge seene many of his subscriptions in the sayd voyage"



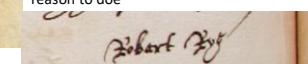
"He can write and reade written hand"



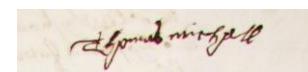
"Hee can both write and read and saith hee did not keepe any diarie or dayly accompt in writing how the windes then stood"



"Hee can write and reade, and saith hee did not take any note in writing of the tyme when the disaster aforesaid happened, but very well remembreth it, as hee hath great reason to doe"

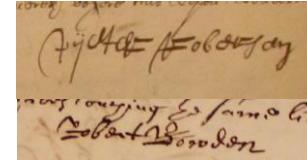


"Hee can write and read but remembreth not the date of the writings by him predeposed of"



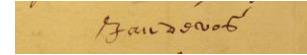
"He can both write and read and hath divers tymes seene writings in the hands and custodie of the stewards for the tyme being of the mannor and hundred of ffaversham"

Able to write and read in multiple languages



"He can write and read written hand and saith he can speake and understandeth ffrenc, Dutch and Spanish, and a little English"

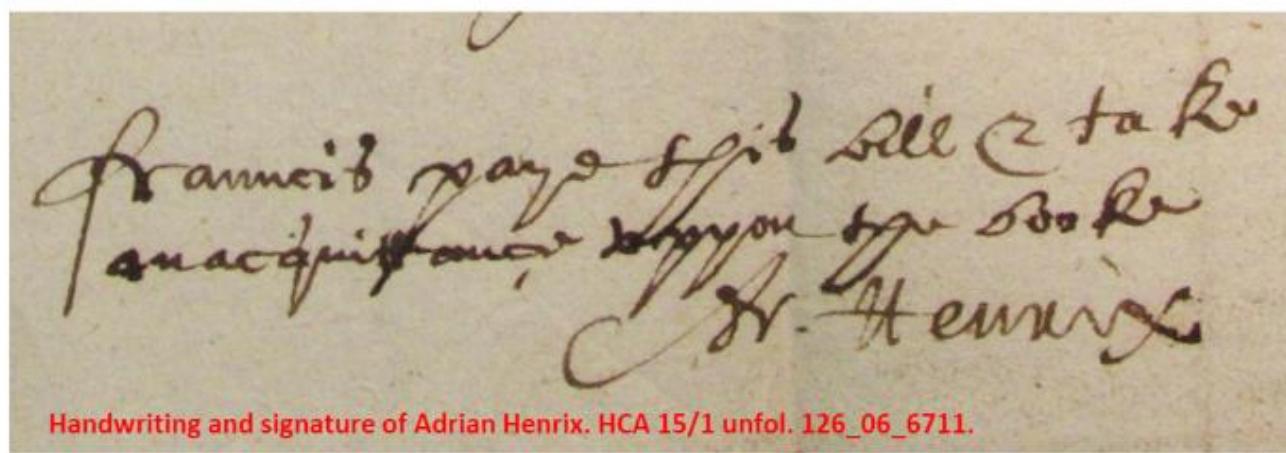
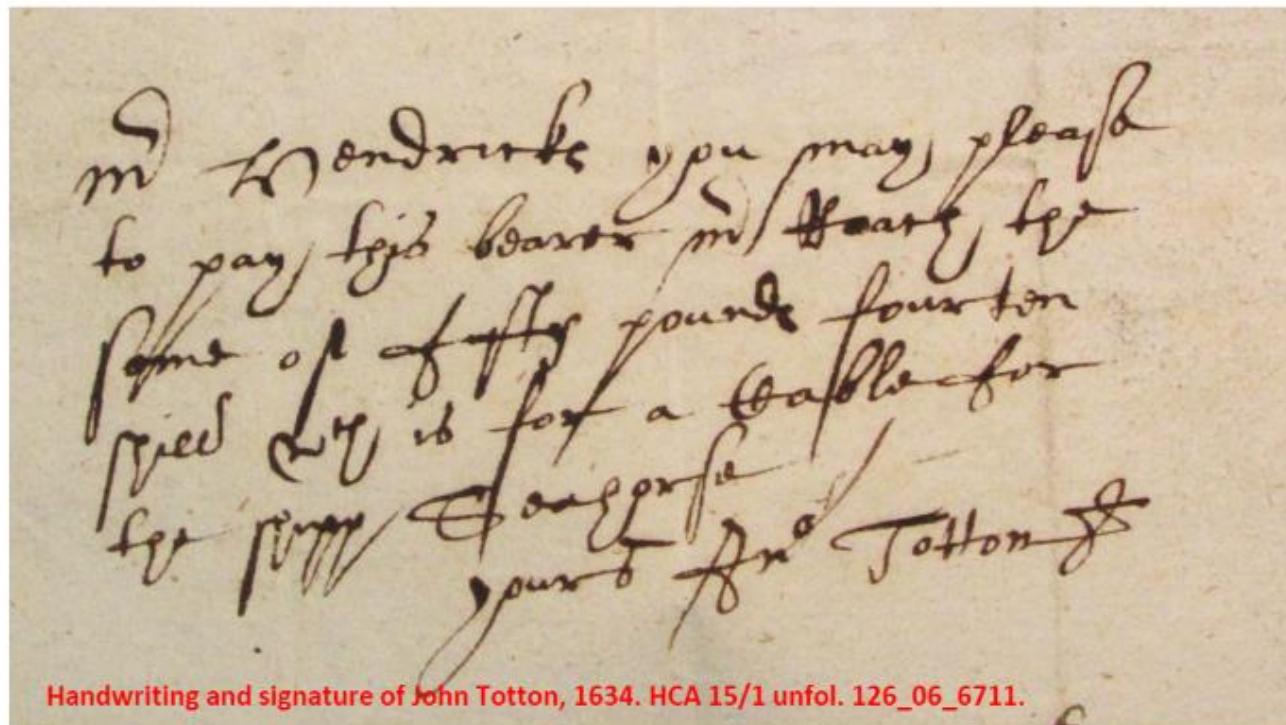
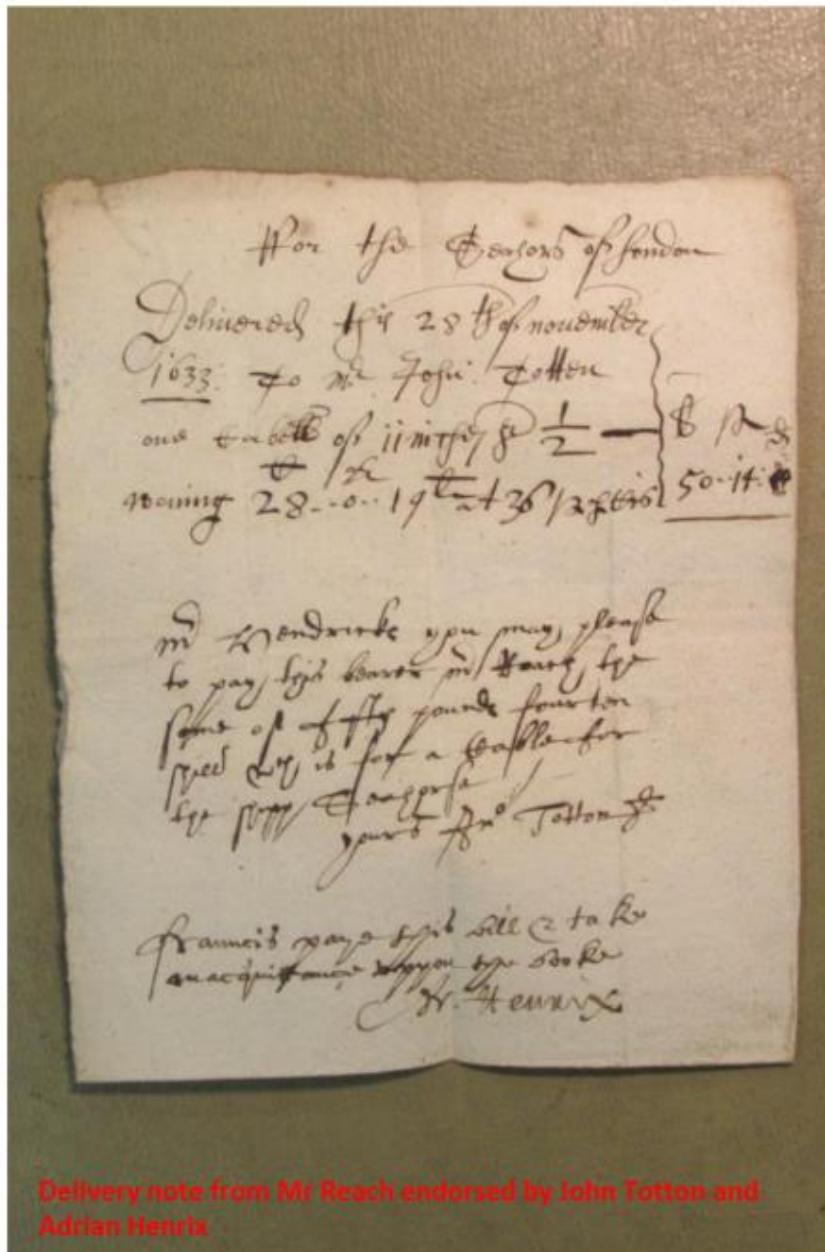
"Which noate this deponent (being acquainted well with the sayd Trenchpaines hand writinge and understanding the french tongue) verily beleveeth (although hee sawe not the same written) was and is the proper hand writing of the sayd Trenchpaine"



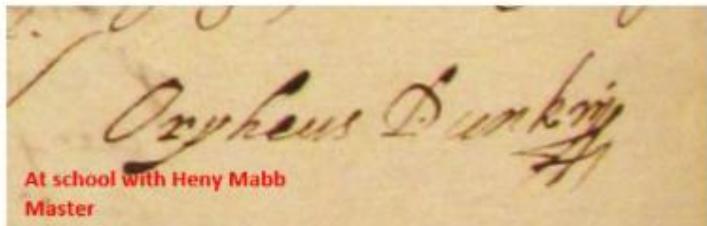
"Hee can read written hand in Dutch very well, and understandingly, and in English hee can reade the names in a Commission, And some few words besides"

On coal ship

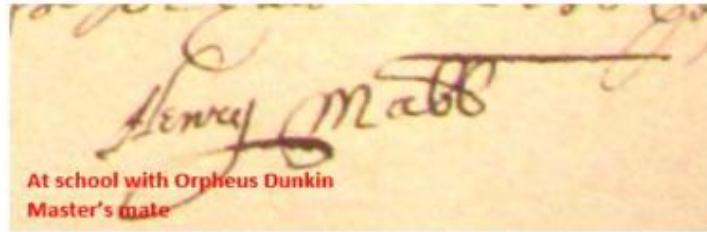
Signature and handwriting of John Totton, mariner, and Adrian Henrix, merchant



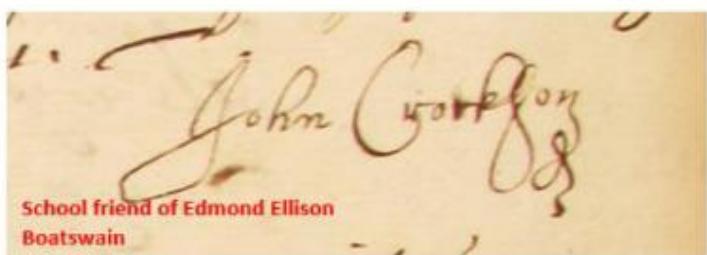
What do schooled mariner hands look like? These pairs of signatures are of school friends. Orpheus Dunkin and Henry Mabb were at school together in Cornwall circa 1610. John Crockson and Edmund Ellison were also at school together, possibly in Shadwell.



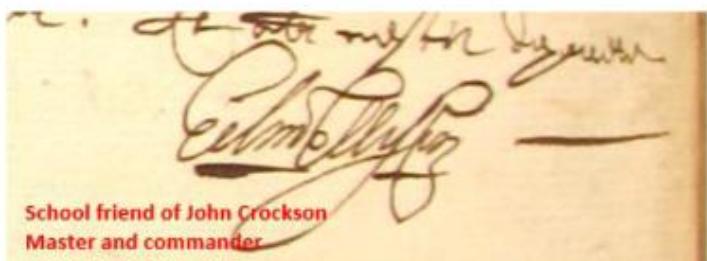
Signature of Orpheus Dunkin, thirty-eight year old mariner of Wapping, Middlesex. Master of ships for the last five years. Deposed April 28th 1638. HCA 13/54 f.79v.



Signature of Henry Mabb, thirty-eight year old mariner of the precinct of Bridewill, London. Master's mate of the *George and Elizabeth* of London. Dated May 25th 1638. HCA 13/54 f.101r.



John Crockson, forty-five year old mariner of Wapping, Middlesex. Boatswain of the *Rebecca* of London. Deposed May 1650. Carried survivors from the *Pearcy* home to London from Toulon. HCA 13/63 f.114v.

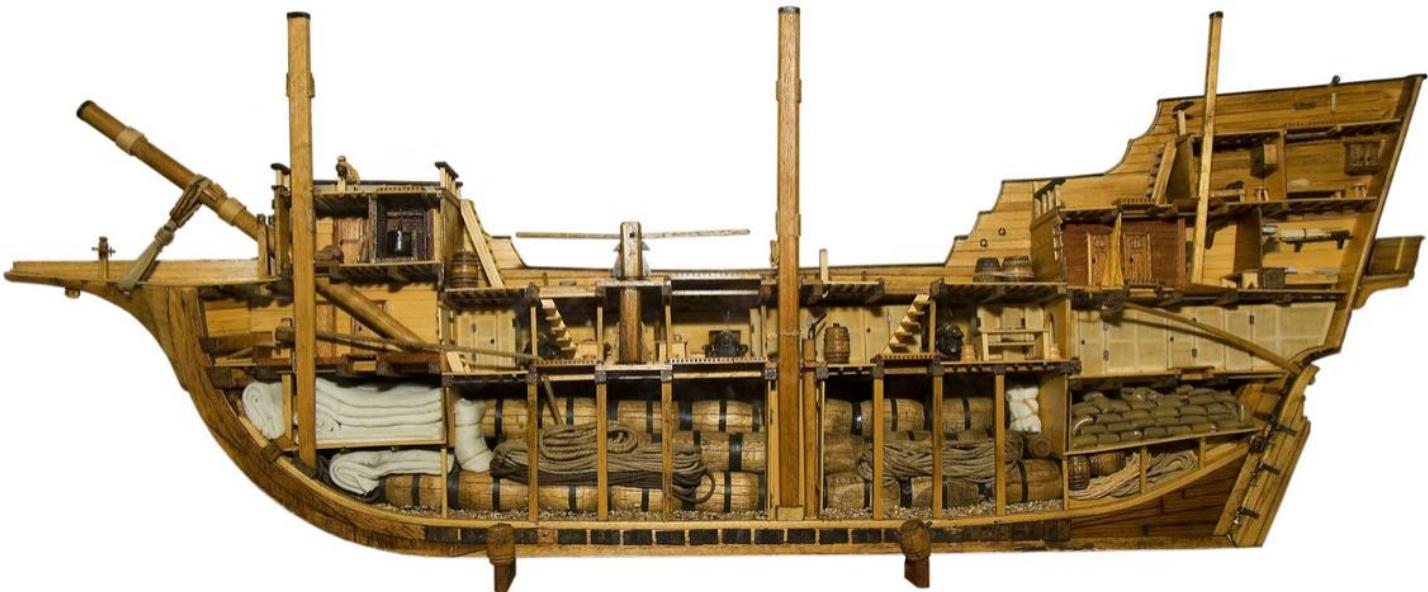


Edmond Ellison, mariner of Shadwell, Middlesex. Master of the *Pearcy*, a ship of ca. 425 tons, 26 guns and ca. 42 men; his ship captured in a fight with a French man of war on a voyage home from Livorno via Lisbon to London. Deposed May 1650. HCA 13/63 f.119v.

"This rendent went to schoole in Cornewall with the sayd Mabb and never knewe or heard that the sayd Mabb was brought up as a tayler or any other trade or profession but at sea but as he beleiveth he the sayd Mabb hath bene broughte up as a seaman but this rendent sawe him not from the tyme that he went to schoole with him which was about twentye eighte yearesh since, untill about nyne or ten yearesh since and then the sayd Mabb had the commannd of a shipp as master." (HCA 13/54 f.79v)

Evidence and measurement: What type of documents were written, read and carried on ships?

Where were the documents to be found?



Acquittances	Barrels
Almanac	Bags
Bible	Cabins
Bills of lading	Ceilings
Bill of sale	Chests
Boatswain's book	Closets
Boatswain's notes	Cook room
Carpenter's inventory	Great cabin
Charter party	Gun room
Chief mate's book	Letter case
Cockets	Mast
Commercial letters	Round house
Commissions	Scrittor
Gunner's inventory	Tin box
Instructions	Trunks
Invoices	
Master's book	
Merchants' letters	
Notes	
Personal letters	
Purser's book	
Receipts	
Seabrief	
Seacartes	
Steward's book	
Wage notes	
Waggoner or Sea book	

**Table Three: Mariner literacy by sub-occupation**

Occupation	Count	Count	Count	Signatu	Total		%	%	%	%	%
	Other	Signoffs	Marke				Other	Marke	Initials	Signatu	Total
Purser	3	310	1	0	309	313	0.96%	0.32%	0.00%	98.72%	100.00%
Chirurgeon [on ship]	4	196	1	0	195	200	2.00%	0.50%	0.00%	97.50%	100.00%
Factor/Sopracargo	4	169	1	1	167	173	2.31%	0.58%	0.58%	96.53%	100.00%
Master[all ship types]	23	2741	119	111	2511	2764	0.83%	4.31%	4.02%	90.85%	100.00%
Master's mate [no variants]	21	1046	50	56	940	1067	1.97%	4.69%	5.25%	88.10%	100.00%
Coxwain	0	41	1	4	36	41	0.00%	2.44%	9.76%	87.80%	100.00%
Pilot	2	216	24	19	173	218	0.92%	11.01%	8.72%	79.36%	100.00%
Mariner	112	8639	1206	875	6558	8751	1.28%	13.78%	10.00%	74.94%	100.00%
Cooper (on ship)	0	107	17	12	78	107	0.00%	15.89%	11.21%	72.90%	100.00%
Gunner's mate	1	89	15	9	65	90	1.11%	16.67%	10.00%	72.22%	100.00%
Boatswain	3	580	82	86	412	583	0.51%	14.07%	14.75%	70.67%	100.00%
Gunner	3	371	43	71	257	374	0.80%	11.50%	18.98%	68.72%	100.00%
Trumpeter	0	27	5	4	18	27	0.00%	18.52%	14.81%	66.67%	100.00%
Carpenter [on ship]	4	476	94	104	278	480	0.83%	19.58%	21.67%	57.92%	100.00%
Steward [on ship]	2	94	19	20	55	96	2.08%	19.79%	20.83%	57.29%	100.00%
Common man & variants [1]	2	208	68	36	104	210	0.95%	32.38%	17.14%	49.52%	100.00%
Foremastman	1	88	18	27	43	89	1.12%	20.22%	30.34%	48.31%	100.00%
Quartermaster	6	330	95	79	156	336	1.79%	28.27%	23.51%	46.43%	100.00%
Sailor	11	608	244	92	272	619	1.78%	39.42%	14.86%	43.94%	100.00%
Cook [on ship]	1	126	46	29	51	127	0.79%	36.22%	22.83%	40.16%	100.00%

[1] Common man & variants = common mariner + common seaman + ordinary mariner +ordinary seaman

Findings: Occupational analysis

Occupation	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count		%	%	%	%	%
	Other	Signoffs	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total		Other	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total
Mariner	112	8639	1206	875	6558	8751		1.28%	13.78%	10.00%	74.94%	100.00%
Sailor	11	608	244	92	272	619		1.78%	39.42%	14.86%	43.94%	100.00%
Common man & variants [1]	2	208	68	36	104	210		0.95%	32.38%	17.14%	49.52%	100.00%
Foremastman	1	88	18	27	43	89		1.12%	20.22%	30.34%	48.31%	100.00%
Lighterman	0	116	37	36	43	116		0.00%	31.90%	31.03%	37.07%	100.00%
Waterman	1	211	87	55	69	212		0.47%	41.04%	25.94%	32.55%	100.00%
Fisherman	4	128	78	24	26	132		3.03%	59.09%	18.18%	19.70%	100.00%
Labourer	0	42	24	12	6	42		0.00%	57.14%	28.57%	14.29%	100.00%

[1] Common man & variants = common mariner + common seaman + ordinary mariner +ordinary seaman

Findings: Occupational analysis

Occupation	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count		%	%	%	%	%
	Other	Signoffs	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total		Other	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total
Mariner	112	8639	1206	875	6558	8751		1.28%	13.78%	10.00%	74.94%	100.00%
Sailor	11	608	244	92	272	619		1.78%	39.42%	14.86%	43.94%	100.00%
Common man & variants [1]	2	208	68	36	104	210		0.95%	32.38%	17.14%	49.52%	100.00%
Foremastman	1	88	18	27	43	89		1.12%	20.22%	30.34%	48.31%	100.00%
Shipwright [on shore]	2	276	33	33	210	278		0.72%	11.87%	11.87%	75.54%	100.00%
Blockmaker	0	7	1	1	5	7		0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	100.00%
Sawyer	0	9	4	1	4	9		0.00%	44.44%	11.11%	44.44%	100.00%
Woodworkers	2	292	38	35	219	294		0.68%	12.93%	11.90%	74.49%	100.00%
Plateworker	0	2	0	0	2	2		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Blacksmith	0	58	9	9	40	58		0.00%	15.52%	15.52%	68.97%	100.00%
Anchorsmith	1	37	7	10	20	38		2.63%	18.42%	26.32%	52.63%	100.00%
Nailer	1	5	2	2	1	6		16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	16.67%	100.00%
Metalworkers	2	102	18	21	63	104		1.92%	17.31%	20.19%	60.58%	100.00%

[1] Common man & variants = common mariner + common seaman + ordinary mariner +ordinary seaman

Findings: Occupational analysis

Table Six: Mariner literacy compared with professional services and shore based materials handling

Occupation	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	%	%	%	%	%
	Other	Signoffs	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total	Other	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total
Mariner	112	8639	1206	875	6558	8751	1.28%	13.78%	10.00%	74.94%	100.00%
Sailor	11	608	244	92	272	619	1.78%	39.42%	14.86%	43.94%	100.00%
Common man & variants [1]	2	208	68	36	104	210	0.95%	32.38%	17.14%	49.52%	100.00%
Foremastman	1	88	18	27	43	89	1.12%	20.22%	30.34%	48.31%	100.00%
Scrivener	0	175	0	0	175	175	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Book keeper	0	48	0	0	48	48	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Accountant	0	24	0	0	24	24	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Clerk of the assurance office	0	11	0	0	11	11	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Doctor of Lawes	0	1	0	0	1	1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Appraiser	0	27	0	1	26	27	0.00%	0.00%	3.70%	96.30%	100.00%
Arbitrator	0	43	1	0	42	43	0.00%	2.33%	0.00%	97.67%	100.00%
Professional services (Type A)	0	329	1	1	327	329	0.00%	0.30%	0.30%	99.39%	100.00%
Merchant	37	2680	5	6	2669	2717	1.36%	0.18%	0.22%	98.23%	100.00%
Searcher	0	16	0	0	16	16	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Tidesman	0	0	0	0	8	8	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Waiter	1	81	1	4	76	82	1.22%	1.22%	4.88%	92.68%	100.00%
Professional services [Type B]	1	97	1	4	100	106	0.94%	0.94%	3.77%	94.34%	100.00%
Wharfinger	0	34	0	1	33	34	0.00%	0.00%	2.94%	97.06%	100.00%
Porter	1	75	24	19	32	76	1.32%	31.58%	25.00%	42.11%	100.00%
Shore based materials handling	1	109	24	20	65	110	0.91%	21.82%	18.18%	59.09%	100.00%

[1] Common man & variants = common mariner + common seaman + ordinary mariner +ordinary seaman

Type A = Financial, legal and assurance services; Type B = Taxation services

Findings: Occupational analysis

Table Seven: Mariner literacy compared with cloth handling											
Occupation	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	%	%	%	%	%
	Other	Signoffs	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total	Other	Marke	Initials	Signature	Total
Mariner	112	8639	1206	875	6558	8751	1.28%	13.78%	10.00%	74.94%	100.00%
Sailor	11	608	244	92	272	619	1.78%	39.42%	14.86%	43.94%	100.00%
Common man & variants [1]	2	208	68	36	104	210	0.95%	32.38%	17.14%	49.52%	100.00%
Foremastman	1	88	18	27	43	89	1.12%	20.22%	30.34%	48.31%	100.00%
Clothier	0	16	0	0	16	16	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Packer	0	6	0	0	6	6	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Dyer	0	27	1	1	25	27	0.00%	3.70%	3.70%	92.59%	100.00%
Clothworker	0	84	5	5	74	84	0.00%	5.95%	5.95%	88.10%	100.00%
Feltmaker	0	8	0	3	5	8	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	100.00%
Cloth handling	0	141	6	5	126	141	0.00%	4.26%	3.55%	89.36%	100.00%

[1] Common man & variants = common mariner + common seaman + ordinary mariner +ordinary seaman

The Anne of Hulbridge

Voyage: Wakering [Essex]/London

Return lading: ?

Ship burthen = 130 tons [60 chaldron of coals]

Known company = 2 men

Missing company = 1 man

Total company = 3 men

1609

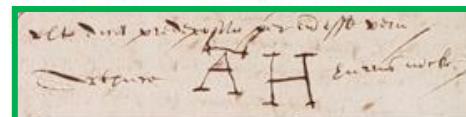
Master: Arthur Harris senior

Voyage length = 1 to 2 days

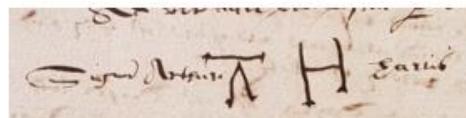
Definitely unable to write or read

Probably unable to write or read

Probably able to write and read



Arthur Harris senior, sixty-one year old mariner of Hulbridge, Essex. Master of hoy named the Anne of Hulbridge.



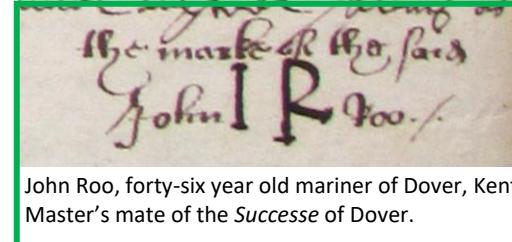
Arthur Harris junior, sixteen year old mariner and son of Arthur Harris. One of two of the company of the hoy the Anne of Hulbridge.

The Successe of Dover

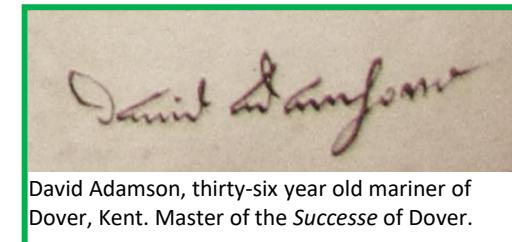
Voyage: Newcastle/Dover [Kent]
 Return lading: Coals
 Ship burthen = 100 tons
 Known company = Master + 4 men + 1 boy = 6
 Missing company = 2
 Total company = 6
 ca. 1654
 Master: David Adamson
 Voyage length = N/A

Definitely unable to write or read

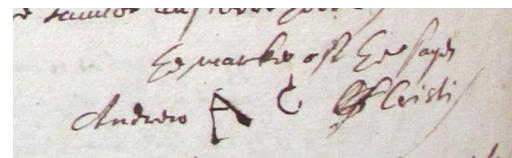
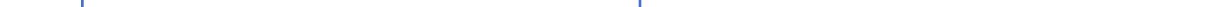
"Hee can neither write nor reade, but yet can keep accompt of times, by a sort of cyphering which hee hath learnt for his owne use, and thereby remembreth the time aforesaid"
 (HCA 13/70 f.67v)

Probably unable to write or read

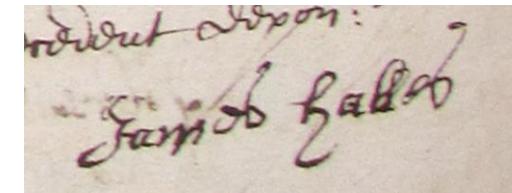
John Roo, forty-six year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Master's mate of the *Successe of Dover*.

Probably able to write and read

David Adamson, thirty-six year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Master of the *Successe of Dover*.



Daniel Cristi, fifty year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Common mariner of the *Successe of Dover*.



James Hales, fifty-seven year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Ordinary mariner of the *Successe of Dover*.



"Hee can write and reade, and saith hee did not take any note in writing of the time when the disaster aforesaid happened, but very well remembreth it, as hee hath great reason to doe"
 (HCA 13/70 f.99v)

The Golden Cocke of London

Voyage: London/Plymouth/?/Livorno; Tunis; Livorno; Zant; Zephelonia; Candy [Crete]/?/London

Return lading: ?

Ship burthen = N/A, but sizeable

Known company = 21

Missing company = N/A

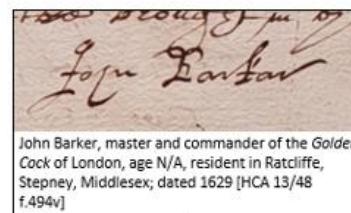
Total company = N/A

1629

Master: John Barker

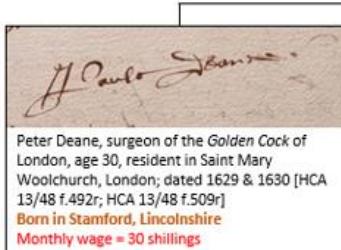
Voyage length = 27 months

Freighted by two London
merchants, John ffowke and
Symon Whetcombe

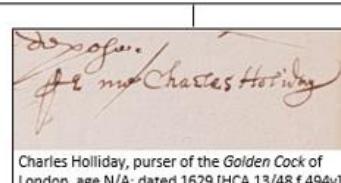


John Barker, master and commander of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.494v]

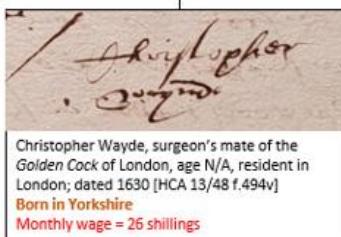
All three master's
mates were literate



Peter Deane, surgeon of the *Golden Cock of London*, age 30, resident in Saint Mary Woolchurch, London; dated 1629 & 1630 [HCA 13/48 f.492r; HCA 13/48 f.509r]
Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire
Monthly wage = 30 shillings

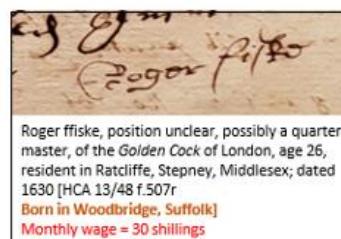


Charles Holliday, purser of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.494v]

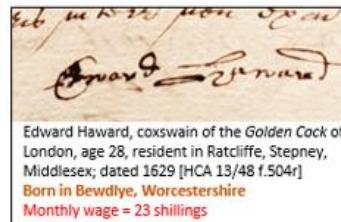


Christopher Wayde, surgeon's mate of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in London; dated 1630 [HCA 13/48 f.494v]
Born in Yorkshire
Monthly wage = 26 shillings

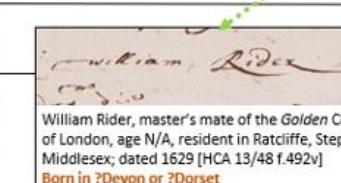
Possibly 19 years old



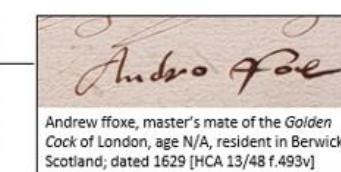
Roger ffiske, position unclear, possibly a quarter master, of the *Golden Cock of London*, age 26, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1630 [HCA 13/48 f.507r]
Born in Woodbridge, Suffolk
Monthly wage = 30 shillings



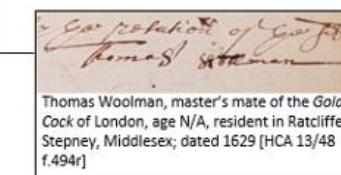
Edward Haward, coxswain of the *Golden Cock of London*, age 28, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.504r]
Born in Bewdley, Worcestershire
Monthly wage = 23 shillings



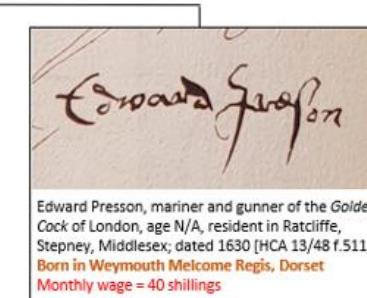
William Rider, master's mate of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.492v]
Born in ?Devon or ?Dorset



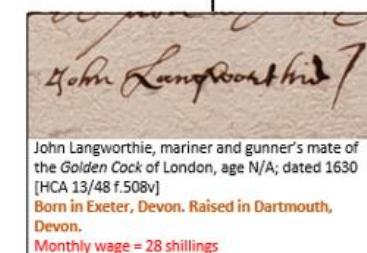
Andrew ffox, master's mate of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in Berwick, Scotland; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.493v]



Thomas Woolman, master's mate of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1629 [HCA 13/48 f.494r]



Edward Presson, mariner and gunner of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A, resident in Ratcliffe, Stepney, Middlesex; dated 1630 [HCA 13/48 f.511]
Born in Weymouth Melcombe Regis, Dorset
Monthly wage = 40 shillings



John Langworthie, mariner and gunner's mate of the *Golden Cock of London*, age N/A; dated 1630 [HCA 13/48 f.508v]
Born in Exeter, Devon. Raised in Dartmouth, Devon.
Monthly wage = 28 shillings

Findings: Literacy at ship level

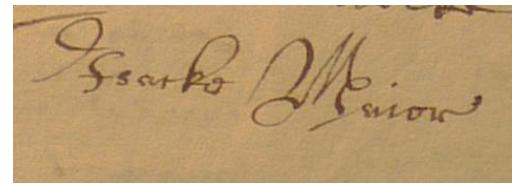
A	B	C	I	T	W	IN	IO	IP	IQ	IR	IS	IX	IY	IZ	JT
Entry number	Primary image	Volume and folio	Type	Script	Occupations [Synthesised] W1:W1	Street/Hamlet	Parish/Precinct	Town/Boro	County, Province or Region	Year of depositi	Firstname [metadatata]	Middle names [metadatata]	Surname	VOYAGE DETAILS	
5428	20191025_153353	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.453v.PNG	Initials	Roman	Mariner; Quarter master [of the Golden Cocks]	Ratcliffe	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	William		Browne	YES	
5430	20191025_153401	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.454v.PNG	Marke	N/A	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cocks]		Precinct of Saint Katherines near the Tower of London			N/A	Thomas		Bailye	YES	
5423	20191025_153333	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.451r.PNG	Marke	N/A	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cocks]			[?Kenn]	Devon	N/A	Lawrence		Garricke	YES	
5418	20191025_153244	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.444v_One.PNG	Marke	N/A	Mariner; Gunner's mate [of the Golden Cocks]			Apsham	Devon	N/A	William		Glanfeilde	YES	
5425	20191025_153341	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.452r.PNG	Marke	N/A	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cocks]			Plymouth	Devon	N/A	Arthur		Hearda	YES	
5431	20191025_153404	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.455r.PNG	Marke	N/A	Cooper [on ship] [of the Golden Cocks]			London		N/A	Humphrey		Perkins	YES	
5426	20191025_153346	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.452v.PNG	Marke	N/A	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cocks]			Lynn	Norfolk	N/A	Richard		Rawe	YES	
5419	20191025_153244	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.444v_One.PNG	Marke	N/A	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cocks]			Dartmouth	Devon	N/A	John		Skinner	YES	
5439	20191025_154144	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.494v_Two.PNG	Signature	Roman	Mariner; Master [of the Golden Cock]	Ratcliffe	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	1629	John	Barker	YES	
5429	20191025_153355	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.454r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Sailor; Steward [of the Golden Cock]	Blackwall	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	John		Clifton	YES	
5435	20191025_153958	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.493r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Chirurgeon [of the Golden Cock]		N/A	London		N/A	1629	Paule	Deane	YES	
5464	20191025_154303	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.506r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Chirurgus [chirurgeon] [of the Golden Cock]		Saint Mary Woolchurch	London		30	1630	Paulus	Deane	YES	
5436	20191025_154136	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.493v.PNG	Signature	Roman	Mariner; Master's mate [of the Golden Cock]			Barwicke		N/A	1629	Andrewe	ffox	YES	
5417	20191025_153236	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.443v.PNG	Signature	Roman	Carpenter [on ship] [of the Golden Cock]	Blackwall	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A		Bartholomew	Goodall	YES	
5438	20191025_154144	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.494v_One.PNG	Signature	Roman	Purser [of the Golden Cocke of London]			N/A		N/A	1629	Charles	Holliday	YES	
5466	20191025_154321	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.508v.PNG	Signature	Roman	Nauta [mariner]; Gunner's mate [of the Golden Cock]		N/A		Middlesex	N/A	1630	Johannes	Langworthie	YES	
5468	20191025_154341	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.511r_One.PNG	Signature	Roman	Gunner [of the Golden Cocke of London]		Stepney		Middlesex	40	1630	Edwardus	Presson	YES	
5434	20191025_153954	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.492v.PNG	Signature	Roman	Master's mate [of the Golden Cock]	Ratcliffe	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	1629	William	Rider	YES	
5424	20191025_153338	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.451v.PNG	Signature	Roman	Mariner; Quarter master [of the Golden Cock]			Topsham	Devon	N/A	John		Tuckerman	YES	
5467	20191025_154323	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.509r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Chirurgeon's mate [of the Golden Cock]		N/A	Fon le Rys	Yorkshire	19	1630	Christopher	Wayde	YES	
5427	20191025_153348	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.453r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Sailor; One of the company [of the Golden Cock]	Ratcliffe	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	Thomas		Webster	YES	
5437	20191025_154138	KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1348_f.494r.PNG	Signature	Roman	Mariner; Master's mate [of the Golden Cock]	Ratcliffe	Stepney		Middlesex	N/A	1629	Thomas	Woolman	YES	

Literacy map of two related families of shipwrights – Mayden and White. The men (Thomas Mayden senior, his sons Thomas Mayden junior and William Mayden, and son-in-law John White, were all literate. Their wives (Anna Mayden and Hannah Mayden used a mark or initial. Thomas Mayden's daughter (Catherine White) used an initial.



Twelve or thirteen shipwrights worked on the repair of the lighter the William and ffrancis at the key of shipwright John Mayor in Horsey Downe, Southwark, in late 1654. We have signoffs for five of them. Interesting to see the signoffs of two shipwright contractors and three young apprentices/servants working on a repairing a lighter on the Thames shore. Both shipwright contractors were literate, as were two of the three apprentices/servants [See HCA 13/70 f.16r; 135v; 136r; 138r; 138v] "The sayd John Mayer did thereupon hire **Edward Bigland**, **William ffurnis**, **Isaac Meyer**, John Priddam, Henry Row, Richard Mallet, Thomas Phillips, and a boy, and did employ him this deponent; and his fellow servants **William Robinson**, and **Richard Cooke**, to and for the doeing of the sayd repaire" (Deposition of **William Haynes**, HCA 13/70 f.137v)

John Mayor, shipwright, owner of Horseydown wharf



Isaacke Maior, 24 year old shipwright, of Horseydown, Surrey. Hired by John Mayor, shipwright as and overseer of work. HCA 13/71 f.16r

Henry Row



Edward Bigland, 67 year old shipwright, of Saint Mary Magdalene, Southwark, Surrey. Hired by John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.135v

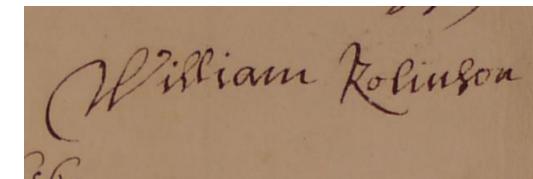
Richard Mallett

William ffurnis

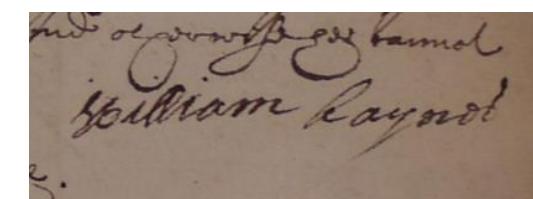
Thomas Phillios

John Priddam

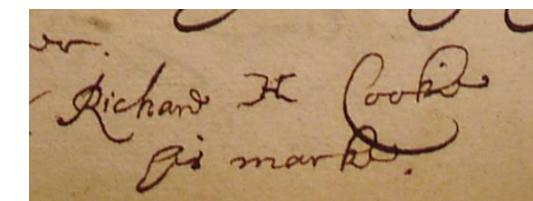
Unnamed boy



William Robinson, 20 year old shipwright, of Saint Mary Magdalene, Southwark, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.137v



William Haynes, 19 year old ship carpenter, of Horseydown, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.138r



Richard Cooke, 20 year old ship carpenter, of Horseydown, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.138v

Journal keeping on board English commercial ships in 1H C17th

Sub-occupation	Number [Count]	Percentage [%]	Average age [years]	Age range [years]
Master's mate [1]	25	44.64%	33.5	22 to 51
Master	11	19.64%	36.2	24 to 48
Gunner	5	8.93%	31.8	24 to 40
Carpenter	4	7.14%	25.5	21 to 31
Boatswain	2	3.56%	29	27 to 31
Quartermaster	2	3.56%	25.5	22 to 29
Pilot [1]	1	1.79%	30	30
Purser	1	1.79%	21	21
Sopracargo or factor on ship	1	1.79%	28	28
Chirurgeon	1	1.79%	40	40
Coxwain	1	1.79%	21	21
Servant [to master of ship] [2]	1	1.79%	18	18
Mariner [sub-occupation unknown]	1	1.79%	43	43
Total [3]	56	100.0	N/A	18 to 51

[1] Including a self-described chief mate/pilot

[3] No place or office

[4] 56 individuals, one individual in two categories

Findings: Mariner letters

Achin (Sumatra)	Genoa	Portsmouth
Alicante	Gottenburg	Redrith (Rotherhithe)
Almeira	James River (Virginia)	Saint Christophers
Amsterdam	Jersey	Sally
Angedeive (East Indies)	La Rochelle	Surat (East Indies)
Backshill (Sussex)	Larwick (Norway)	The Downs
Barbados	Lisbon	The Groyne (Galicia)
Barnstaple (Devon)	Liverpool	Tunis
Bellsound	Livorno	Venice
Bergen	London	Virginia
Cadiz	Longsound	Vlissingen
Cape coast (Guinea)	Mallaga	Wapping
Coast of Essex	Marseilles	West country
Coast of Guinea	Messina (Sicily)	West Indies
Cochin (East Indies)	New Barcelona (Spanish West Indies)	
Comonagota (Spain)	Newcastle	
Cork (Ireland)	Newhaven (France)	
Cornwall	Nireto (near Naples)	
Dover	Ostend	
Dublin	Plastow	
Falmouth	Plymouth	
Foy (Cornwall)	Plymouth sound	



Locations at which letters were written by English masters of ships & other mariners, 1H C17th

Wherever English mariners sailed, they were likely to have sent and received letters concerning the condition of their ships, their planned routes, their ladings, and their financial need, together with personal correspondence to and from family and friends.

Letter from Captain Peter Cooze, mariner and former master of the *Livorno ffrigot* [March 1663]

Sir,

After my most humble service to you, I make bold to trouble you with these few lines, Sir the bearer hereof Edwardd Tarver a musitioner hath a desire to stay in India with you, if you be pleased to vouch safe him entertainment. Sir, I have known him of a child that came of honest parents, and is a preitty sivil young man and for his musick I hope he may have thee happiness to play you a merry lessen. Sir, I pray excuse my boldness. My wife and mother desires theire kind remembrance unto you, I have written you in a former letter all thee particulars concerning thee *Livorne Friggatt*. It is inclosed in your letters sent by Madam Dallison.

Having not else at present I rest
Your ever respectful servant to
you and yours

Peeter Cooze

Queene Staires in Ratcliff

Letter from Ann Townesend, widow of John Nicholls, deceased master of the *Expedition* [February 1663]

Right Worthy Sir

I had once a husband whose name was John Nicholls and was master of the *Expedition* whome you very well did know, I made bould to acquaint your Worshippe in London about my sufferings, and by whom, and your Worshippe was pleased to promise mee your helpe when God brought you to India. Mr Goodyer can very well informe you who has my husband's will for hee was on board when he dyed; I desire that I may have the will heare.

I have given a letter of attorney to one Mr John Oates cheife mate in the *America* who with your powerfull assistance is willing to act for my releife in it; without your Worshipp's helpe hee cann doo nothing I shall not need to begg your helpe of the just and mercyfull whome your Worshippe is well knowne to bee,

Sir I am in a suffering condition, my wants are great, and my desires are no more than just, under God my hopes are in you soo craving pardon for my bouldnesse I take leave and rest

London the 23th ffeb 1662:

Your troublesome friend
and servant
Ann: Townesend
Alias - Nicholls

Drivers of writing of letters by masters of ships

Ship operations

Dealing with shore suppliers

- Settling or contesting bills

Keeping owners and/or freighters informed of voyage

- Informing about storm damage to ship and/or lading
- Informing of loss of ship through storm or seizure
- Informing of delays or embargos

Reacting to operational needs

- Requesting supplies (sails; cables)

Commercial operations

Seeking freight

- Letters to factors
- Letters to brokers
- Letters to local merchants

Seeking instructions from owners or freighters

- Routing decisions (in the Downs; at Lisbon; in the Mediterranean)

Adjusting voyage

- Extending voyage or varying ports of call
- Extending demurrage
- Breaching charter party covenants

Seeking legal assistance

- Dealing with disputes on shore (embargos; licences; commercial contracts; wage disputes)



- Two peer reviewed journal articles
- Extend HCA deposition imaging and indexing
- Mariners Letters workshop, June 2022
- International Mariners Letters network, 2023+



The logo for Chronoscopic Education features a stylized, abstract graphic of vertical bars and lines resembling a barcode or a microscopic view of a material. The text "Chronoscopic Education" is written in a clean, sans-serif font to the right of the graphic.

Chronoscopic
Education

Data pack to support Signs
of Literacy project:

"Pattern recognition of
signatures and markes in
historical manuscripts as a
basis for sub-population
identification"

#Occupationalsignatures

Wednesday, April 4th, 2018

4th edition

C17th alphabet of initials

Data pack to support Signs of Literacy community

"Pattern recognition of signatures and markes in historical manuscripts as a basis for sub-population identification"

#Occupationalsignatures

#Signs of literacy

C17th signatures & markes

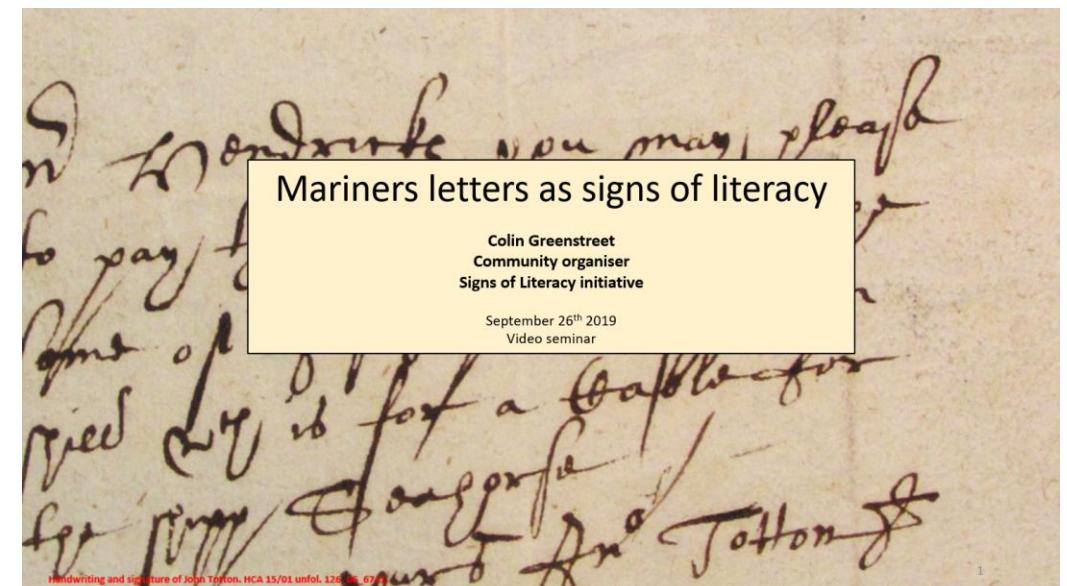
Tuesday, June 5th, 2018

4th edition



Archives & AI

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018
The National Archives
United Kingdom





Appendix

[Signoff examples: Mariners](#)

[Signoff examples: River trades](#)

[Signoff examples: Materials handling](#)

[Signoff examples: Formally educated hands](#)

[Signoff examples: Different types of mark](#)

[Further literacy calibration material](#)

[Ship literacy maps](#)

[Shore trade literacy maps](#)

[Manuscript document examples](#)

[AI analysis](#)

[Twitter poll and thought experiment](#)



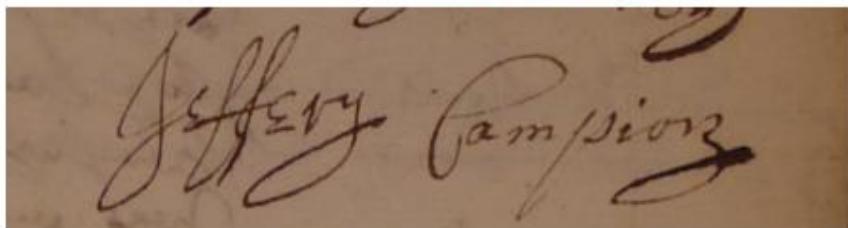
Appendix

Signoff examples: Mariners

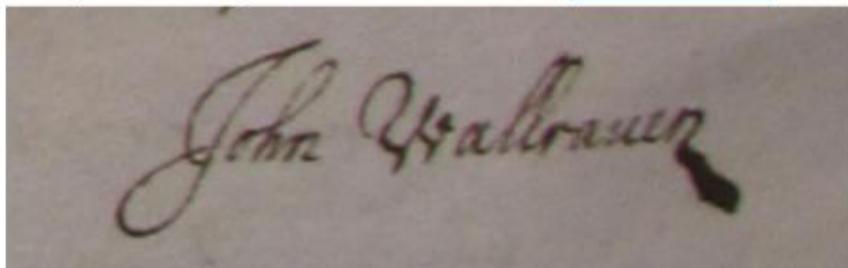
Chirurgeons

Chirurgeons' and barber chirurgions' signatures

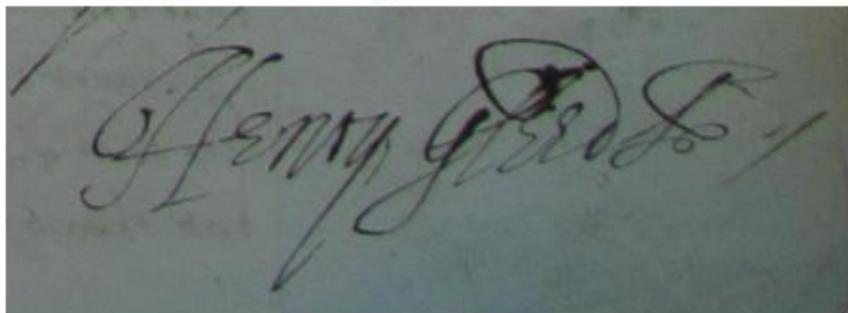
Jefferie Campian, thirty year old chirurgeon, of Shadwell in parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Oct. 21, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.396r](#))



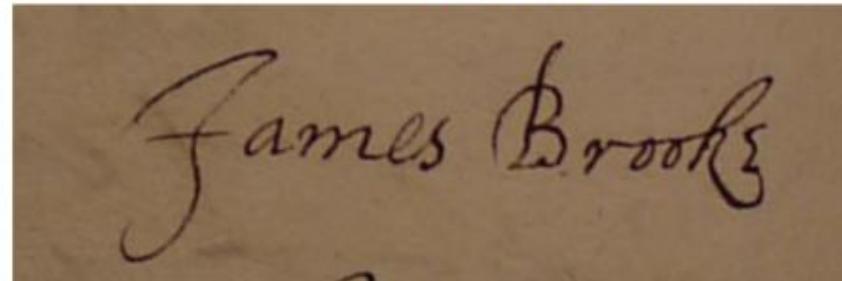
John Wallraven, twenty-four year old chirurgeon, of the parish of Saint Buttolph without Algate, London, Dec. 7, 1654 ([HCA 13/70 f.17v](#))



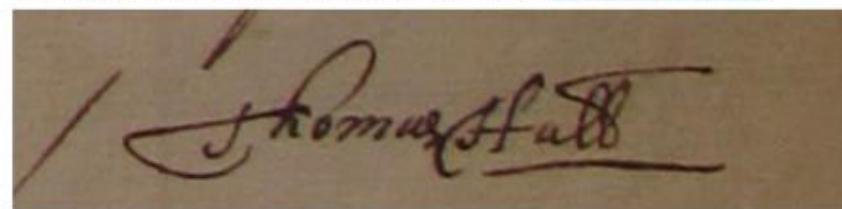
Henry Gleade, twenty year old chirurgeon, self-described as chirurgeon's mate, of Shadwell in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Jan 12, 1655 ([HCA 13/71 f.175r](#))



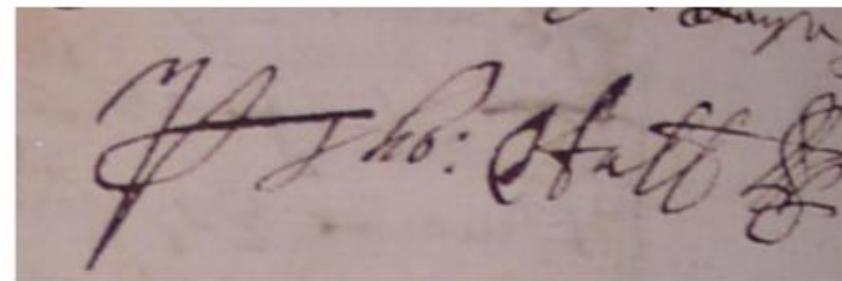
James Brooke, forty year old barber chirurgeon, of the parish of Saint Andrew Undershaft, Jan 31, 1657 ([HCA 13/71 f.546v](#))



Thomas Hall, forty year old barber-chirurgeon, of the parish of Saint Pancras Soaper-Lane, London, Jan 26, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.216r](#))



Thomas Hall, forty year old comprise-man, of the parish of Saint Pancras Soperlane, London, Dec 22, 1656 ([HCA 13/70 f.216r](#))





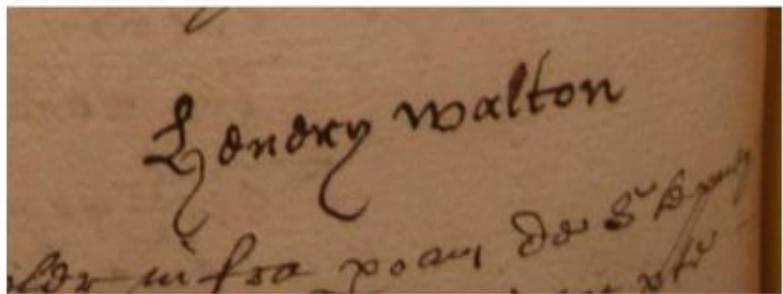
Appendix

Signoff examples: River trades

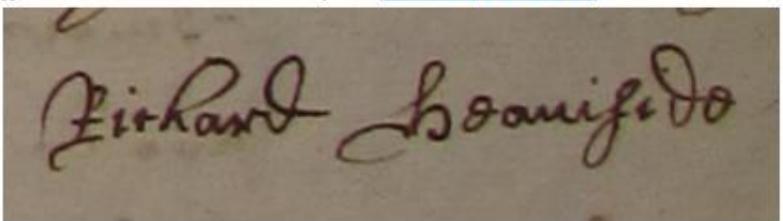
Lightermen
Watermen

Lightermen – signatures, initials & other markes, 1637-1657 [PART ONE]

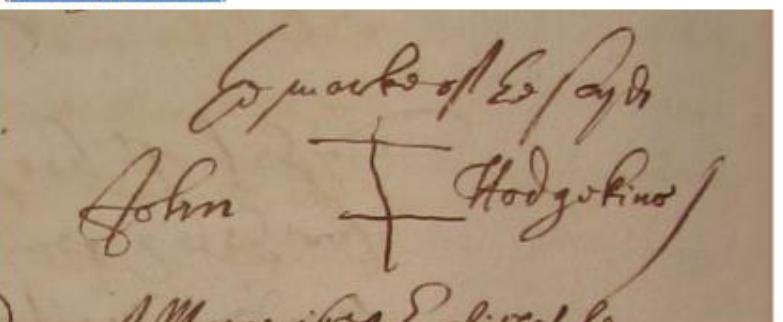
Henry Walton, thirty-eight year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Dunstans in the East, London, June 10th 1637
(HCA 13/53 f.207v)



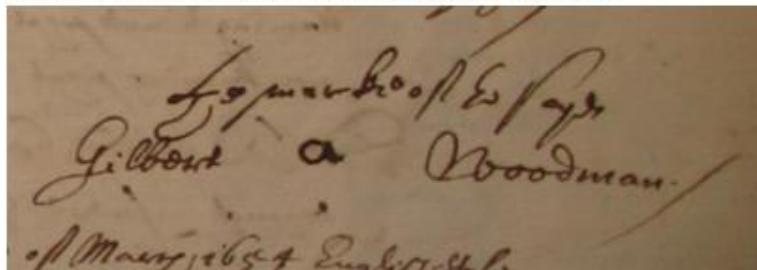
Richard Heavyside, twenty-nine year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Dunstans in the East, London, March 2nd, 1654; stated he and another lighterman, William Purse, had charge of an open lighter which was brought to the side of the Smirna ffactor near Blackwell Staryres (HCA 13/70 f.313r)



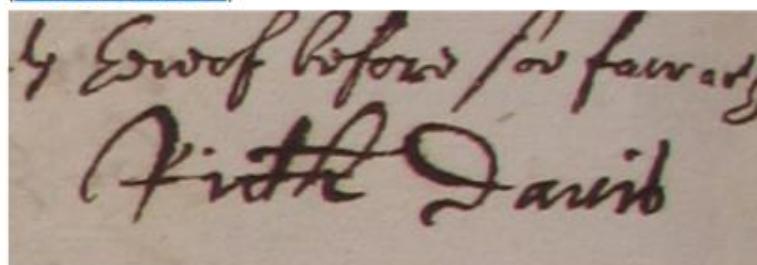
John Hodgkins, twenty-seven year old lyterman, of the parish of Saint Olave Southwarke, March 2nd, 1654
(HCA 13/70 f.314v)



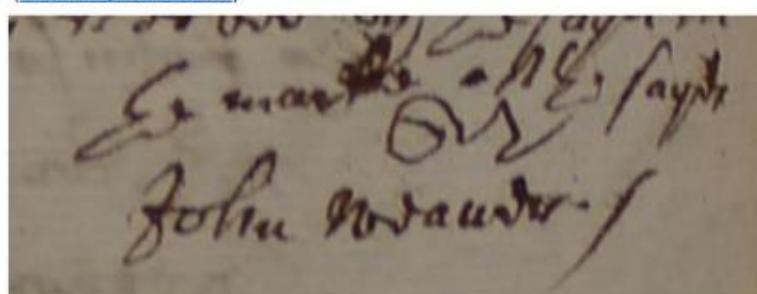
Gilbert Woodman, thirty-two year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Olave in Southwarke, March 10th, 1655; identified his master as Mr Ambrose Pomery (HCA 13/70 f.316r)



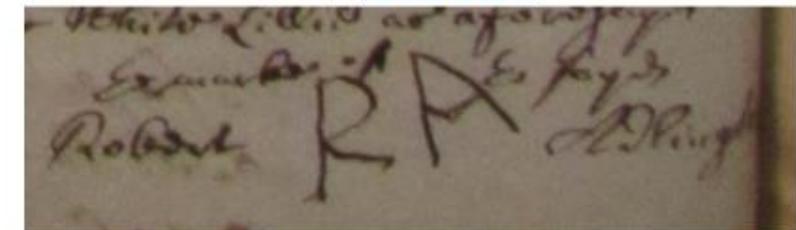
Richard Davi[e]s, thirty year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Buttolphs Algate, London, November 13th, 1655
(HCA 13/70 f.690v)



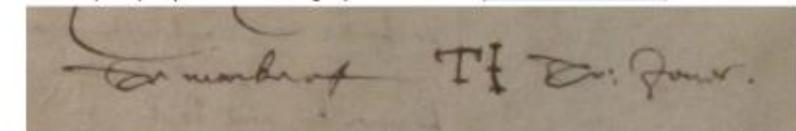
John Weaver, twenty-two year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Olave Southwark, November 19th, 1656
(HCA 13/71 f.414v)



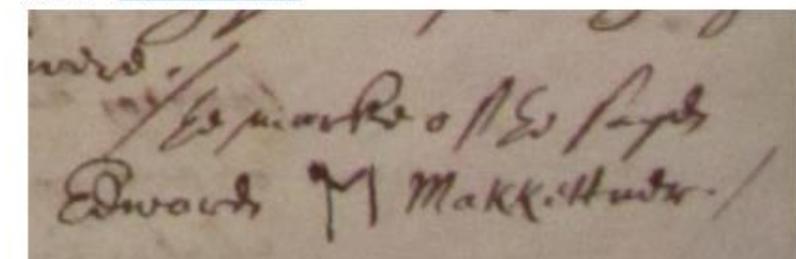
Robert Adlington, fifty year old lighterman, of the parish of Saint Peter ad Vincula in the Tower, London, May 16th, 1657; "being a lighterman and employed by the sayd Mr ffernandez and Betts to fetch wines with his lighter severall dayes in the moneth of Aprill last from on board the sayd ship" (HCA 13/72 f.32v)



Thomas Jones, fifty year old lighterman, of Wapping Wall, June 1st, 1657; "hee hath for theise seaventeene or eighteene yeaeres last used the occupation of a lighterman in the River of Thames, and hath bin frequently employed in the taking up of ballast therein"; "the sayd Jones and Marketure are low watermen and lighter men who are usually employed in takeing up of ballast" (HCA 13/72 f.34r)

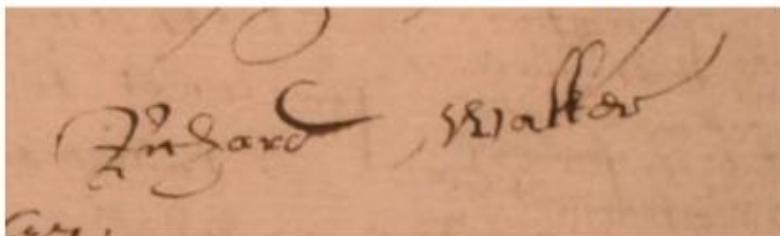


Edward Makkettuer, fifty-three year old lighterman, of Wapping in the parish of Stepney, June 4th, 1657; "hee hath bin a lighterman belonging to the River of Thames and accustomed to take up and carry ballast there for fowerteene yeaeres last past and saith and hath bin a mariner for many yeaeres before that and and lived neere the Thames, and thereby bin acquainted [with] the customs concerning the takeing up of ballast in the sayd River"; "the sayd Jones and Marketure are low watermen and lighter men who are usually employed in takeing up of ballast" (HCA 13/72 f.40v)

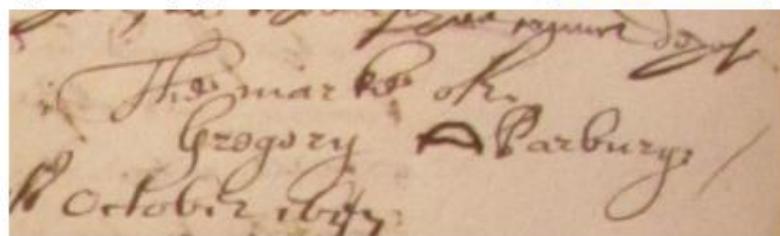


Lightermen – signatures, initials & other marks, 1637-1658 [PART TWO]

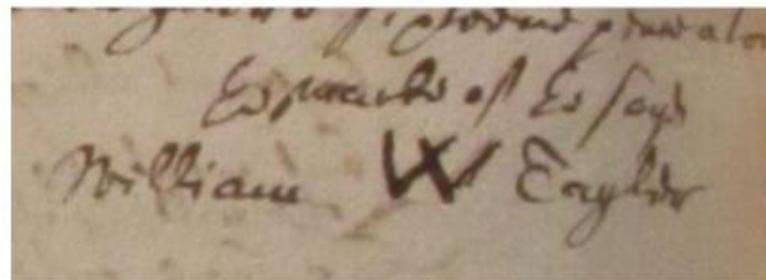
Richard Walker, thirty-eight year old lighterman, of Poplar in the parish of Stepney, June 20th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.208v](#))



Gregory Parbury, fifty year old lighterman, of Lambeth, October 24th, 1657; "hee hath left ballasting seaven yeeres and hath noe relation to the interrogated Prior or his Lighters, and that hee was formerly a low water man, but now imployes his lighter in carrying of rubbish from this citie" ([HCA 13/72 f.168v](#))



William Tayler, sixty year old lighterman, of Wapping in the parish of Saint Mary Matsellon alias Whitechappell, Middlesex, January 15th, 1658; "a lighterman by trade and hath bin for these thirty yeares last past or more employed in ballasting of shippes" ([HCA 13/72 f.229v](#))





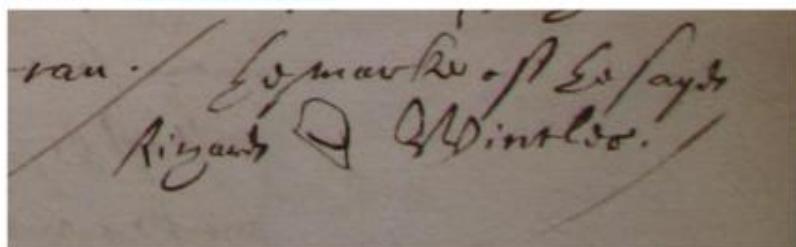
Appendix

Signoff examples: Materials handling

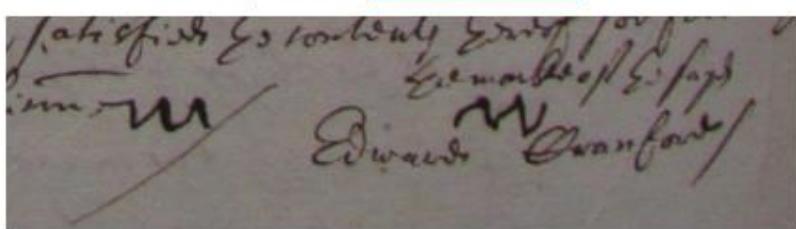
Porters
Labourers

Porters handling coals, whale oil, ginger & corn

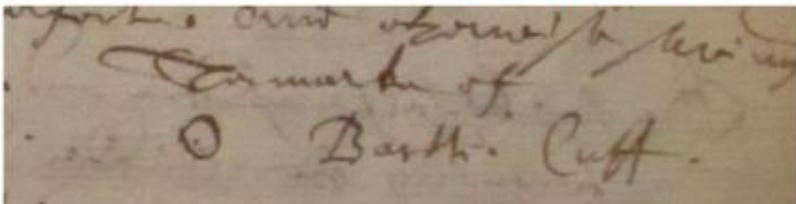
Richard Wincles, thirty-three year old porter, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Dec. 15, 1656; employed as a labourer with fifteen other men to unload coals from the *Imployment* moored near Execution Dock, Wapping, into lighters for fixed rate of 12 s per man ([HCA 13/70 f.554r](#))



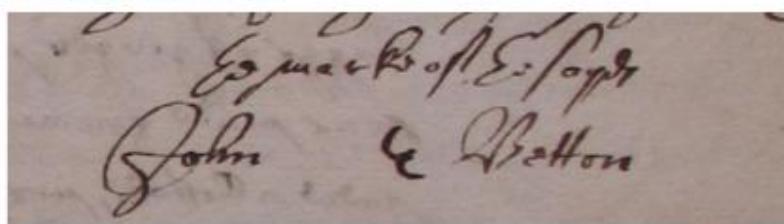
Edward Cranford, forty-four year old coale heaver or porter, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Dec. 15, 1656; employed as a labourer with fifteen other men to unload coals from the *Imployment* moored near Execution Dock, Wapping, into lighters for fixed rate of 12 s per man ([HCA 13/70 f.555v](#))



Bartholomew Cuff, sixty year old porter of the Stillyard, of the parish of Allhallowes the Greate, London, May 15, 1658; assisted in the landing of whale oil from lighters at the Stillyard Key and loading them away into a warehouse ([HCA 13/70 f.555v](#))



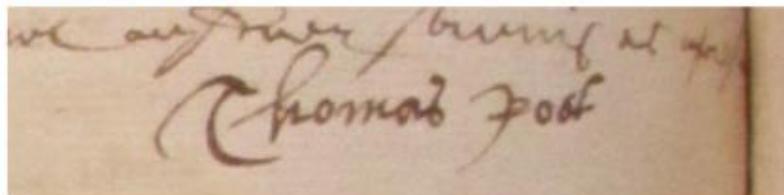
John Betton, fifty-four year old citizen and white baker of London, of the parish of Saint Buttolph Algate, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.449r](#))



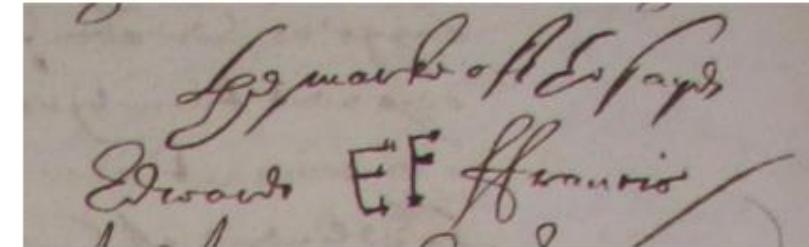
Edward Sherwin, fifty-six year old cittien and leatherseller, of the parish of Little Allhallows, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.449v](#))



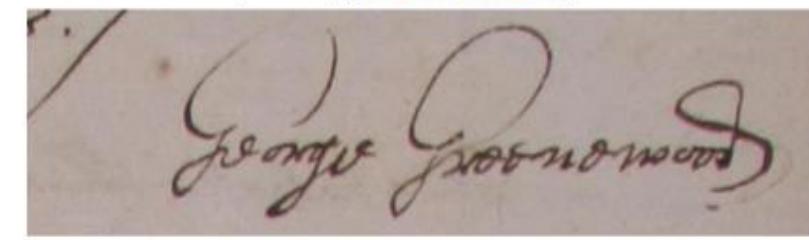
Thomas Roots, twenty-nine year old porter, of the parish of Greate Allhallows, London, May 15, 1658; assisted in the landing of whale oil from lighters at the Stillyard Key, as one of the Stillyard porters, and loading them away into a warehouse ([HCA 13/72 f.330v](#))



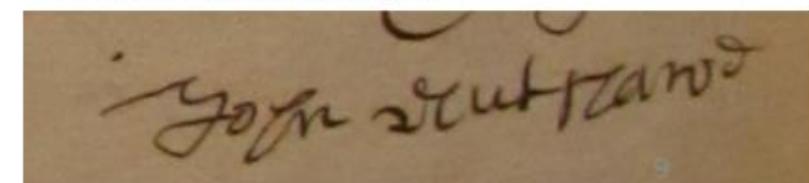
Edward ffrancis, citizen and merchantaylor of London, of the parish of Saint Olave in Southwarke, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.450v](#))



George Greenwood, thirty year old citizen and vintner of London, of the parish of Saint Buttolph Bishopsgate, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.454r](#))

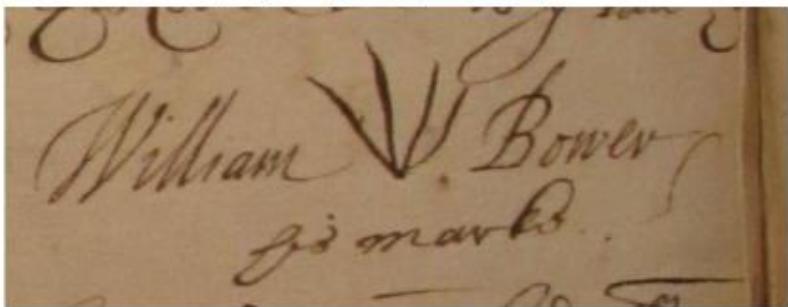


John Nutshall, fifty-five year old corne porter, of the parish of Saint Saviours Southwarke, Nov. 19, 1653; employed with a barber chyrurgeon/corne meter, an additional corne-meter, and other labourers to unlade a cargo of what in the *ffortune* of Stettin, moored against Limehouse; eight years of experience as a corne porter ([HCA 13/70 f.352v](#))

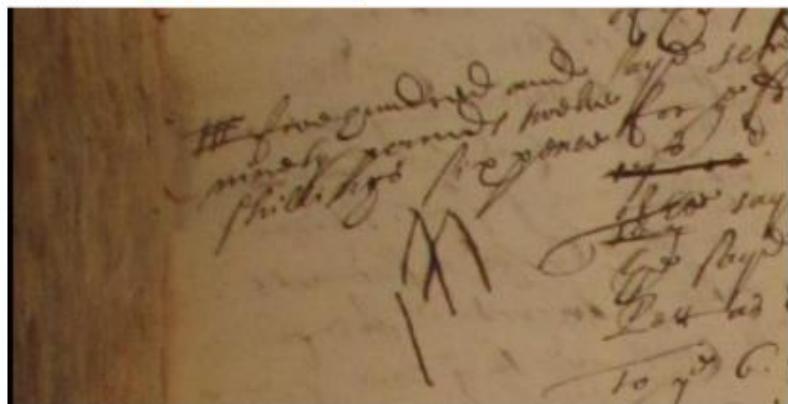


Labourers – initials and other marks, 1654-1657

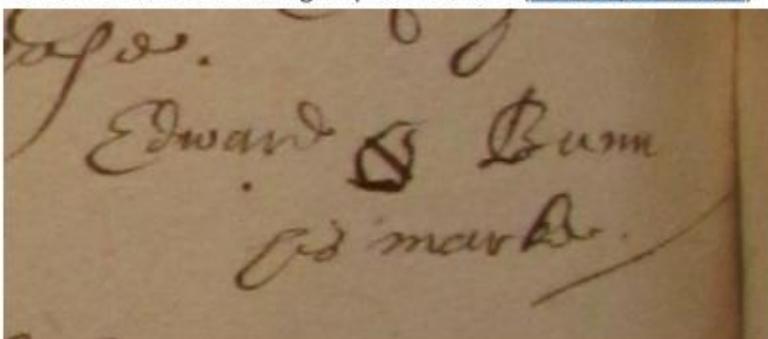
William Bower, forty-two year old labourer in the shipyard of Mr Pett shipwright, of Ratcliffe, November 21st, 1654; "this deponent who hath for theis ten yearesh bene a constant labourer in the sayd yard" ([HCA 13/68 f.596v](#))



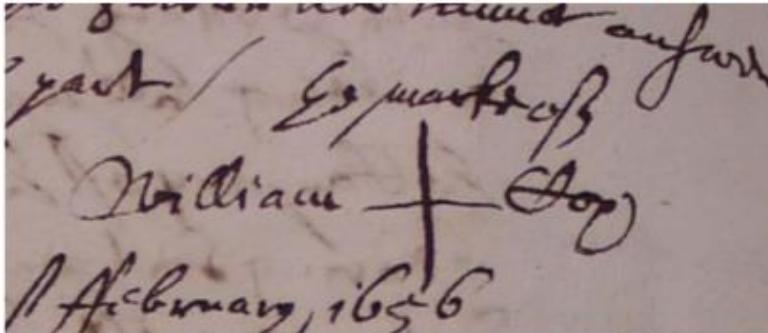
Annotation in LH margin of final page of deposition of William Bower, forty-two year old labourer in the shipyard of Mr Pett shipwright, of Ratcliffe, November 21st, 1654; "this deponent who hath for theis ten yearesh bene a constant labourer in the sayd yard" ([HCA 13/68 f.596v](#))



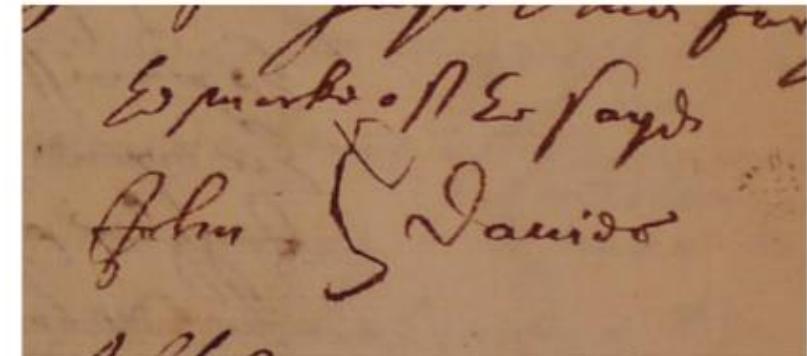
Edward Bunn[e], thirty-five year old labourer, late of the company of the *Martha* John Pibus master, of King street in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 19th, 1654; probably a landsman on the whaling ship the *Martha* ([HCA 13/68 f.604v](#))



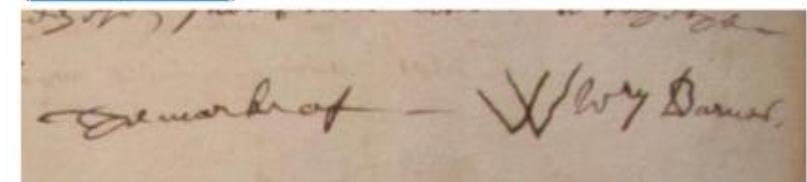
William Coxe, forty-one year old labourer, of Wapping Wall, January 31st, 1657; "hee cometh to bee examined at the request of the producent and hath receaved of her two shillings sixe pence toward his hinderance of his labour by comming and attending to bee sworne and examined and expecteth that the same shall bee made up two shillings a day beeing only soo much as hee could earne by his dayly labour) for soo long tyme as hee shall bee enforced to attend thereabout hee having all ready spent fower dayes tyme thereabout and saith hee was one of the labourers aboard the sayd lighter when the dammage happened" ([HCA 13/71 f.447v](#))



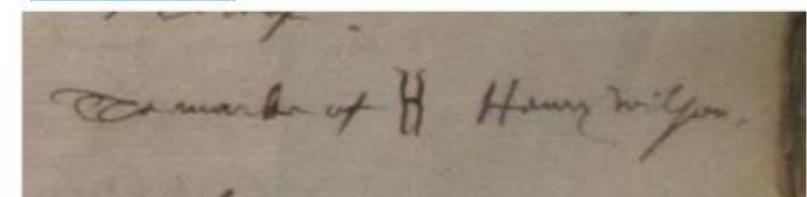
John Davies, thirty-six year old labourer, of Wapping in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 21st, 1657; "[he] was a labourer aboard the lighter the *Ellen and Anne*" ([HCA 13/71 f.563r](#))



William Barnes, fifty-six year old labourer, of Greenwich, Kent, May 29th, 1657; "hee well knoweth the producent Mary Ewen and the bancks and wharfe arlate, having often times wrought thereat...hee hath lived for theise thirtie yearesh last at Greenwich, and hath and doth live by his labour" ([HCA 13/72 f.33v](#))



Henry Wilson, forty year old labourer, of Greenwich, June 9th, 1657; "hee by times for theise seaven yearesh hath used to worke as a labourer upon the said [ballast] wharfe" ([HCA 13/72 f.42r](#))





Appendix

Signoff examples: Formally educated hands

Notaries

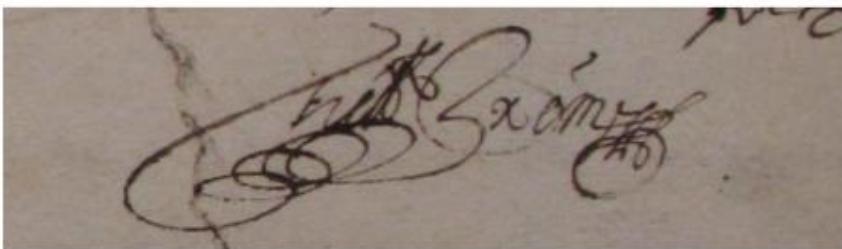
Scriveners

Secretaries

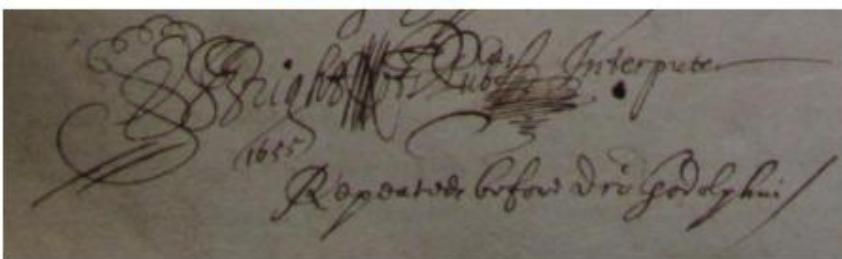
Doctor of Physick

Notary publiques

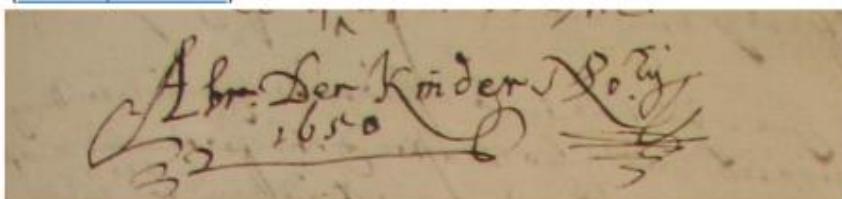
Frederick Ixem, twenty-eight year old notary publique, of the parish of Saint Bennet ffinck, London, Oct. 26, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.544r](#))



[? Wright, Notary Publique, Interpreter, 1655 [Interpreted for Jacob Van der Ende, thirty-four year old mariner of Flushing in Zealand and master of the ship the *mermayde*, who signed his deposition with a cross], Oct. 18, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.543v](#))]

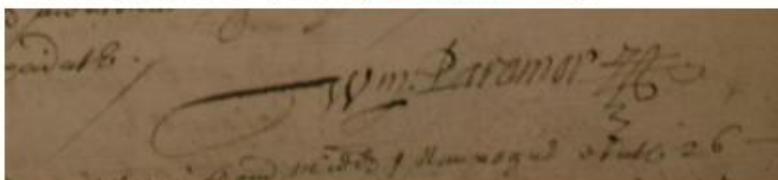


Abraham Der Kinder, Notary Publique, Oct. 26, 1655
([HCA 13/63 f.320r](#))

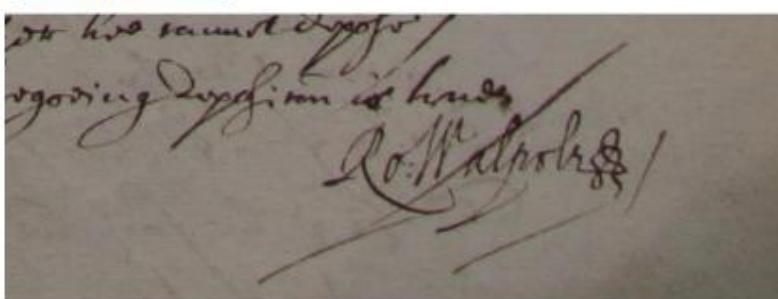


Scriveners

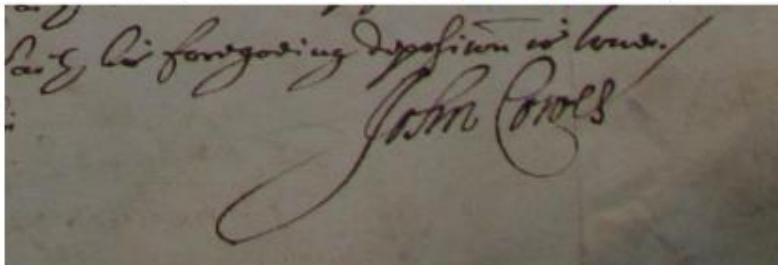
William Paramor, forty-seven year old scrivener, of Ratcliffe, Middlesex, March 28th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53, f.117r](#))



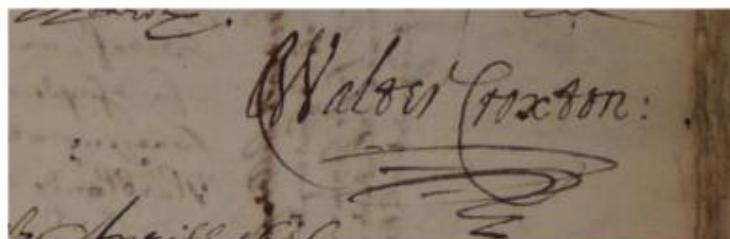
Robert Walpole, fifty-four year old scrivener, of the parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle, London, November 20th, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.550r](#))



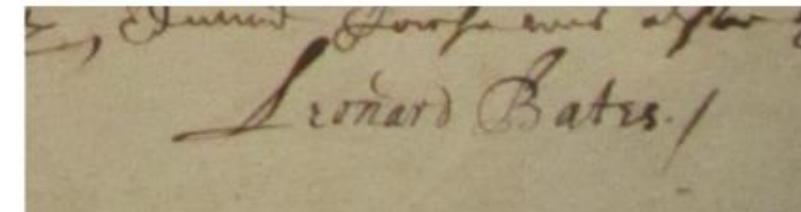
John Cowes, twenty-eight year old scrivener, of Wapping, Middlesex & parish of Saint Mary Matsellon, alias Whitechappell, November 15th 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.693r](#))



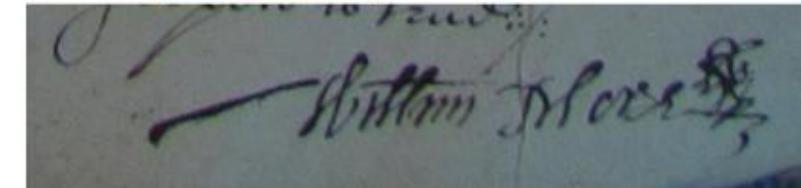
Walter Craxton, forty-five year old scrivener, of the parish of Saint Mary at Hill, London, April 22nd, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.141r](#))



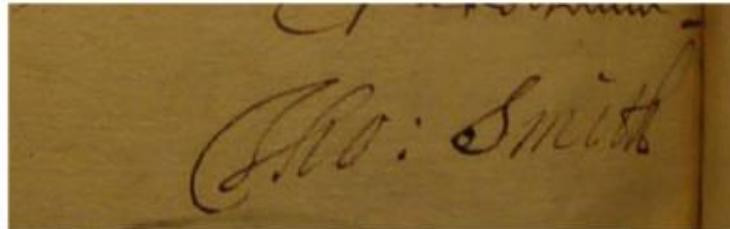
Leonard Bates, thirty-four year old scrivener, of the parish of Saint Michael Cornehill, London, November 12th, 1657 ([HCA 13/72 f.164r](#))



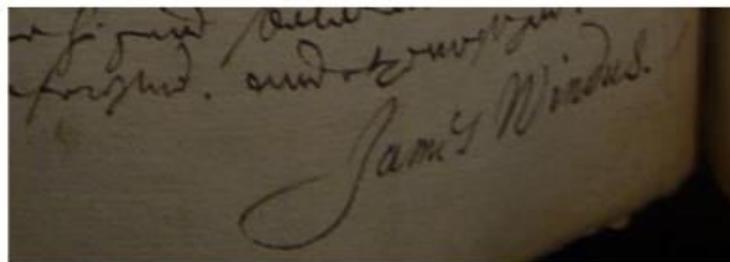
William More, fifty-five year old scrivener, of Wapping, July 19th, 1660 ([HCA 13/73 f.532r](#))



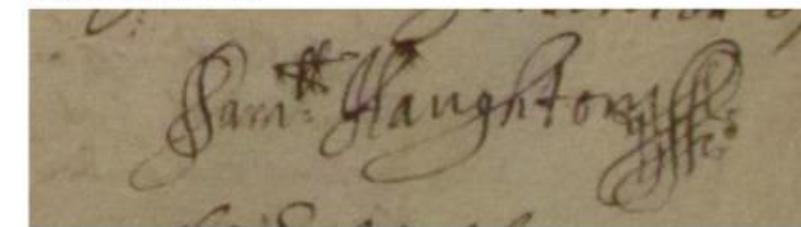
Thomas Smith, twenty-seven year old scrivener, of the parish of Saint Michaell Cornhill, London ([HCA 13/71 f.642v](#))



James Windus, thirty-eight year old scrivener, of London, November 8th, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.408v](#))

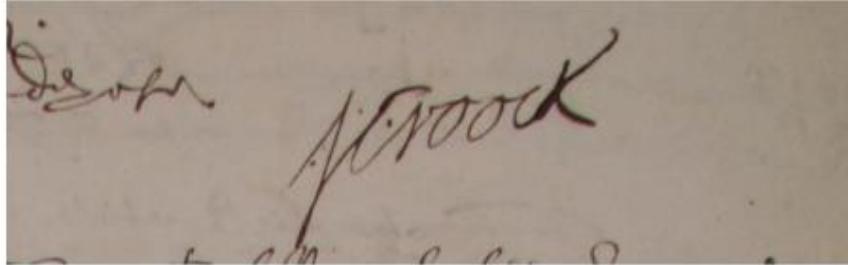


Samuell Haughton, twenty-one year old scrivener, of the parish of Allhallows Lombardestreete, London, January 14th, 1658 ([HCA 13/72 f.181r](#))

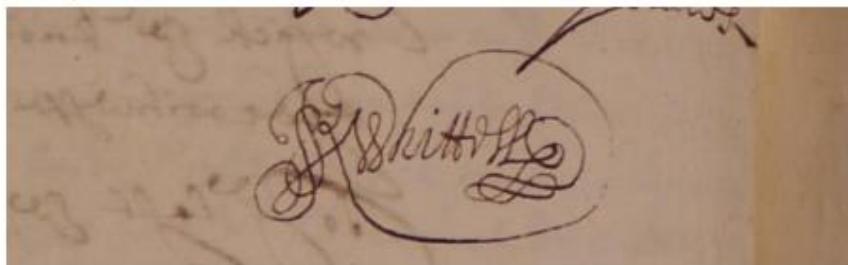


Secretaries

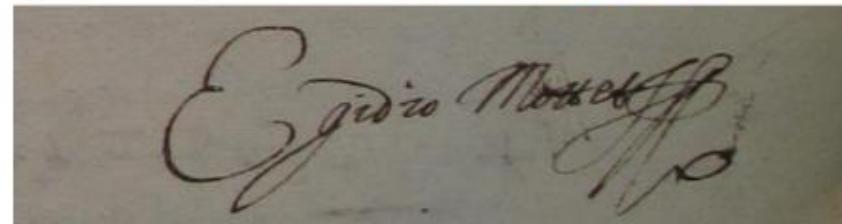
George Crooke, twenty-five year old secretary of his Excellencie the Lord Embassador of the States of the United Netherlands, Nov. 11, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.651r](#))



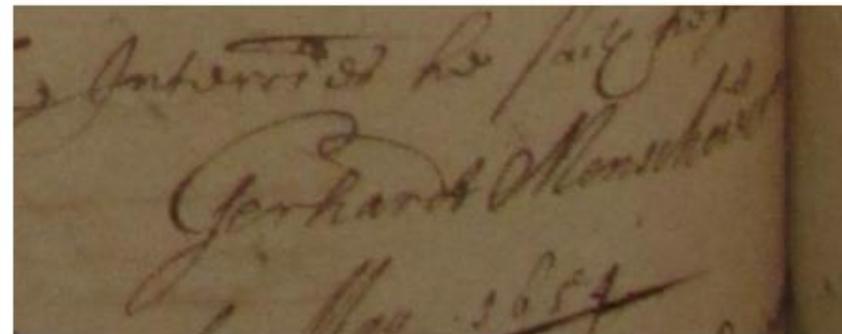
John Whittell, secretary to the Worshipfull Commissioners for Prize Goods, of the parish of Saint Maudlins Milkestreet, London, Mar. 14, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.118r](#))



Egidio Mottet, thirty-three year old secretary to his Excellency the Lord Embassador of Spaine, Jan. 24, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.72r](#))

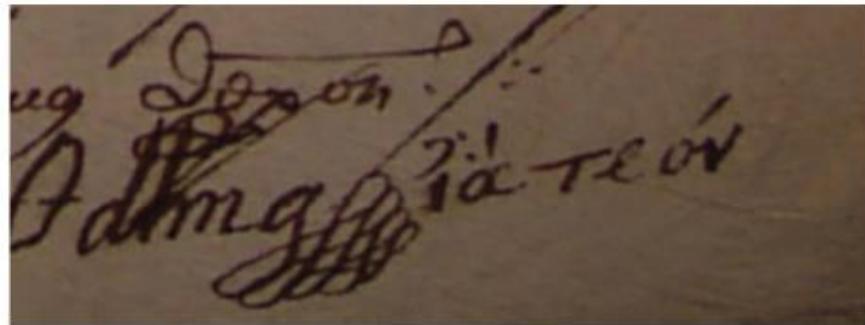
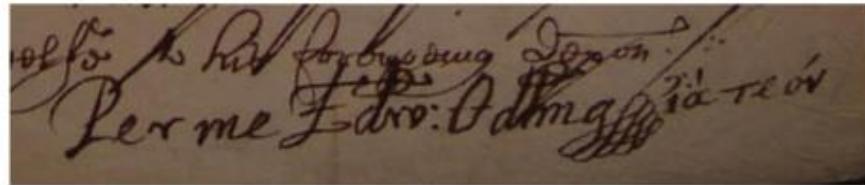


Gerrard Menschever, thirty-six year old secretary to the Agent of the Queene of Sweden, of Stockholon in Swethland, May 3, 1654 ([HCA 13/68 f.506v](#))



Doctor of physicke

Edward Odling, fifty-eight year old doctor of physicke, of the parish of
Saint Andrewes Warderobe, London, March 2, 1657 ([HCA 13/71 f.450r](#))



English – detected	Greek
doctor däkter	γιατρός giatros
5 more translations	

Open in Google Translate Feedback



Appendix

Signoff examples: Different types of mark

Curved squiggles

Crosses

Vees, circles, traingles, semi-circles, dumbbells

Anchors

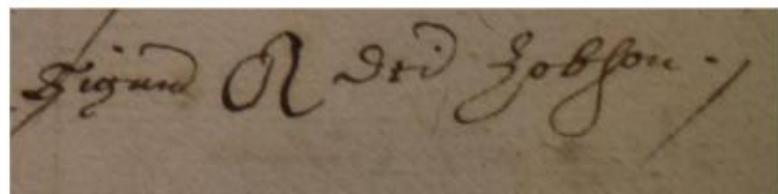
Arrows, cross in circle, hour glass

Single initials, double initials, pseudo initials

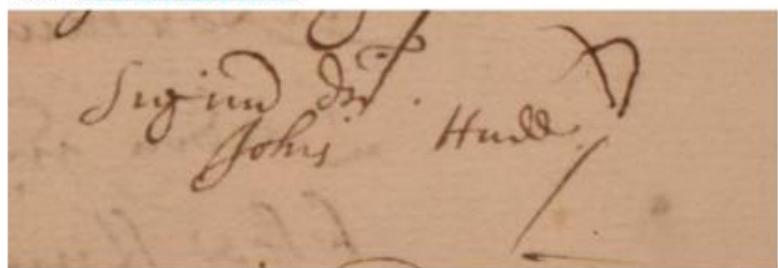
Mirror image initials, upside down initials, rotated initials, pseudo initials

Different types of simple marks – curved squiggles

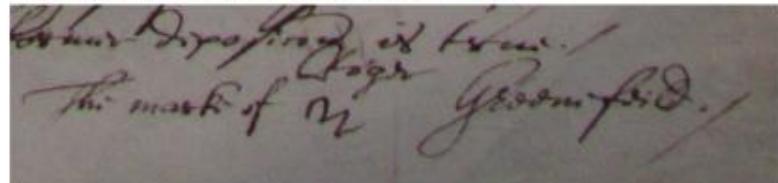
Thomas Hobson, seventy-nine year old fisherman, of Hammersmith, Middlesex, February 8th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.24r](#))



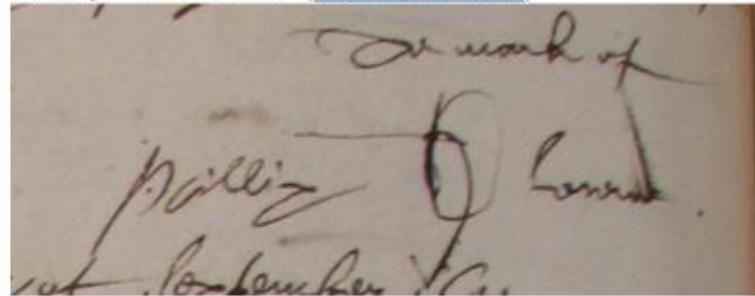
John Hudd, nineteen year old fisherman, of Barking, May 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.193v](#))



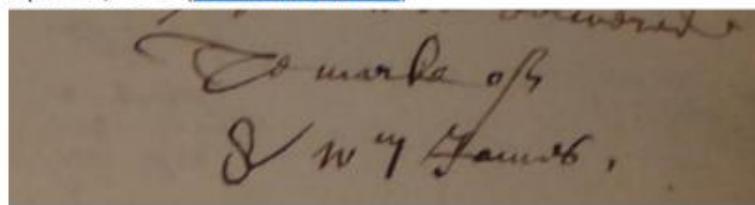
Roger Greenfield, twenty-four year old blacksmith, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, August 21st, 1655; "he the deponent hath wrought with the producent [Walter Gough] (who is an anchor smith by trade) as a journeyman for nigh fower yeares last past" ([HCA 13/70 f.457r](#))



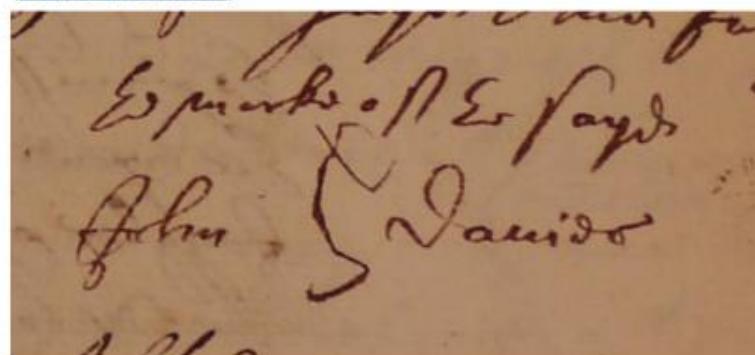
Phillip Lawne, nineteen year old sailor, of Seaford, Suffolk, September 22nd, 1655; self-described "one of the company of the ship the Adventure" ([HCA 13/70 f.610v](#))



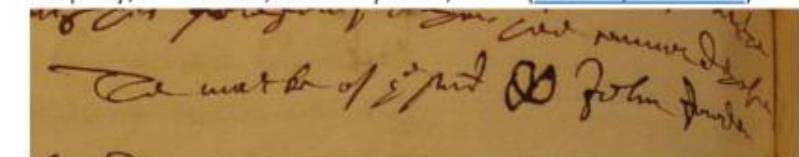
William James, forty-five year old mariner, of Plymouth, Devon, April 3rd, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.130r](#))



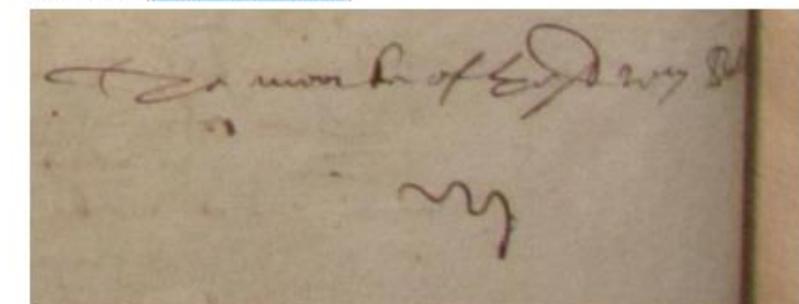
John Davies, thirty-six year old labourer, of Wapping in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 21st, 1657 ([HCA 13/71 f.563r](#))



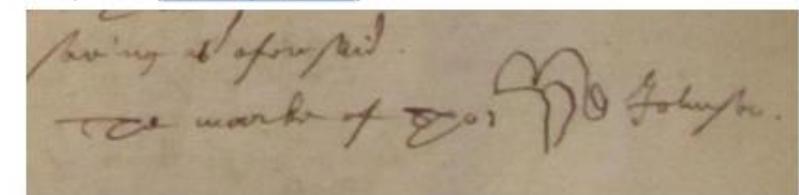
John Jourden, twenty-four year old mariner, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 27th, 1657 ([HCA 13/71 f.609v](#))



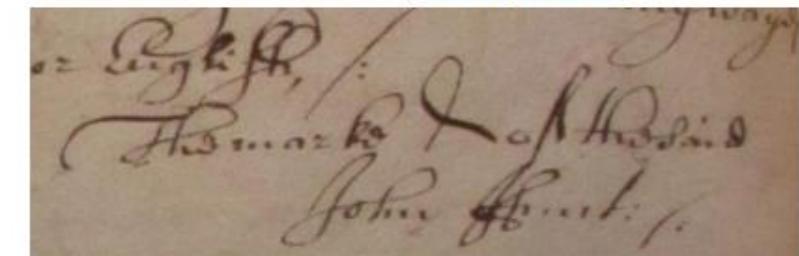
William Ballow, thirty year old ferryman, of Greenwich, June 1st, 1657 ([HCA 13/72 f.34v](#))



Thomas Johnson, forty year old mariner, of Rotterdam, May 26th, 1657 ([HCA 13/72 f.52r](#))

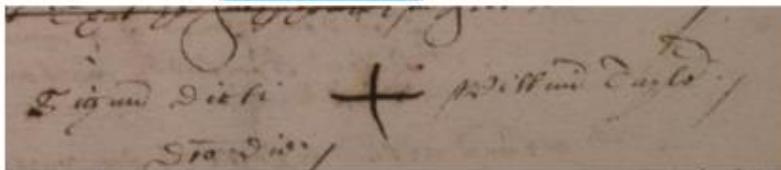


John Hunt, twenty-one year old mariner and foremast man of the ketch the Bachelor, November 24th, 1657; carrying coal from Sunderland to Colchester ([HCA 13/72 f.149v](#))

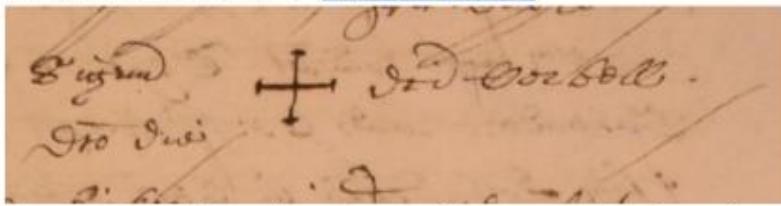


Different types of simple marke – crosses

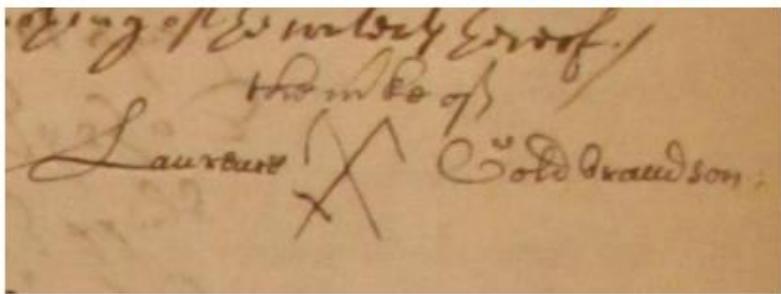
William Taylor, forty year old nayler, of Ratcliffe, Middlesex, March 22nd 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.82r](#))



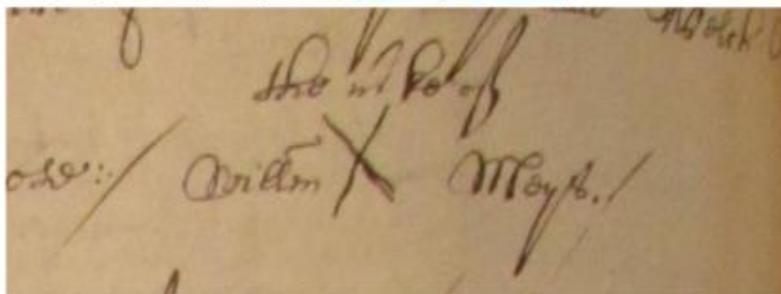
Nicholas Corbell, twenty-five year old mariner, of Dunkirke in fflanders, June 21st, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.227v](#))



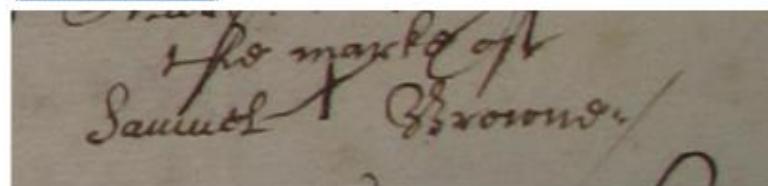
Lawrence Gooldbrandson, twenty-eight year old mariner, of [?BaXXXX], Norway, October 12th, 1653 ([HCA 13/68 f.118r](#))



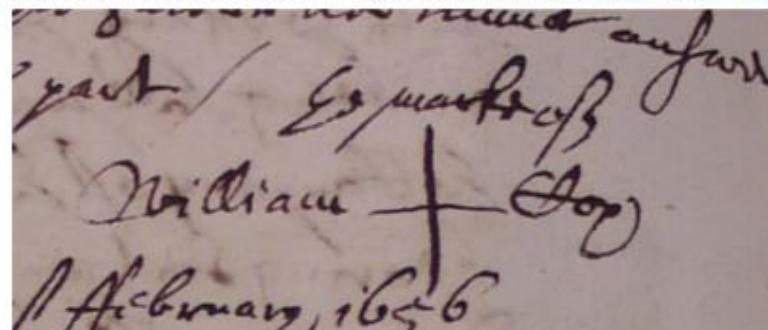
William Meys, twenty-two year old mariner, of Worrom, Holland, January 11th, 1654 ([HCA 13/68 f.393v](#))



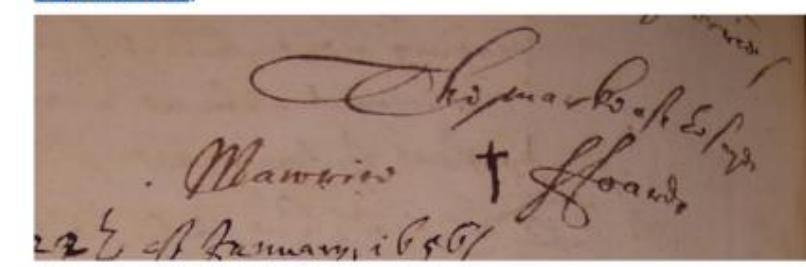
Samuel Browne, fifty year old mariner & boateswaine of the *Mary*, of Alborough, Suffolk; Nov. 24, 1654; in the *Mary* of Alborough ["the ship been a constant trader for coals from Newcastle to London"], when she collided with the *Freeman*, whilst coming up the River Thames in Long-Reach, known also as Gallions Reach ([HCA 13/70 f.30r](#))



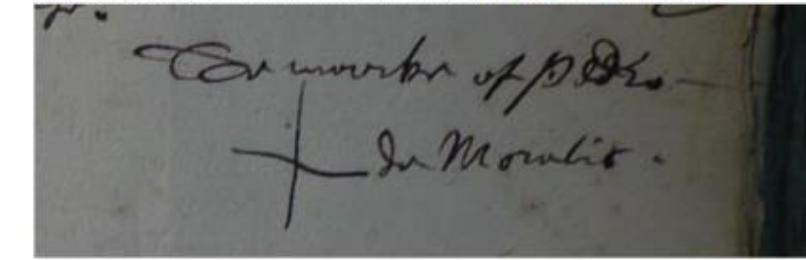
William Coxe, forty-one year old labourer, of Wapping Wall, January 31st, 1657; "hee cometh to bee examined at the request of the producent and hath receaved of her two shillings sixe pence toward his hinderance of his labour by comming and attending to bee sworne and examined and expecteth that the same shall bee made up two shillings a day beeing only sooo much as hee could earne by his dayly labour) for soo long tyme as hee shall bee enforced to attend thereabout hee having all ready spent fower dayes tyme thereabout and saith hee was one of the labourers aboard the sayd lighter when the dammage happened" ([HCA 13/71 f.447v](#))



Maurice ffoard, thirty year old brewer, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, January 14th, 1657; self-described landsman on the whaling ship the *Owners Adventure* ([HCA 13/71 f.497v](#))

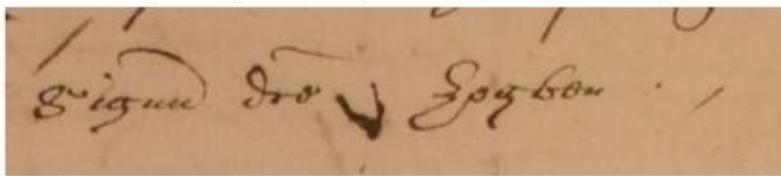


Pedro de Moralis [name as rendered by notary], twenty-eight year old mariner, of Saint Lucar, Spain, March 23rd, 1659; interpreted by Wiliam Martyn; hired on an English/Dutch ship, masquerading as a Spanish ship; self-described as one of seven Spaniards in a company of twenty-one, when the ship was seized & brought into Milford Haven ([HCA 13/73 f.133r](#))

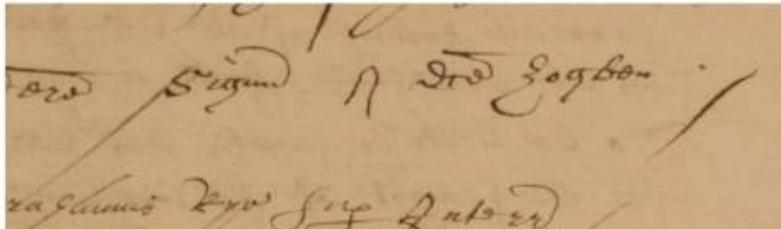


Different types of simple marke – vees, circles, triangles, semi-circles, dumb bells

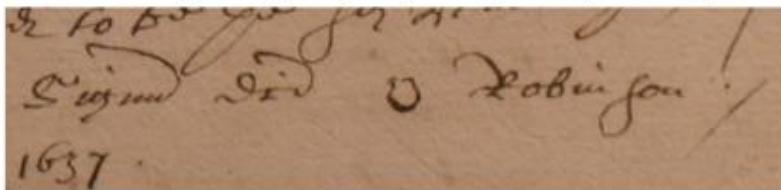
Rosa Hogben, thirty years old, wife of Richard Hogben of Ffeversham, vintner, May 16th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.163r](#))



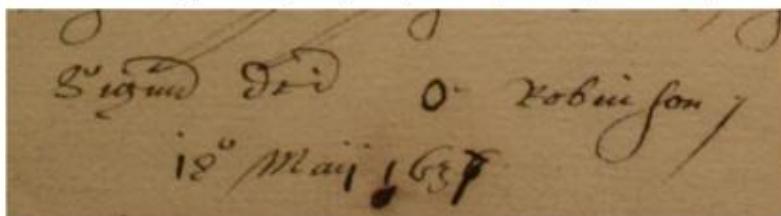
Rosa Hogben, thirty years old, wife of Richard Hogben of Ffeversham, vintner, May 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.166v](#))



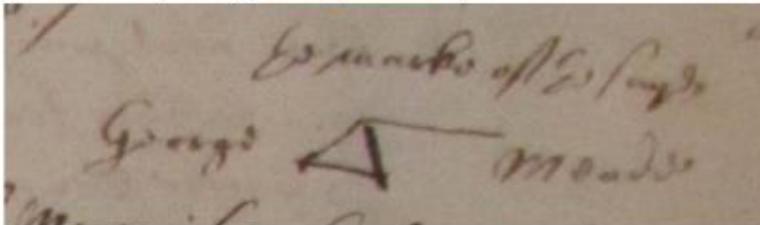
Laurentius Robinson, fifty year old wagoner of the parish of Saint Dunstan, [?XXXX], May 16th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.163r](#))



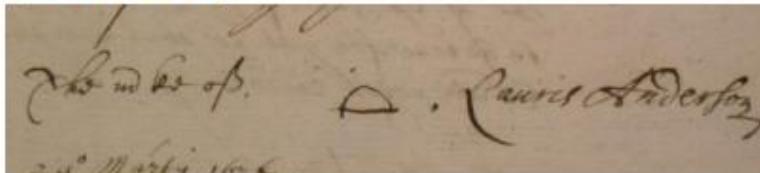
Laurentius Robinson, fifty year old wagoner of the parish of Saint Dunstan, [?XXXX], May 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.166v](#))



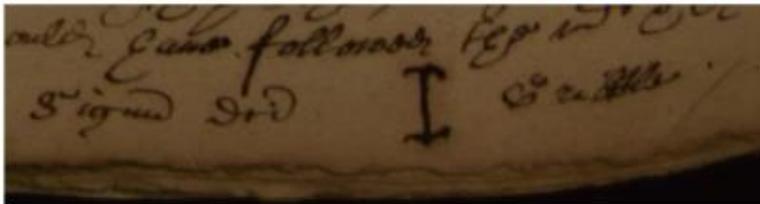
George Meade, fifty-eight year old mariner, of Plymouth, March 22nd, 1658 ([HCA 13/72 f.264r](#))



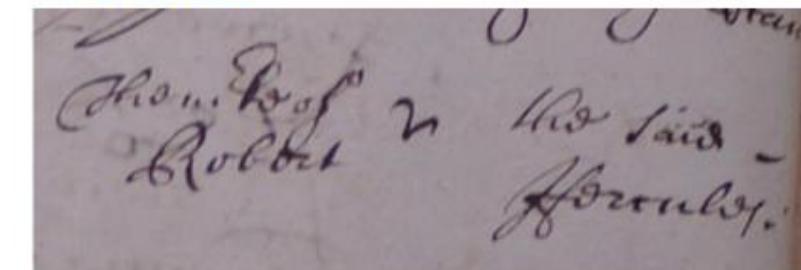
Lauris Andrisson, March 28th, 1637; ?mariner
([HCA 13/53 f.86v](#))



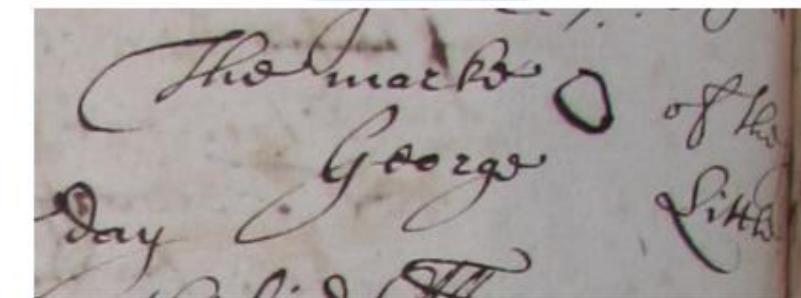
Richard Gribble, about fifty years old mariner, dwelling in Kings Streete near Newe Graell Lane in Wapping Wall, May 11th, 1637; self-described foremast man on the *Rebecca* of London, sailing from London to Virginia in May 1636 ([HCA 13/53 f.157v](#))



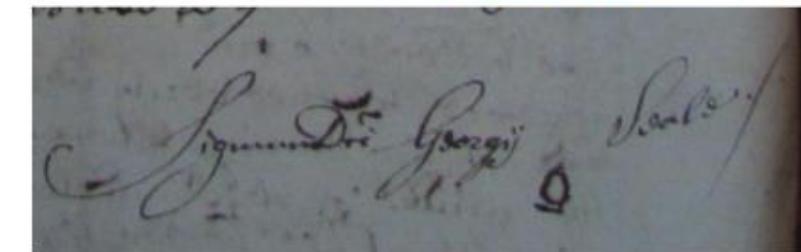
Robert Hercules, forty year old mariner, of Ratcliffe, October 27th, 1659; mariner on another ship in River Thames, who tried to save the *Warewell's* cargo of coals, after she bilged
([HCA 13/73 f.114v](#))



George Little, twenty-five year old cooper, of Shadwell, November 11th, 1659 ([HCA 13/73 f.405v](#))

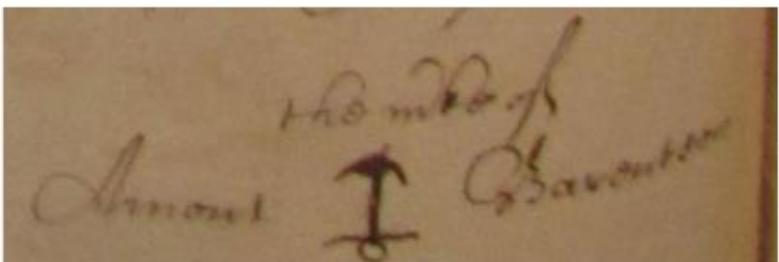


George Seale, fifty-two year old waterman, of Saint Olave Southwarke, February 8th, 1661 ([HCA 13/73 f.620v](#))

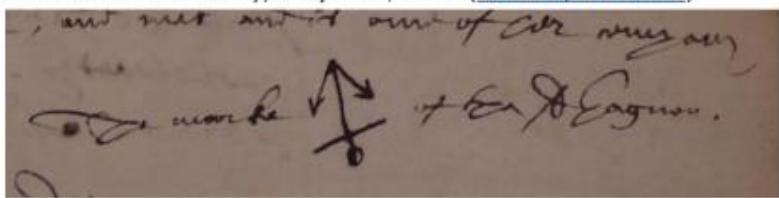


Different types of more complex marke – anchors

Amons Barentsen, thirty-five year old mariner, of Copenhagen, Denmark, October 13th, 1653; self-described as an "ordinary mariner", hired to sail from the Sound to Hamburg on the *Golden Hawke* of Stockholm ([HCA 13/68 f.81v](#))



Claude de Gagnon, twenty-five year old mariner, of Melon, near Brest in Britanny, May 22nd, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.225r](#))



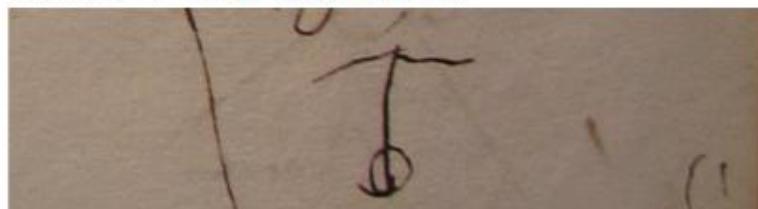
John Tylor, forty-two year old shipwright, of Lower Shadwell, in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 14th, 1659 ([HCA 13/73 f.36r](#))



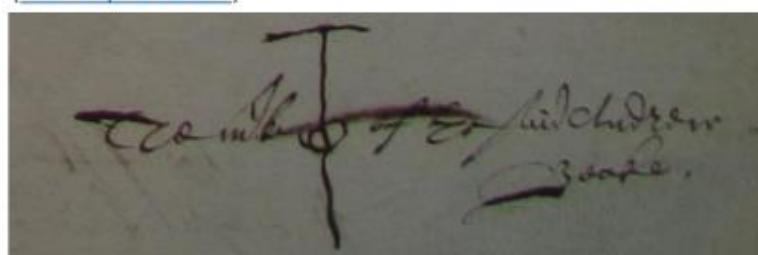
Richard Shepperd, fifty-eight year old cooke, of Brixton, Devon, March 29th, 1637; self-described cooke of the *Hope of Ipswich* ([HCA 13/53 f.87r](#))



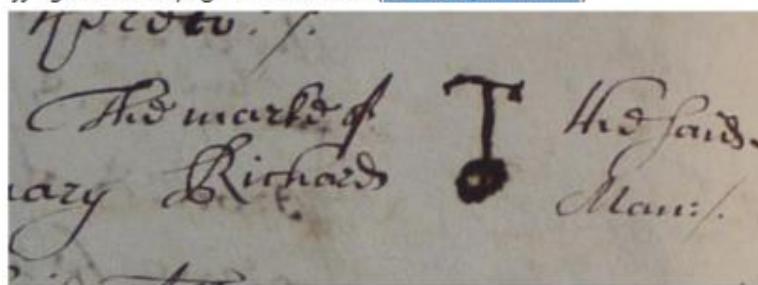
Andrew Beake, thirty-six year old lookeingglassemaker and formerly seaman, of Rose alley without Bishopsgate, London, January 21st, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.252v](#))



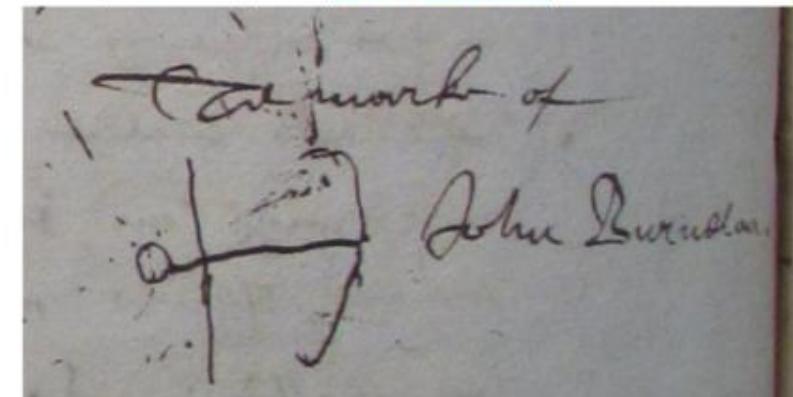
Andrew Beake, thirty-six year old looking-glasse maker, of Rose-Alley in Bishopsgate streete, London, February 13th, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.252v](#))



Richard Man, thirty-one year old mariner, of Southampton, January 8th, 1659; self-described common man of the *Lisbone* ffrigott on voyage to Oratava ([HCA 13/73 f.26v](#))

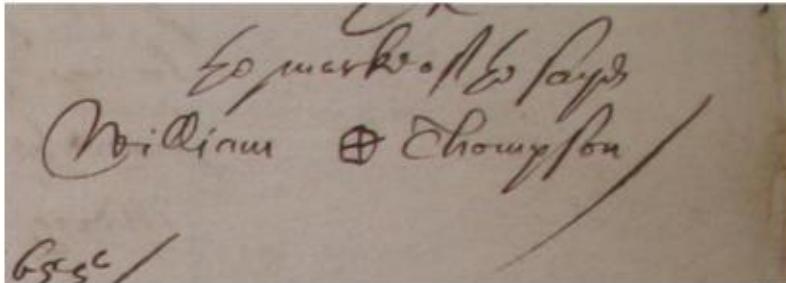


John Burnelau, twenty-eight year old sailor, of Mornar, France, March 30th, 1661 ([HCA 13/73 f.486v](#))



Different types of more complex marks – combination of symbols, arrows, cross in circle, hour glass, stars

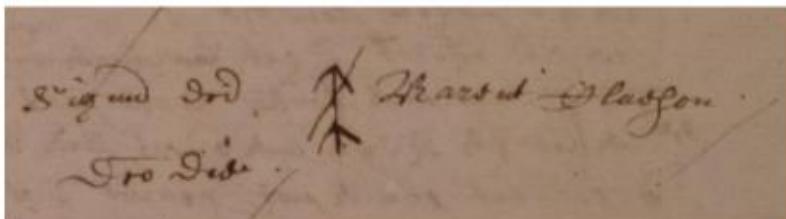
William Thompson, forty-six year old fisherman, of Faversham, Kent, October 16th, 1655; oyster fisherman ([HCA 13/70 f.543r](#))



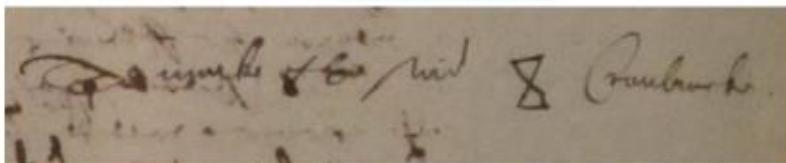
Clemens Simpson, fifty year old mariner and late gunner of the ship the *Minorie Busse*, February 27th, 1657 ([HCA 13/71 f.449r](#))



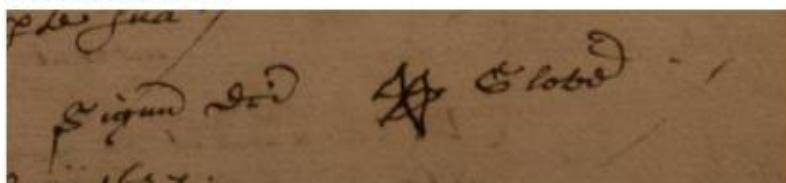
Barent Claeson, thirty-one year old mariner of Middleburg in Zeeland, March 8th, 1637; self described member of company of the *Griffin* of Middleburg ([HCA 13/53 f.68r](#))



Stephen Cranbrooke, thirty-six year old mariner, of Deale, Kent, November 2nd, 1657 ([HCA 13/72 f.174r](#))

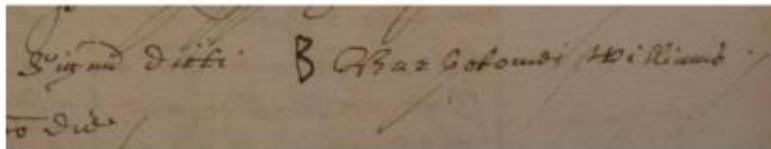


Johannes Glover, twenty-three year old servant of Thomas Baldwyn, the party producent, July 28th, 1637 ([HCA 13/52 f.221r](#))

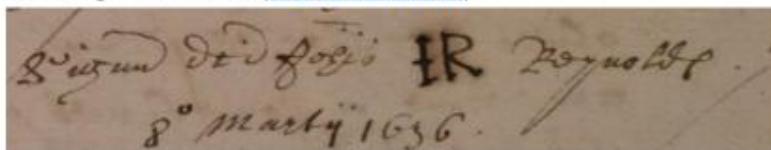


Different types of more complex marks – single initials, double initials, mirror image initials, pseudo initials – mariners, fishermen, watermen, fishermen, stuffe weavers, coopers, gunners

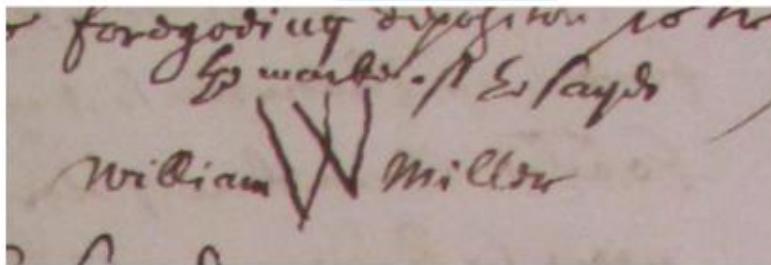
Bartholomewe Williams, twenty-five year old late boatswayne of the *Christian* of Weymouth, of Weeke, near Weymouth, Dorset, March 6th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.65v](#))



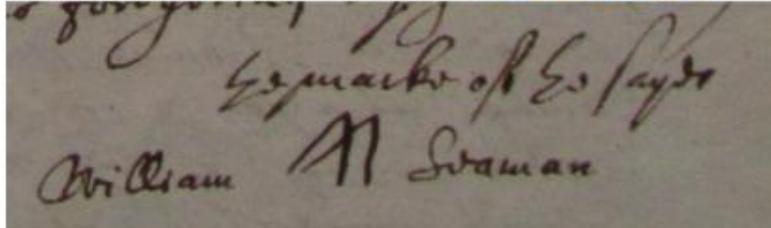
John Reynolds, thirty-six year old mariner, of Weymouth, Dorset, March 6th, 1637; self described master of the *Christian* of Weymouth, returning from Saint Lucar to London with cargo of oranges & lemons ([HCA 13/53 f.67r](#))



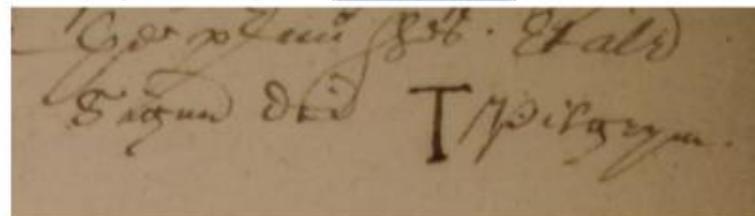
William Miller, forty-two year old fisherman, of Greenwich, Kent, December 2nd, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.664v](#))



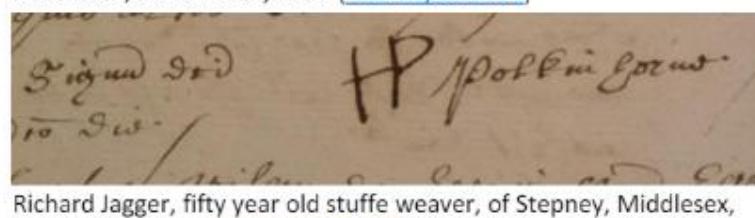
William Seaman, twenty-eight year old fisherman, of Greenwich, Kent, December 2nd, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.665r](#))



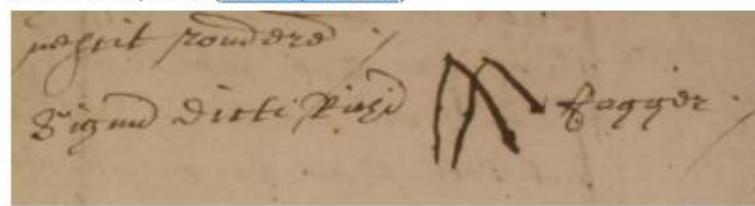
Thomas Pilgrim, twenty-two year old pilot ("navigator"), of Wapping, Middlesex, March 10th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.72r](#))



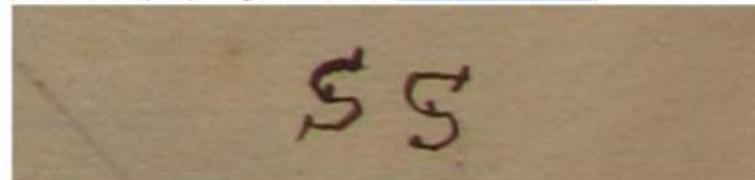
Henry Polkinhorne, forty-six year old mariner, of Wapping, Middlesex, March 15th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.77v](#))



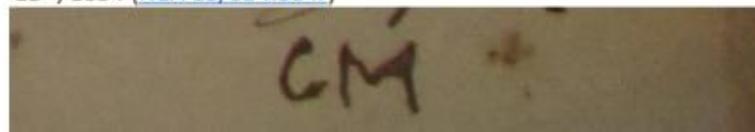
Richard Jagger, fifty year old stuffe weaver, of Stepney, Middlesex, March 15th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.78v](#))



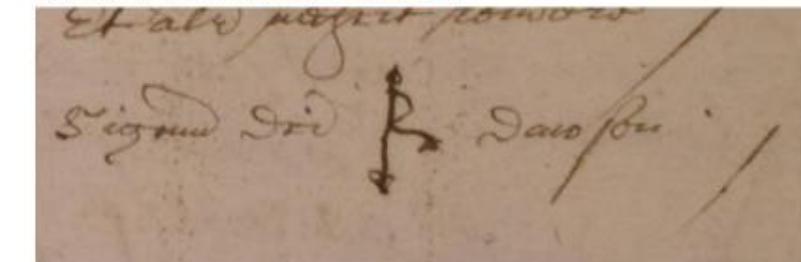
Samuel Selwen, forty year old browne baker, of Wapping in the parish of Stepney, August 1st, 1650 ([HCA 13/63 f.344v](#))



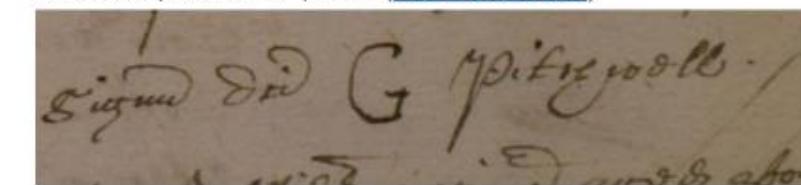
George Morsed, thirty-five year old sailor, of Milbrooke, near Plymouth, Devon: self-described quarter master of the *Welfare*, April 13th, 1654 ([HCA 13/68 f.504r](#))



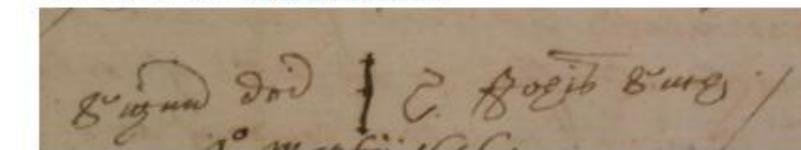
Robert Dawson, forty-four year old waterman, of the parish of Saint Salvatoris in the borough of Southwarke, March 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.81r](#))



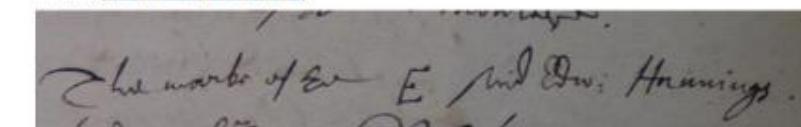
George Pitchwell, thirty-four year old mariner, of Wapping, Middlesex, March 18th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.81r](#))



Johannes Such, twenty-four year old servant of cooper Henrici Laycocke of the parish of All Hallowes Stayninge, London, March 8th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.69v](#))

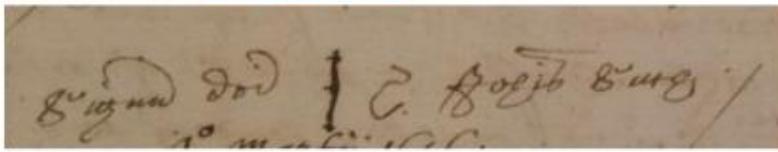


Edward Hannings, twenty-five year old mariner, of Stepney, March 21st, 1659; self-described gunner of the *ffrancis and John* ([HCA 13/73 f.97r](#))

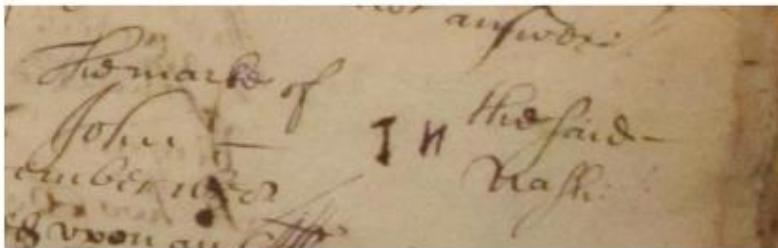


Different types of more complex marks – mirror image initials (“S”; “N”, “L”); 90 degree rotated initial (“E”); upside down initials (“W”); 90 degree rotated initials (“EC”), pseudo initials

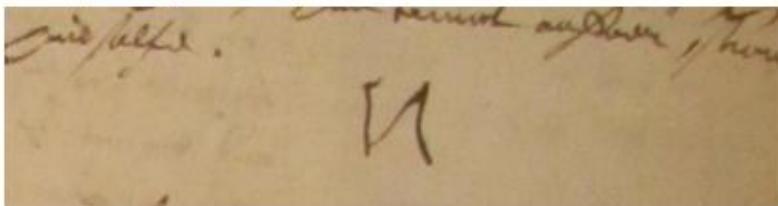
Johannes Such, twenty-four year old servant of cooper Henrici Laycocke of the parish of All Hallows Stayninge, London, March 8th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.69v](#))



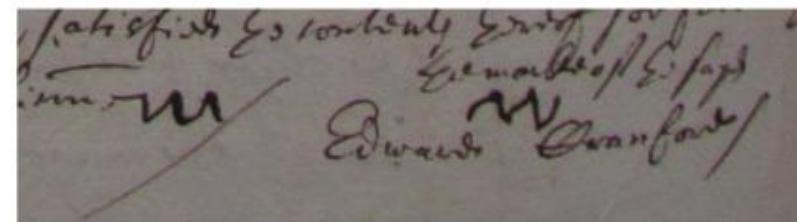
John Nash, thirty-seven year old mariner, of Saint Katherins, November 26th, 1658 ([HCA 13/72 f.633r](#))



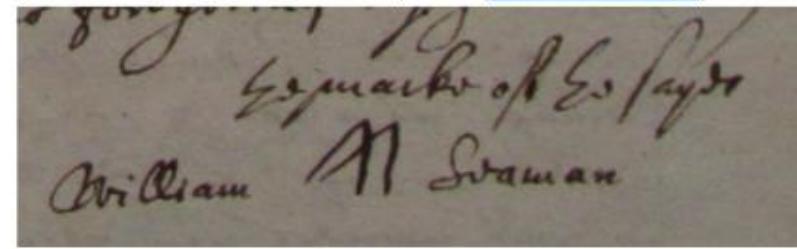
Nicholas Hutton, forty-eight year old waterman, of the parish of Saint Olave in the Borough of Southwarke, February 4th, 1654 ([HCA 13/68 f.488r](#))



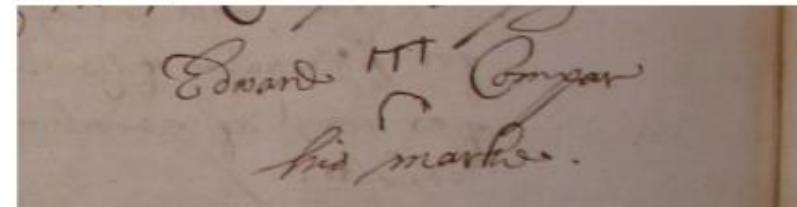
Edward Cranford, forty-four year old coale heaver or porter, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Dec. 15, 1656; employed as a labourer with fifteen other men to unload coals from the *Imployment* moored near Execution Dock, Wapping, into lighters for fixed rate of 12 s per man ([HCA 13/70 f.555v](#))



William Seaman, twenty-eight year old fisherman, of Greenwich, Kent, December 2nd, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.665r](#))



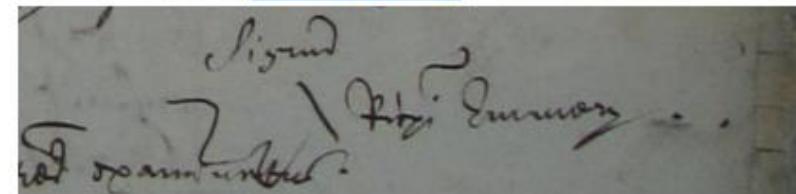
Edward Comparr, sixty year old, mariner and late pilot of the *Martha*, of East Greenwich, Kent, November 16th, 1654 ([HCA 13/70 f.109v](#))



John Lowers, twenty-six year old mariner, of Masterland, Norway, May 1st, 1654 ([HCA 13/70 f.140r](#))



Richard Emmery, twenty-one year old mariner of Leigh, Essex, October 3rd, 1660 ([HCA 13/73 f.569r](#))



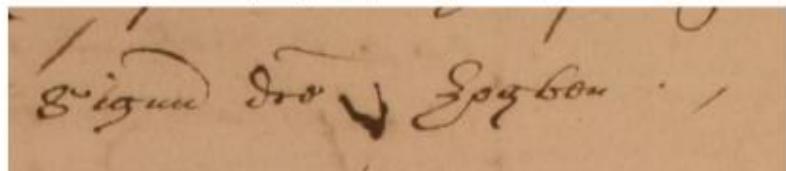


Appendix

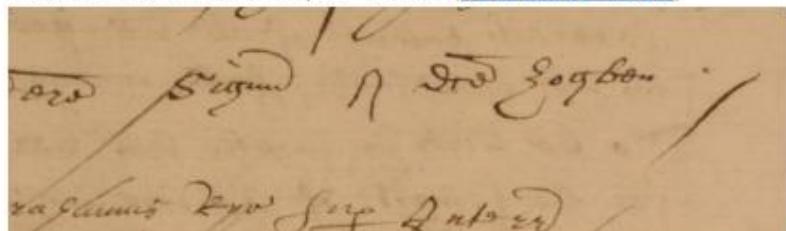
Further calibration material

Simple mark – significant variability for same person one day apart

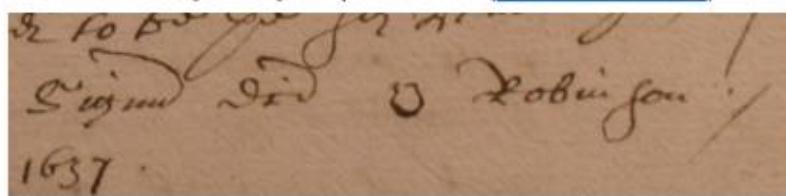
Rosa Hogben, thirty years old, wife of Richard Hogben of
ffeversham, vintner, May 16th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.163r](#))



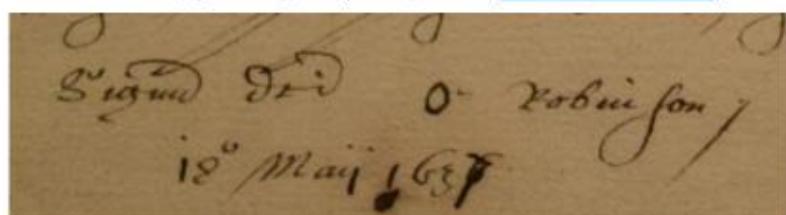
Rosa Hogben, thirty years old, wife of Richard Hogben of
ffeversham, vintner, May 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.166v](#))



Laurentius Robinson, fifty year old wagoner of the parish of
Saint Dunstan, [?XXXX], May 16th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.163r](#))

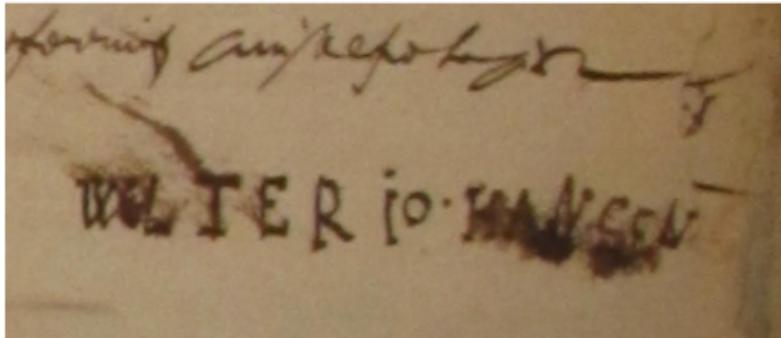


Laurentius Robinson, fifty year old wagoner of the parish of
Saint Dunstan, [?XXXX], May 17th, 1637 ([HCA 13/53 f.166v](#))

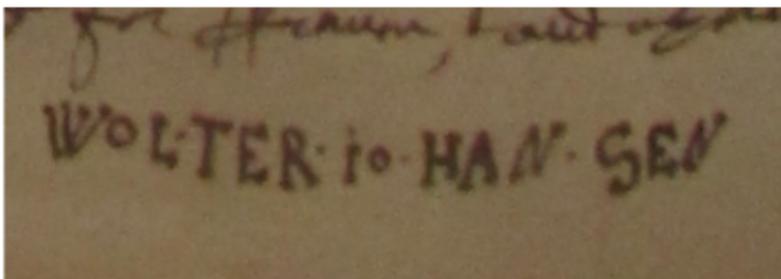


Initial style signature – two subtly different versions, nineteen days apart: WOL · TER Io · HAN · SEN and WOL · TER · Io · HAN · SEN

WOL · TER Io · HAN · SEN or Wolter Johansen (rendered by the English notary as Walter Johnson), a forty-four year old mariner of Lubeck, master of the *White Swann*, November 15th, 1653 ([HCA 13/68 f.231r](#))

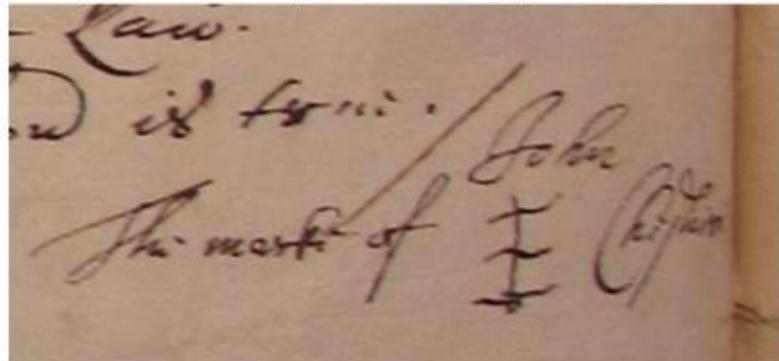


WOL · TER · Io · HAN · SEN or Wolter Johansen (rendered by the English notary as Walter Johnson), a forty-four year old mariner of Lubeck, master of the *White Swann*, December 8th, 1653 ([HCA 13/68 f.239v](#))

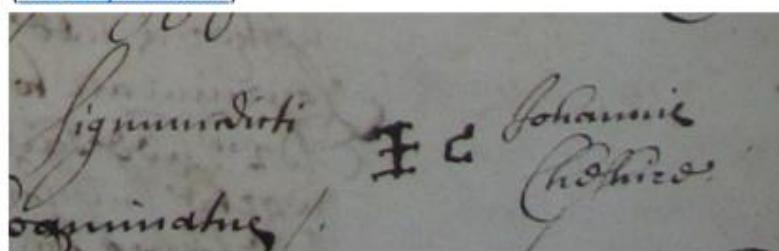


Initials – Initials of John Cheshire, a Surrey nailing, five years apart, showing improved writing ability, with move from crude three barred “I” to better formed “I C”

John Cheshire, twenty-eight year old nailing, of Rederith,
Surrey, June 19th, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.385v](#))

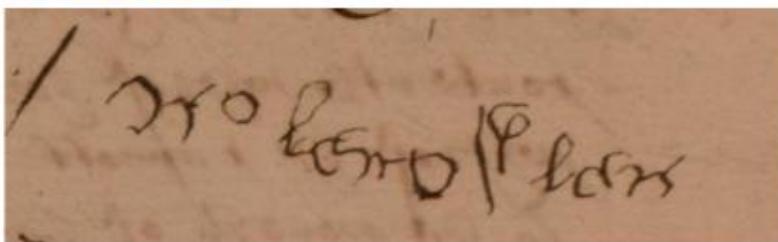


John (Johannes) Cheshire, thirty-six year old nailing of the parish
of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey, October 27th, 1660
([HCA 13/73 f.626r](#))

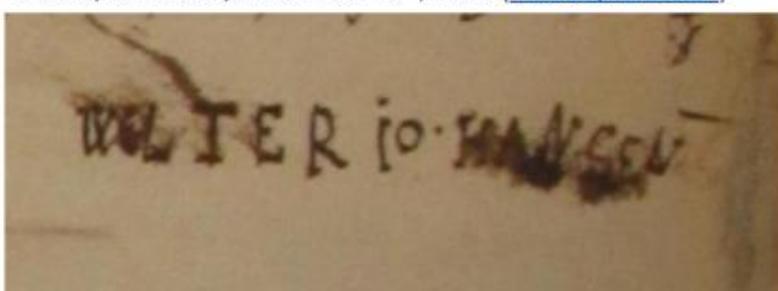


At the edges of literacy – “robert ostler”; “WOL . TER JO . HAN . SEN”; ?”tho” (Thomas)

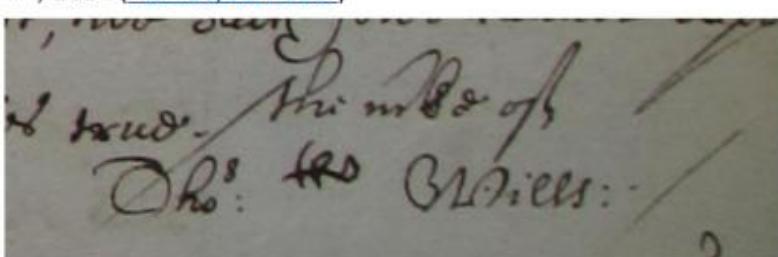
Roberte Ostler, sixty-three year old chaundler, of the parish of Saint Mildreds Breadstreete, London, June 5th, 1637
(HCA 13/53 f.188r)



WELTER JO . HANSEN (or Walter Jonson, as written by notary), forty-four year old mariner and master of the *White Swann* of Lubeck, of Lubeck, November 15th, 1653 (HCA 13/68 f.231r)

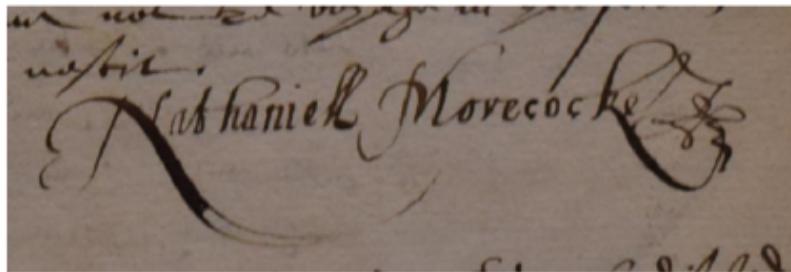


Thomas Wills, forty-four year old mariner and boateswaine of the *Margarett*, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, September 4th, 1654 (HCA 13/70 f.118r)

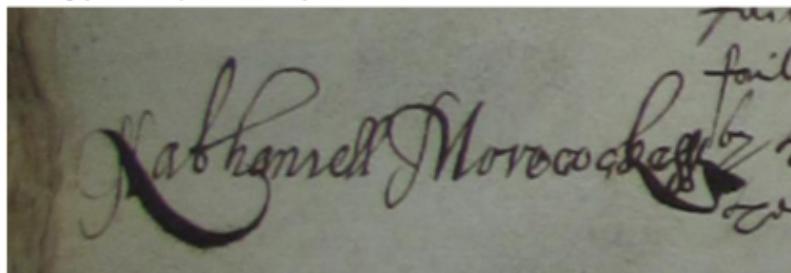


Stable signature of an educated man - eleven years apart

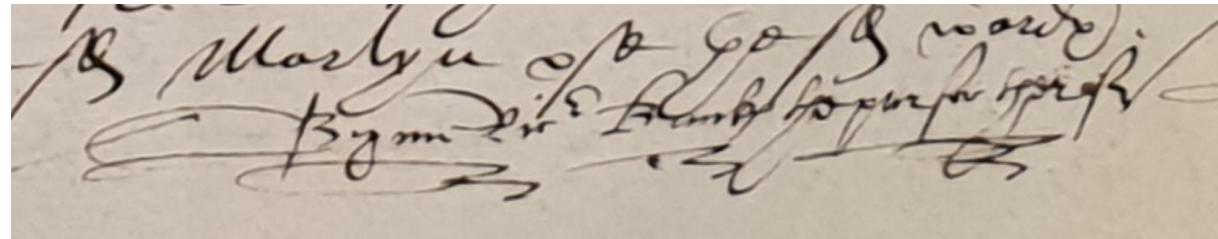
Nathaniel Morecocke de Ratcliffe in comitatu Middlesex
genusus aetatis 31 annorum [Oct. 2nd, 1649] (HCA 13/62
unfol.)



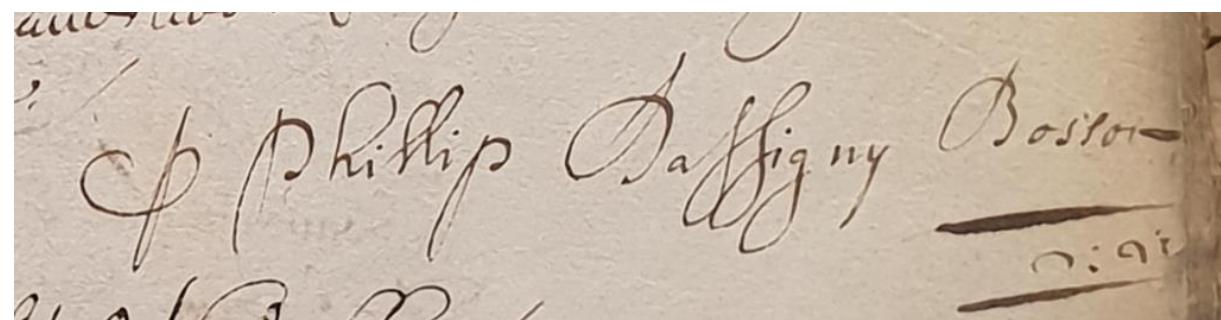
Nathaniel Morecocke of Ratcliff in the county of Middlesex
practitioner in the mathematicks aged 41 yeares [Oct. 25th,
1660] (HCA 13/73 f.613r)



Signoffs plus additional text



Richard Banks, 46 year old purser of the *Hopewell*, dated 1602. HCA 13/36 f.144r



Phillip Dassigny Bosson, dated October 27th 1662. HCA 13/74 f.328r



Appendix Ship literacy maps

The Anne of Hulbridge

Voyage: Wakering [Essex]/London

Return lading: ?

Ship burthen = 130 tons [60 chaldron of coals]

Known company = 2 men

Missing company = 1 man

Total company = 3 men

1609

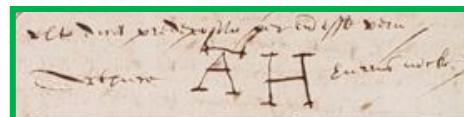
Master: Arthur Harris senior

Voyage length = 1 to 2 days

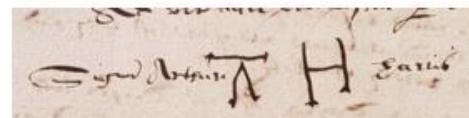
Definitely unable to write or read

Probably unable to write or read

Probably able to write and read



Arthur Harris senior, sixty-one year old mariner of Hulbridge, Essex. Master of hoy named the Anne of Hulbridge.



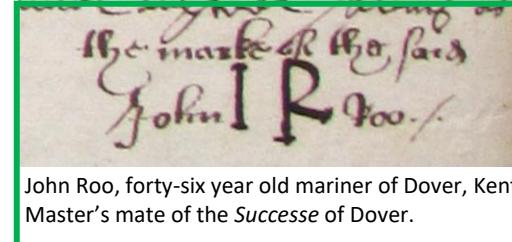
Arthur Harris junior, sixteen year old mariner and son of Arthur Harris. One of two of the company of the hoy the Anne of Hulbridge.

The Successse of Dover

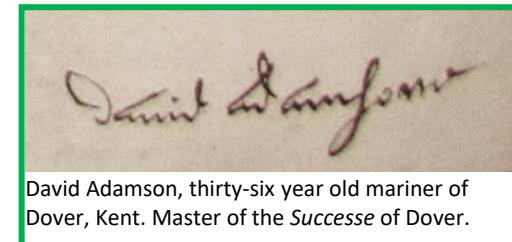
Voyage: Newcastle/Dover [Kent]
 Return lading: Coals
 Ship burthen = 100 tons
 Known company = Master + 4 men + 1 boy = 6
 Missing company = 2
 Total company = 6
 ca. 1654
 Master: David Adamson
 Voyage length = N/A

Definitely unable to write or read

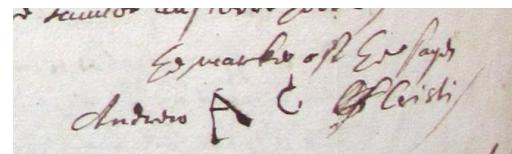
"Hee can neither write nor reade, but yet can keep accompt of times, by a sort of cyphering which hee hath learnt for his owne use, and thereby remembreth the time aforesaid"
 (HCA 13/70 f.67v)

Probably unable to write or read

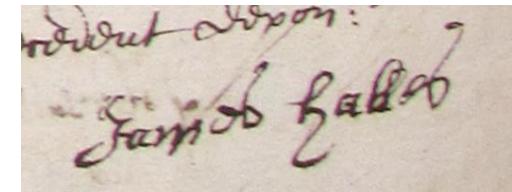
John Roo, forty-six year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Master's mate of the *Successse of Dover*.

Probably able to write and read

David Adamson, thirty-six year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Master of the *Successse of Dover*.



Daniel Cristi, fifty year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Common mariner of the *Successse of Dover*.



James Hales, fifty-seven year old mariner of Dover, Kent. Ordinary mariner of the *Successse of Dover*.



"Hee can write and reade, and saith hee did not take any note in writing of the time when the disaster aforesaid happened, but very well remembreth it, as hee hath great reason to doe"
 (HCA 13/70 f.99v)

The Golden Cocke of London

Voyage: London/Plymouth/?/Livorno; Tunis; Livorno; Zant; Zephelonia; Candy [Crete]/?/London

Return lading: ?

Ship burthen = N/A, but sizeable

Known company = 21

Missing company = N/A

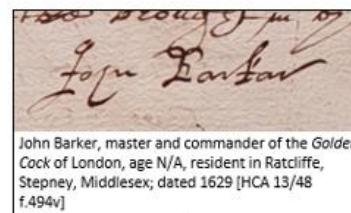
Total company = N/A

1629

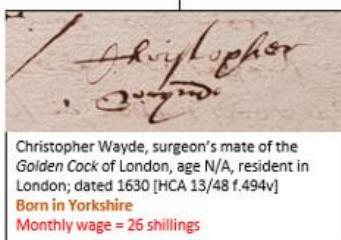
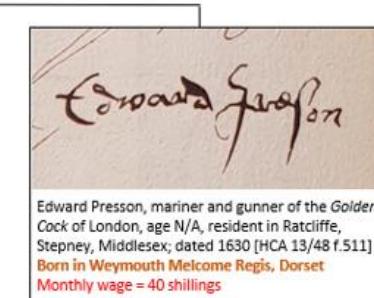
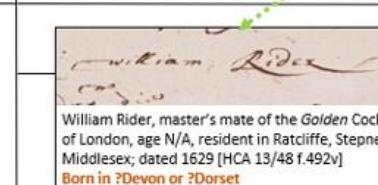
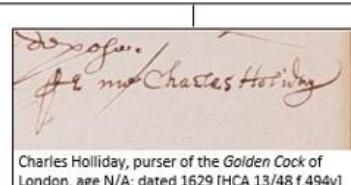
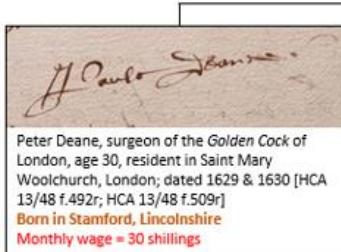
Master: John Barker

Voyage length = 27 months

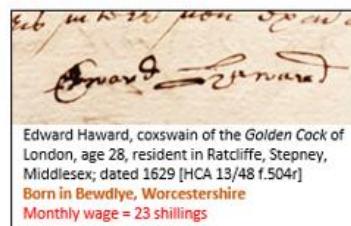
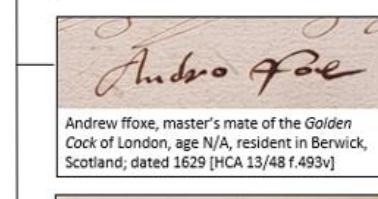
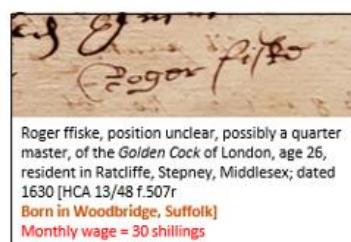
Freighted by two London
merchants, John ffowke and
Symon Whetcombe



All three master's
mates were literate



Possibly 19 years old

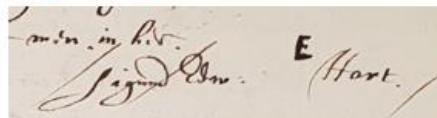


83.3% signature literacy on
partial headcount

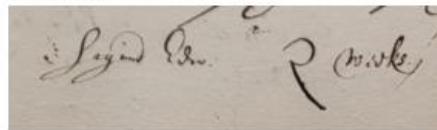
The William of London

Voyage: ?/Tunis [Barbary]/Livorno/?
Return lading: ?
Ship burthen = N/A
Known company = Master [deceased] +12 men
Missing company = ?
Total company = ?
ca. 1640
Master: Abraham Steevens [deceased by 1640]
Voyage length = N/A

All probably unable to read or write

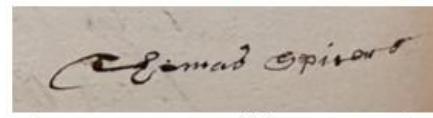


Edward Hart, 38 year old mariner of Limehouse, Stepney. One of the quartermasters of the *William of London*.

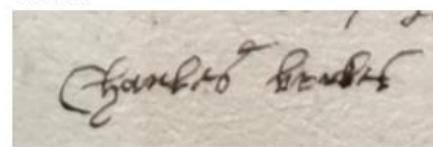


Edward Weeks, 24 year old shipwright of Stepney, Middlesex. Carpenter's mate of the *William of London*.

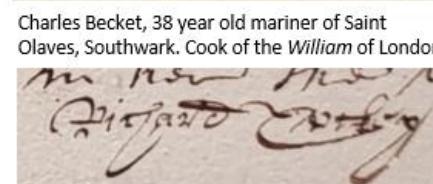
All almost certainly able to read and write



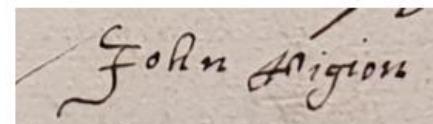
Thomas Spicere, 32 year old ship carpenter of Stepney, Middlesex. Carpenter of the *William of London*.



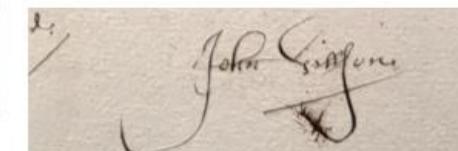
Charles Becket, 38 year old mariner of Saint Olaves, Southwark. Cook of the *William of London*.



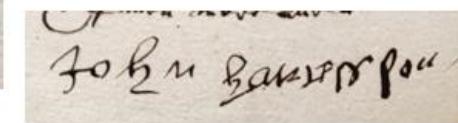
Richard Tuckey, 36 year old mariner of Saint Olaves, Southwark. One of the quartermasters of the *William of London*.



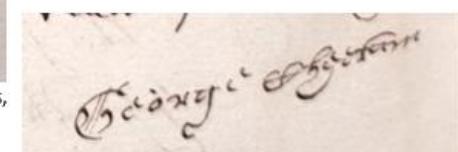
John Pigion, between 18 and 19 years of age, mariner of Stepney, Middlesex. Mariner of the *William of London*.



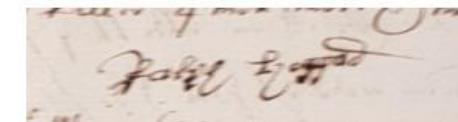
John Gilson, 36 year old mariner of Limehouse, Stepney, Middlesex. Master's mate of the *William of London*.



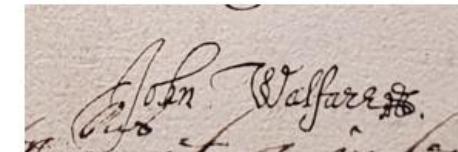
John Harrison, 40 year old, Saint Botolphs within Bishopsgate, London. Cooper of the *William of London*.



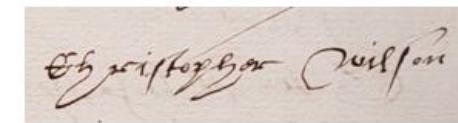
George Cheetham, 20 year old, Greenwich, Kent. Trumpeter's mate of the *William of London*.



Ralph Huggard, 45 year old mariner of Greenwich, Kent. One of the quartermasters of the *William of London*.



John Welfare, 26 year old, of Stepney, Middlesex. Surgeon of the *William of London*.



Christopher Wilson, 47 year old mariner of Limehouse, Middlesex. Boatswain of the *William of London*.

Findings: Literacy at ship level

Richard Lamberte, master of the *Sonne*; Took charge from London to Newfoundland and at Newfoundland while fish were laded

John Muffett, master and part-owner of the *Sonne*; Took charge at Newfoundland after fish were laded

The *Sonne* of London

London/Newfoundland/Marseilles/Zant/Zephalaonia/London

Lading: Newfoundland fish

Ship burthen = 130-150 tons

Known company = Master (x2) + 14 men

Missing company = at least 3

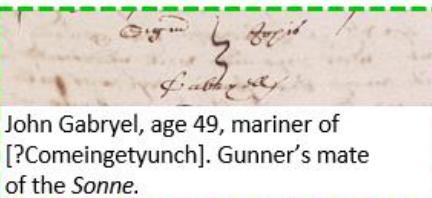
1601

Fourteen signoffs
4 marks; 7 initials; 3 signatures

Missing signoffs = 2 masters;
gunner; carpenter;
second quartermaster

21% signature literacy on partial headcount

All probably unable to read or write



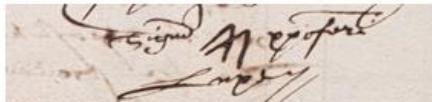
John Gabryel, age 49, mariner of [?Comeingetyunch]. Gunner's mate of the *Sonne*.



Andrew Casley, age 30, sailor of Kingescastell, Devon. Mariner in the *Sonne*.

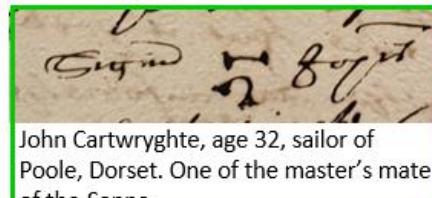


Rycharde Cowes, age 21, sailor of Stocke, Devon. One of the company of the *Sonne*.

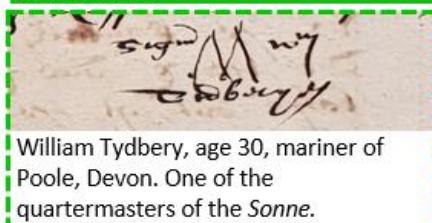


Christopher Lurrie, age 23, sailor of Chidley, Devon. One of the company of the *Sonne*.

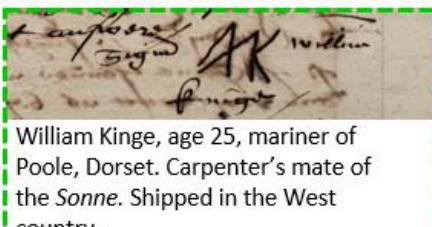
Most probably unable to read or write



John Cartwryghte, age 32, sailor of Poole, Dorset. One of the master's mate of the *Sonne*.



William Tydber, age 30, mariner of Poole, Devon. One of the quartermasters of the *Sonne*.

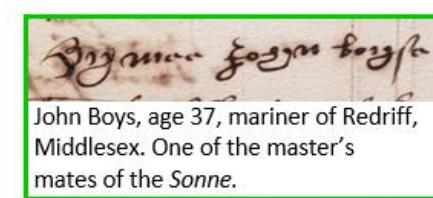


William Kinge, age 25, mariner of Poole, Dorset. Carpenter's mate of the *Sonne*. Shipped in the West country.

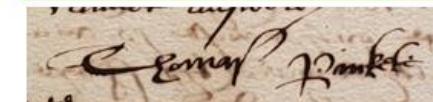


William Bawden, age 46, sailor of Coningtyust, Devon. Steward of the *Sonne*.

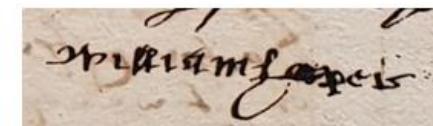
All almost certainly able to read and write



John Boys, age 37, mariner of Redriff, Middlesex. One of the master's mates of the *Sonne*.



Thomas Pynckett, age 23, sailor of Plymouth, Devon. Came into the *Sonne* at Newfoundland after she was laden with fish.



William Hooper, age 22, sailor of Sanctemaryechurche, Devon. Mariner in the *Sonne*.

Officer

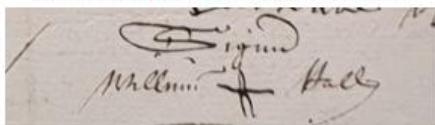
Not common man

The *Jonas*, which sailed from London to Dartmouth, Newfoundland and San Lucar, before returning to London on a voyage of 20.5 months, provides a contrast. Nine deponents. A mixture of London & Devon men. 66.7% partial signature literacy, with 80% partial signature literacy among 5 men without offices.

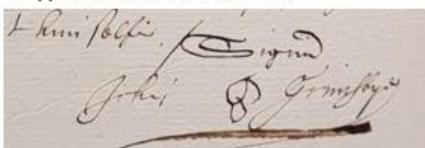
Findings: Literacy at ship level

Officer

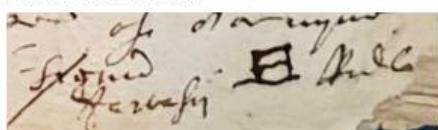
All probably unable to read or write



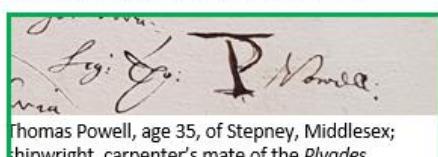
William Hall, age 25, of Deptford, Kent; mariner, one of the company of the *Plyades*. "Hee hath used to goe to sea for these eleaven yearees laste paste but never as master or masters mate of any shipp nor ever tooke uppoun him the charge of a shipp as master or master's mate."



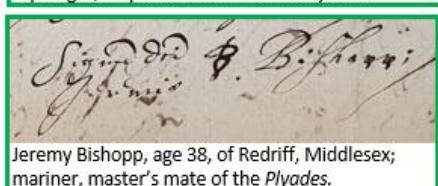
John Grimsby, age 33, of Deptford, Kent; mariner, one of the company of the *Plyades*. "Hee this rendent the tyme aforesaid was one of the company of the interrate shipp the *Plyades* but had no office in her."



Gervase Ridla, age 38, of Stepney, Middlesex; served in the *Plyades*. Came into the *Plyades* at Venice and served in her for 16 months, including 14 months in service of the Duke of Venice.



Thomas Powell, age 35, of Stepney, Middlesex; shipwright, carpenter's mate of the *Plyades*.



Jeremy Bishopp, age 38, of Redriff, Middlesex; mariner, master's mate of the *Plyades*.

The *Plyades* of London

London/San Lucar/Malaga/Venice//Venice/?/Corfu/?/Venice//Venice/?/Zant/?/London

Return lading: currants; oil

Ship burthen = 350 to 400 tons

Known company = Master + Purser + 15 men

Missing company = 23 to 33 men

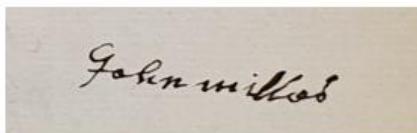
Total company = est. 40 to 50 men

ca. October 1637 to ca. May 1640

Voyage length = 32 months

"This hee affirmeth uppon his oath to bee true, who was then at Venice master's mate of the shipp the Love of London then alsoe lett out there for the same service and was there on shore with the said Anthony and others of the company of the *Plyades* after they went there on shore out of her as aforesaid" (HCA 13/58 f.150r); "The said Anthony [the chirurgeon], 3 of the quarter masters, the carpenter and boatswaine's mates, 3 trumpeters and some other of the company of the *Plyades* as were on shoare at Venice and there stayed fower or five dayes and this rendent heard them say that they would not goe onboard her againe and proceed in the service of the Duke of Venice unlesse they might have more wages than they were shipt for in England" (HCA 13/58 f.150v)

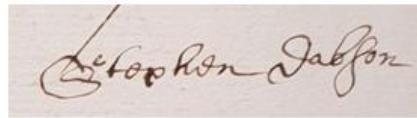
All almost certainly able to read and write



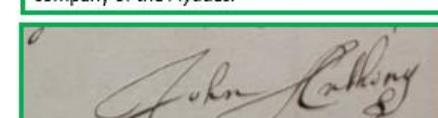
John Milles, age 28, of Stepney, Middlesex; mariner, foremast man of the *Plyades*.



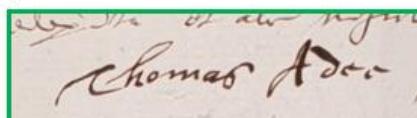
Jefferie Steavens, age 30 or 33, of Saint Brides, London; mariner, master's mate and one of the company of the *Plyades*.



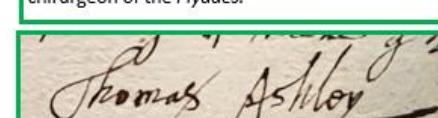
Stephen Dabson, age 27, of Wapping, Middlesex; mariner, one of the company of the *Plyades*. "Hee hath used the sea as a common sailor or mariner for the space of about these fower years laste paste."



John Anthony, age 28, of Saint Dunstans in the East, London; one of the company and chirurgeon of the *Plyades*.

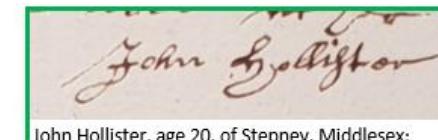


Thomas Adee, age 35, of Wapping, Middlesex; quartermaster of the *Plyades*. "Hee hath bine employed as a seaman or mariner in merchants' shippes and the King's shippes in all for the space of about these fourteene years laste paste."

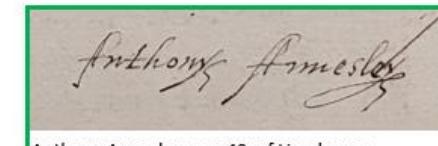


Thomas Ashlye, age 40, of Limehouse, Middlesex; mariner, chief master's mate and pilot of the *Plyades*.

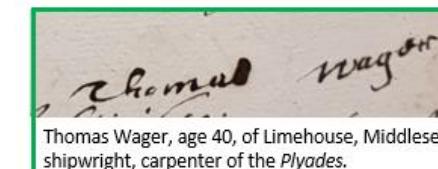
66.7% signature literacy on partial headcount



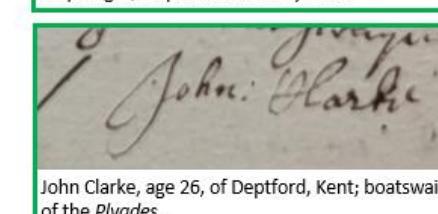
John Hollister, age 20, of Stepney, Middlesex; mariner, second master's mate of the *Plyades*.



Anthony Annesley, age 40, of Limehouse, Middlesex; mariner, first boatswain's mate, then gunner's mate of the *Plyades*.



Thomas Wager, age 40, of Limehouse, Middlesex; shipwright, carpenter of the *Plyades*.



John Clarke, age 26, of Deptford, Kent; boatswain of the *Plyades*.



Appendix

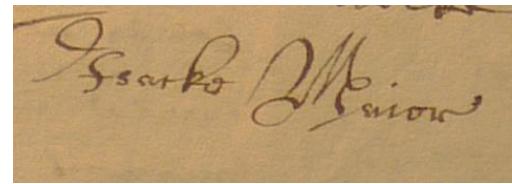
Shore trade literacy maps

Literacy map of two related families of shipwrights – Mayden and White. The men (Thomas Mayden senior, his sons Thomas Mayden junior and William Mayden, and son-in-law John White, were all literate. Their wives (Anna Mayden and Hannah Mayden used a mark or initial. Thomas Mayden's daughter (Catherine White) used an initial.



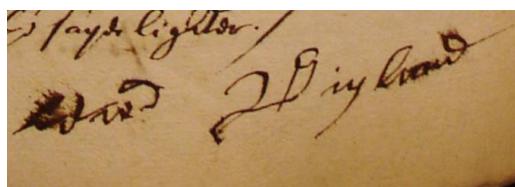
Twelve or thirteen shipwrights worked on the repair of the lighter the William and ffrancis at the key of shipwright John Mayor in Horsey Downe, Southwark, in late 1654. We have signoffs for five of them. Interesting to see the signoffs of two shipwright contractors and three young apprentices/servants working on a repairing a lighter on the Thames shore. Both shipwright contractors were literate, as were two of the three apprentices/servants [See HCA 13/70 f.16r; 135v; 136r; 138r; 138v] "The sayd John Mayer did thereupon hire **Edward Bigland**, **William ffurnis**, **Isaac Meyer**, John Priddam, Henry Row, Richard Mallet, Thomas Phillips, and a boy, and did employ him this deponent; and his fellow servants **William Robinson**, and **Richard Cooke**, to and for the doeing of the sayd repaire" (Deposition of **William Haynes**, HCA 13/70 f.137v)

John Mayor, shipwright, owner of Horseydown wharf



Isaacke Maior, 24 year old shipwright, of Horseydown, Surrey. Hired by John Mayor, shipwright as and overseer of work. HCA 13/71 f.16r

Henry Row



Edward Bigland, 67 year old shipwright, of Saint Mary Magdalene, Southwark, Surrey. Hired by John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.135v

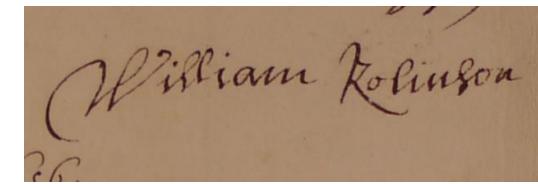
Richard Mallett

William ffurnis

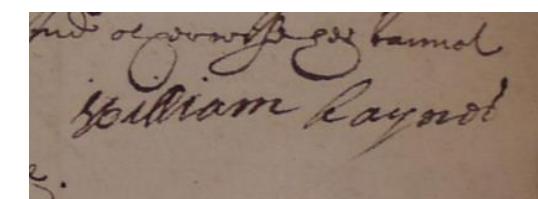
Thomas Phillios

John Priddam

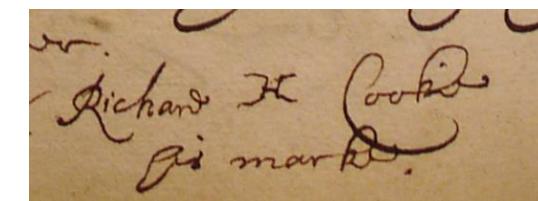
Unnamed boy



William Robinson, 20 year old shipwright, of Saint Mary Magdalene, Southwark, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.137v

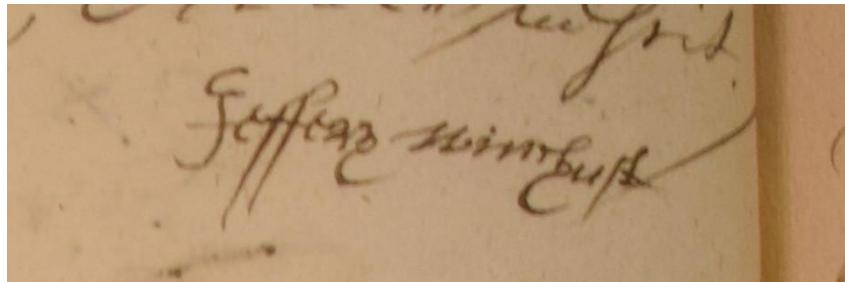


William Haynes, 19 year old ship carpenter, of Horseydown, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.138r

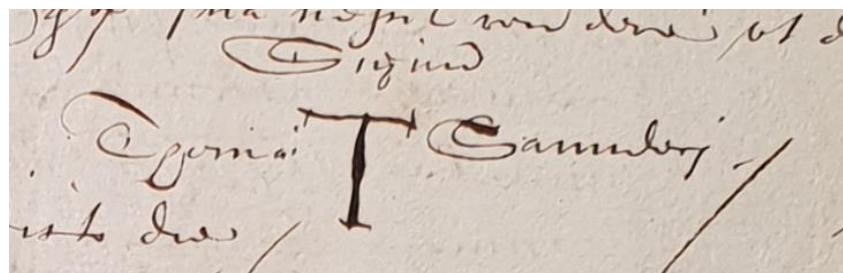


Richard Cooke, 20 year old ship carpenter, of Horseydown, Surrey. Servant to John Mayor, shipwright. HCA 13/71 f.138v

Literate blacksmith, Jeffery Winchurst, had two sixteen year old servants and apprentices, one literate and the other not. The literate servant/apprentice kept the books; the illiterate servant/apprentice kept a tally of materials and had a written schedule read aloud to him

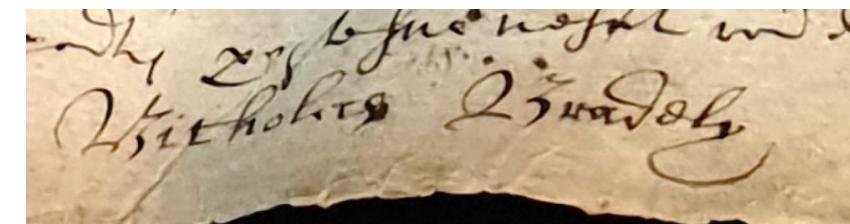


Jeffery Winchurst, blacksmith, age 25; resident at Shadwell, Middlesex; previously resident in Redriff and Horseydown (where he was born) dated 1637 [HCA 13/53 f.145v]



Thomas Saunders, servant and apprentice to Jeffery Winchurst, blacksmith, age 16; resident at Ratcliff, Middlesex; dated 1642 [HCA 13/57 f.380r]

"Hee well remembreth the contents of the said schedule having heard the same reade over to him the same passage ... and for that hee kepte the tallye of whate was done for the shippes use" (HCA 13/57 f.379v)



Nicholas Bradely, servant and apprentice to Jeffery Winchurst, blacksmith, age 16; resident at Ratcliff, Middlesex; dated 1642 [HCA 13/57 f.380r]

"And this hee sayeth is true by vertue of his oath whoe kept his masters booke of accounte where all the said worcke was entered and extracted the arlate schedule out of the said booke of accounts and the pieces sett downe for the said worcke and materialls as accordinge to the rates that are usuallye given and allowed for the like comodityes by other men that use the same" (HCA 13/57 f.380r)

Jeffery Winchurst would have then been ca. 30 years of age in 1642, when he was master of two sixteen year olds at his Ratcliff blacksmith's shop



Appendix

Manuscript document examples

Inventory of goods lost at Barfleur in France

In inventing of what was lost in the John & Francis
at Barfleur in France and their being balow

One arment soll now £ 00 - 10 - 6 10A

Two hounds and two Spaniells £ 00 - 7 - 0

Two fide hounds £ 00 - 3 - 0

One pooy & Lanthound £ 00 - 10 - 00

Two pairs of bandoliers £ 00 - 3 - 00

One Sharpe of match £ 00 - 1 - 6

One halfe dozen glass £ 00 - 1 - 00

One paime hooke £ 00 - 0 - 0

Six yards of new laine £ 00 - 2 - 6

One new pece of hoye £ 00 - 7 - 6

The ouende Bolane £ 00 - 6 - 00

A grinding stone £ 00 - 5 - 00

Three halfe hough hond £ 00 - 2 - 00

Do nall and 14 spectacles £ 00 - 10 - 6

Two drapery £ 00 - 2 - 4

Two rans £ 00 - 2 - 00

One door for the main hatch £ 00 - 1 - 04

One locke to the cabin door £ 00 - 4 - 00

Two wooden boxes and two Apples £ 00 - 2 - 6

The whole amount to £ 4 - 15 - 4

Being come near woolly do
Thirty ship full boord of 60 and
Borough part of the head and
the shillibell and halibut fish
the stonk the gromadys £ 2 - 10 - 0

£ 7 - 5 - 9

William Johnson

De master of George
Phizick.

Mariner, master of the
John and Francis of
London

Mariner, one of the
company of the John
and Francis of London

Extract from a letter
received from Leghorne
from Edward Campion
and Hugh Forth Junior

Champion
Junior 16. System Dr 1680 from Leyden, thus written —

most of m^r Farfaz furniture of his house is already sold at Cromba. th: little sh^r evict he
Salvator? w^t m^r listed designed for Creta or Sicilia, who do not know if it arrived there
Som^r: fear^r that she is taken by the pirate galley, but nor ground for it, this ship
Carried away (as were informed) to the value of £13000, a great quantity
of Indico w^t is supposed to be s^r in Garraf, th: Harris^r Conaventure
and Hopewell w^t forced back^r into this port & Conbury bound, on Saturday
last, and on their arrival ~~not~~ understanding m^r list was retaken
the 2^r masters Swanby and Terrick, being creditors to procure them
silver, secretly that night board^r th: Salvator, and took & sold
out of the ship to the value of £1: m 4000^r, being 12m barrel of 8^r Jno^r
Garraf Indico, how they will answer it, when come into England know not

This is a true Copy of an Extract
taken out of a Letter by J. Rawson
from Leghorn from Edward Davis in
of Blayh Fouth Junior my corrispo
lent. In testimony whereof I have
subscribed my hand & name J. Rawson
2 Blayh F

"Hee this deponent being a merchant and having dealeings into several parts and places beyond the seas did in or about the latter end of September or the beginning of October last past receive a letter from his correspondents at Leghorne wherein there was a relation of the violent behaviour and carriage of the arlate Robert Swanley and Nicholas Terricke in theire seizeing and takeing away of tenne barrills of indico which is in the said letter said to belong into the arlate Sir Jacob Garrad from abord the ship the *Salvadore* arlate then at or neare Leghorne whereby hee saith the said action of the two captains appeares to bee such as that it was taken notice of and knowne to and amongst the English merchnats then resident at that place. A true coppie of soe much of the said letter which relates to that particuler and which hee soe received from Leghorne hee this deponent doth now leave behind him annexed to this his deposition" (HCA 13/64 unfol. 20181220_131346)

Account of goods laden on board the
Prosperous for the use of English men

1 B	Laden by John Russell one Case Don fynes to it; Mr. Ormond Balif	Amount of the good Laden a Case of Prosperous for the use of Englyss men
1 B	Laden of ditto two bays of Don fynes to sayl and a hundred pieces	
1 B	Laden by me Edward Sawyer one Bayle Don fynes to Anthony Jorned to Denet	
R	Laden by me John Kell one farrak says don fyn with two dozen Redditch Den Daye	
1 B	Laden by me John Russell one trunk and Don fynes to Anthony Sawyer	
E	Laden by me George Fairing one Bayle of Don fynes to Mr. Edward Damer	
P	Laden of ditto one box fiftys Don fynes to Mr. Edward Damer	
Francis Duncombe		

Deed of Settlement made by John Wild and Jacob George of Boston
Abraham Wilson of London Merchant and wife of said John Wild
nowise to be sold or transferred to any other person than Paul Garlick of
London Merchant about his manor of Farnham in Surrey in England
of whom or whomsoever he or she shall be possessed of the said land or lands
whereof he or she shall be possessed of the same or any part thereof
or claim or demand in any way or manner whatsoever from the beginning
of the world until the first day of July instant
month of July 1645 wherein or ever hereunto
enteled and attested sealed dated the twentyeighth day of
July Anno d[omi]ni 1645 Anno in the twentyeighth year of the
reign of King Charles the First Lord King of England

Abraham on his
former self & the
good Letter -

"Hath nowe with him at the time of his examination a letter written unto him this deponent by the said Abraham Miter from Mallaga aforesaid, which upon examination hee findeth to be of the same character and forme of letters as the said schedule is" (HCA 13/61 f.129v)

for what consider the indecency of the intent
of the founders of this nest my friends have
under their care & for safe-keeping this
the 8th inst. At Rachael M'Nees

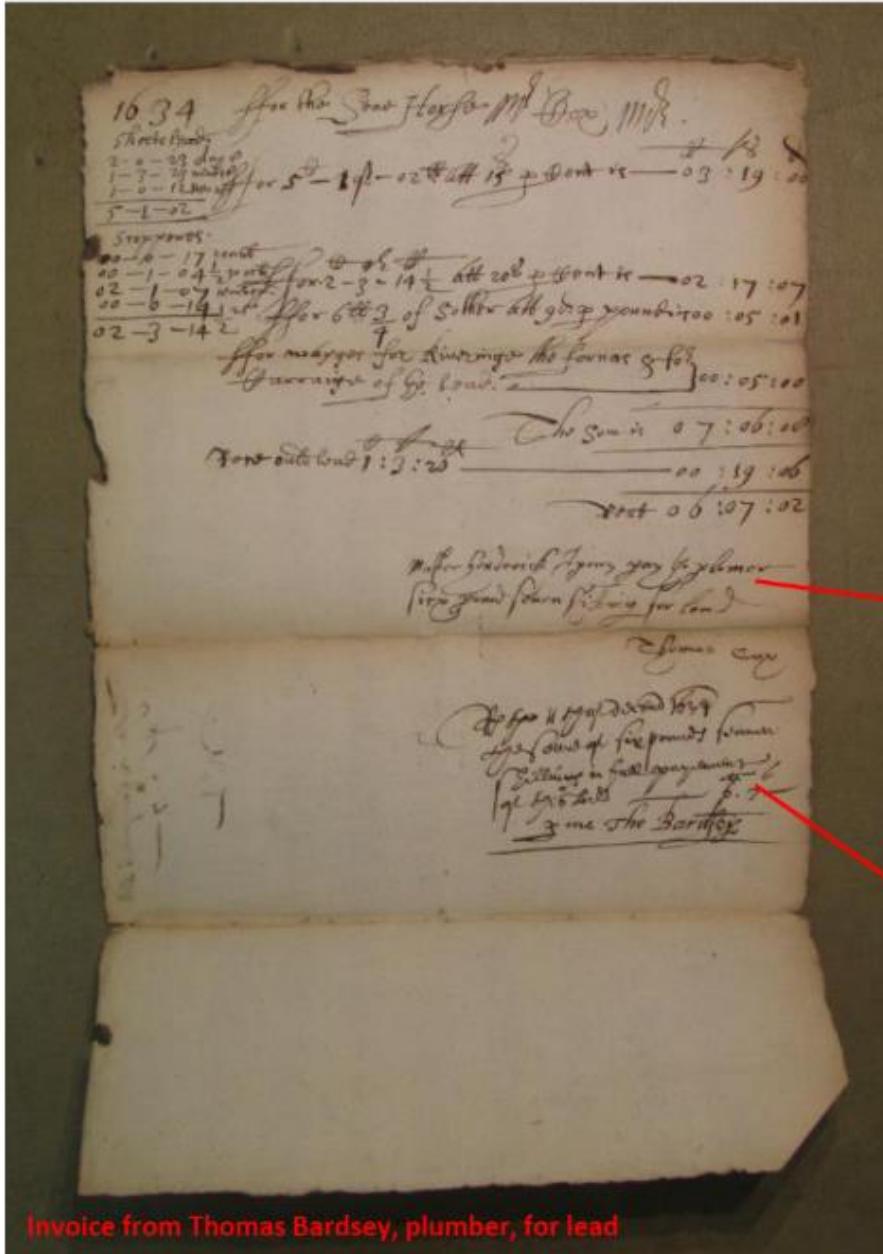
~~for the sume of 36 pounds 8 shillings and 10 pence~~
by vertue of cit warrant.

That all his deponent hath disbursed and really paid the sume of thirtie
pounds eight shillings and ten pence for charges in and about 45 bagge and
pockets of wooll, noz came to his port of London from Kingsale in Ireland
in shipp to John and William, Thomas Maide master, the particulars
and sume of noz account are as follows vist

	to & d.
for the sume at Kingsale for 1000 bushells being 1000 bushells at 4 dixer bushell	16 - 13 - 4
for portage and lading charge of the said wooll at Kingsale	1 - 1 - 6
for the freight after 20 ⁶ for sume	16 - 0 - 0
for Damages, portage and lading	1 - 18 - 0
for grimage and avridge	0 - 16 - 0
	<hr/>
	Summe - 36 - 8 - 10

"This deponent hath disbursed for the State and
really paid the sume of thirtie six pounds eight
shillings and ten pence for charges in and about
45 bags and pockets of wooll, which came to this
Port of London from Kingsale in Ireland in the
shipp the John and William, Thomas Maide
master)

Thomas Bardsey is a plumber. His signature is relatively simple, but competent. His handwriting is similarly competent. Thomas Cox, the master of the *Seahorse*, has a slightly simpler signature, but writes well and clearly.



As a twenty-four mariner of Redrith, Surrey, Thomas Cox signed an Admiralty Court deposition [1612]. He had already "used the sea in trade of merchandize" for twelve years. In 1634, clearly the same man, now master of the *Seahorse*, forty-six year old Thomas Cox, instructed his boatswain or purser to pay one of his suppliers, Thomas Bardsey, a forty-five year old plumber living in the parish of Saint Dunstans in the East

Plumber 1635

Thomas Bardsey

Signature of Thomas Bardsey, forty-five year old plumber of Saint Dunstans in the East, London. Deposed January 22nd 1635. [HCA 13/51 f.255v]

Mariner 1612

Thomas Cox

Signature of Thomas Cox, twenty-four year old mariner of Redrith, Surrey, where he has lived for sixteen years. Voyage from London to Livorno and Naples on a ship named the *Mantle*. Deposed February 24th 1612. [HCA 13/42 f.130r]

Master henderick I pray pay ye plomer
six pound seven shilling for lead
Thomas Cox

Instructions to pay invoice [1634]
Handwriting of Thomas Cox

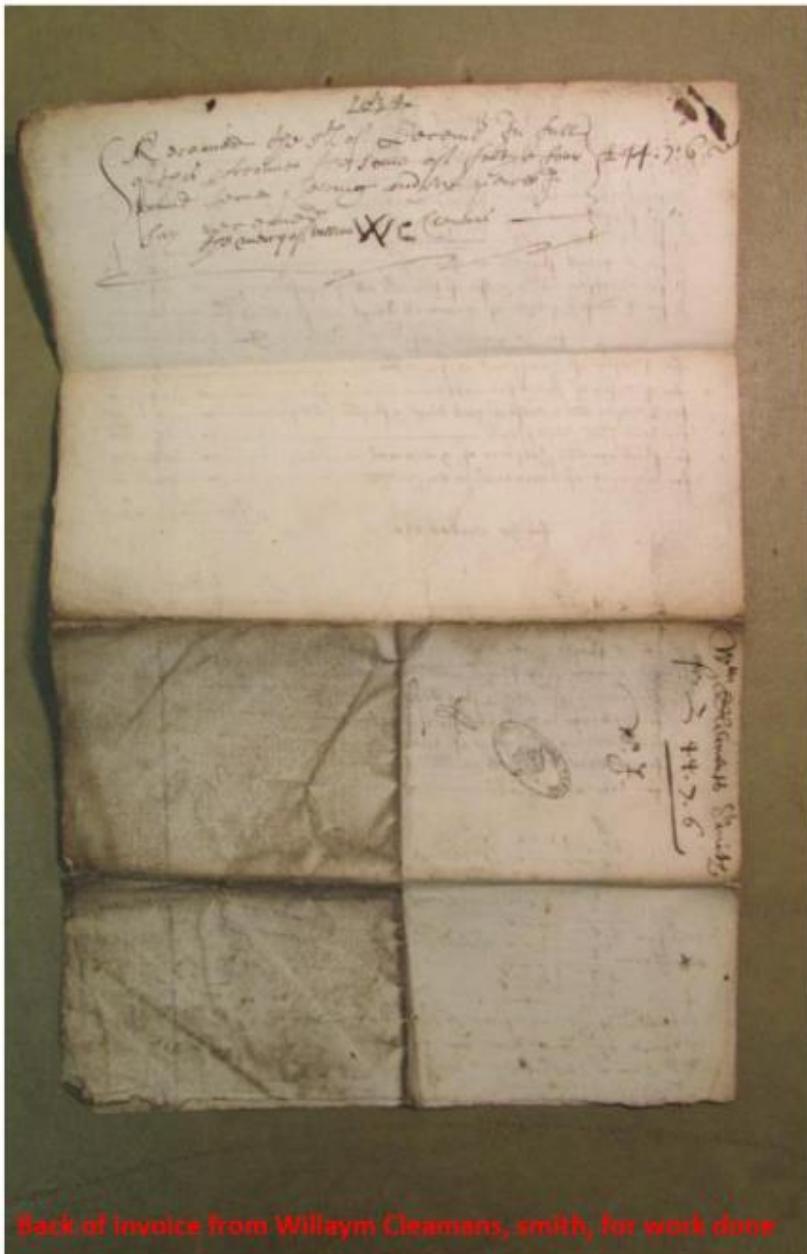
Rd [received] the 11th of December 1634
the somme of six pounds seaven
shillings in full payement
of this bill 6 l 7 s
p [per] me Tho Bardsey

Receipt of payment [1634]
Handwriting of Thomas Bardsey

"Master henderick I pray pay ye plomer
six pound seven shilling for lead
Thomas Cox"
[HCA 15/1 unfol. 126_06_6666]

"Rd [received] the 11th of December 1634
the somme of six pounds seaven
shillings in full payement
of this bill 6 l 7 s
p [per] me Tho Bardsey"
[HCA 15/1 unfol. 126_06_6666]

Initials of William Cleamans, smith. Handwriting of receipt in a different hand.



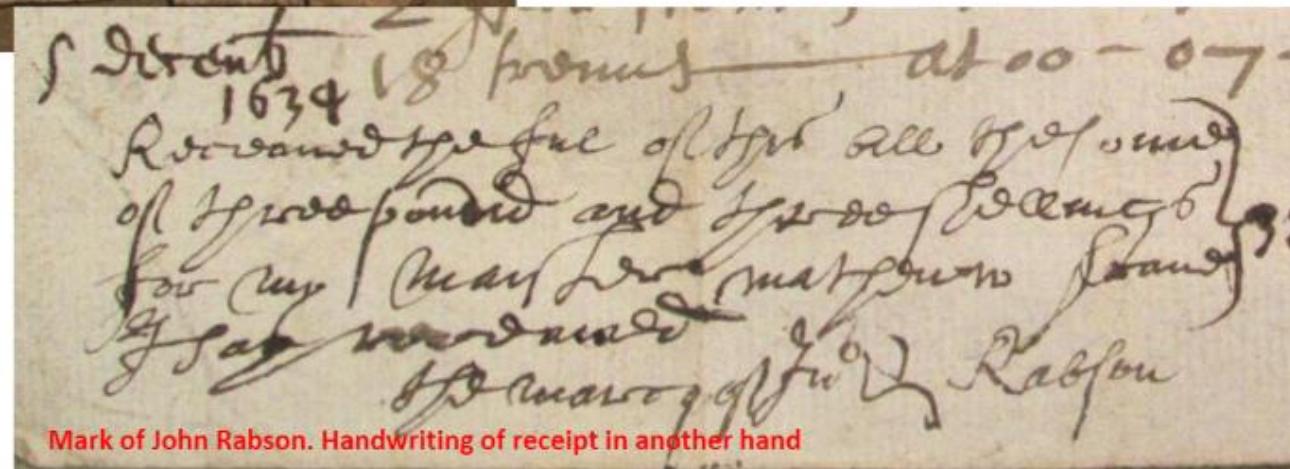
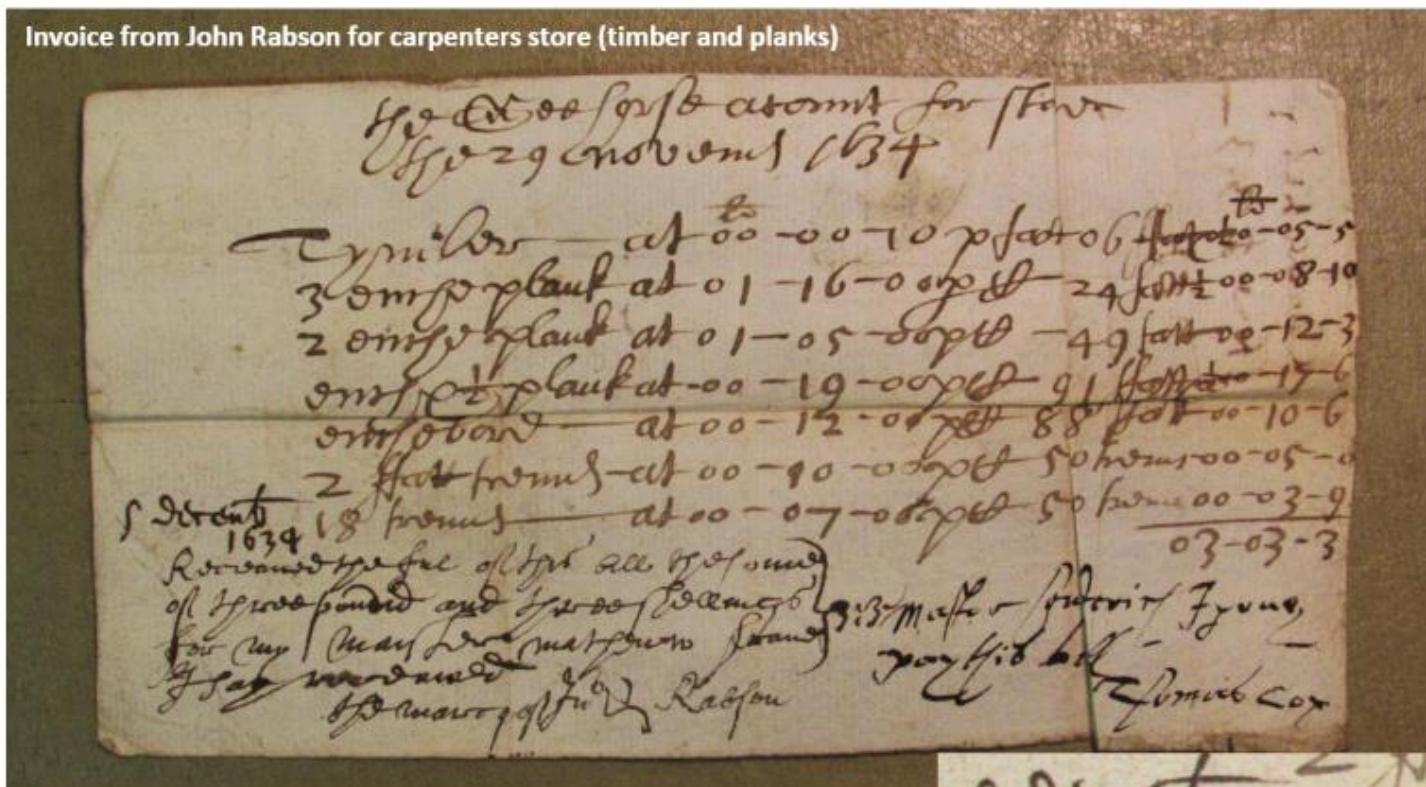
Back of invoice from Willaym Cleamans, smith, for work done



Initials of William Cleamans. Handwriting of receipt in another hand. HCA 15/1 unfol. 126_06_6671.

Mark of John Rabson. Handwriting of receipt in a different hand.

Invoice from John Rabson for carpenters store (timber and planks)



On the 2^d Day of September 1873

*Examination upon the witness Mark Harrison of the County of Wiltshire, aged 21 years, before the Jury of the County of Exeter, by
John G. L. T. Esq. M.P.*

Mark Harrison of Wiltshire in the County of Wiltshire, England, son and heir of Thomas and Elizabeth a married couple and spinster respectively and both as far as I am aware well.

The first task of the day after the unusual frost and heavy gale -
the cattle being the Ethan stars or morning star and so easily and
easily and quickly taken and loaded by us three flagged in the usual forms of government
in the English pastures the Count of Longland and his first wife
the noble Sir of the Shires for whom he was created
and was of Brown's following and taken by him and his son and mother in
name the Master from several other nobly titled and renowned
and forth the two largest men in the whole course of the Commonwealth
and the County of Dorset and the 16th year of the reign of King Edward the
fourth of the day for our Lord God the Son and his
Master of the Shire and for the aforesaid and about you as you say
kind of persons and creatures animal beast.

Colby paid both of the Plat at the Distressors, and also all things the
Colon gave with Col by way of new payment and take of the Plat
affection on record abt 20th day of February 1805 English Shillings and
pence and for more the English £1000 worth £1000 worth the English
£1000 worth £1000 worth and payment of the English £1000 worth
the rest and same further to take and to have and to hold
of and about of the said Newmarket Great and small chappell to go into the
newing floor and of this in the holding and taking of the Plat of
the Plat it can be seen to see of

The growth of our cities and towns is the chief cause of the increase in population. The number of persons living in cities has increased from 1800 to 1850.

The 21st Day of September 1689.

Examined upon the an Alton on the Beale's of
the said Regiment of the Liberty of England by

Mark Garrison of May 19th

The County of Minto Manitoba agrees

four or twenty yards or good about

replies from him and examined separately and
first as followeth. ver

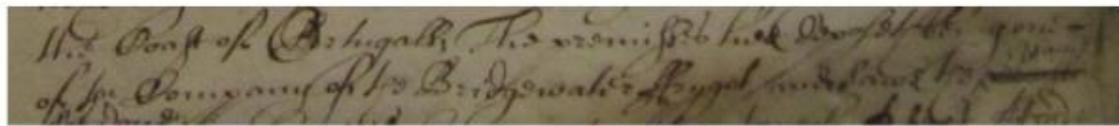


Appendix

AI analysis

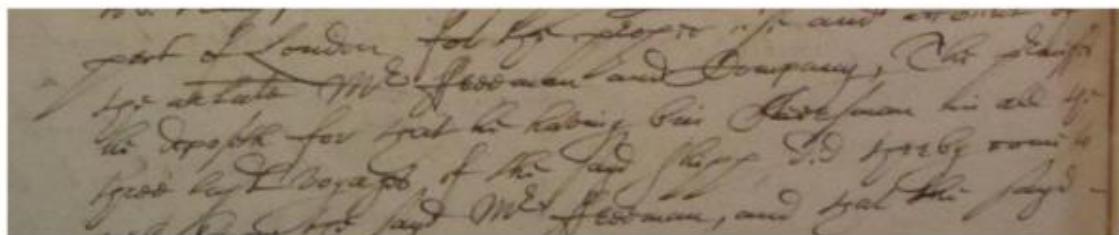
Can we use key word spotting to excavate raw metadata?

LANGUAGE DENOTING OCCUPATION



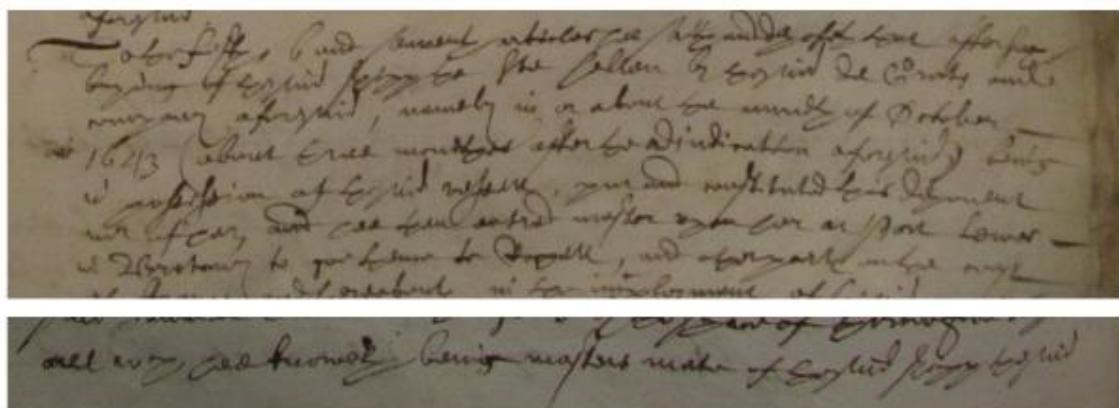
Hee Pongt of Bridgwater. The premisess hee deposeth, going
of the Pongt of the Bridgewater ffrygott, and deposing to

"The premisses hee deposeth being one of the company of
the Bridgewater ffrygott, and sawe the same soe done" [HCA 13/72
f.90r] [CONCLUSION: One of the company]



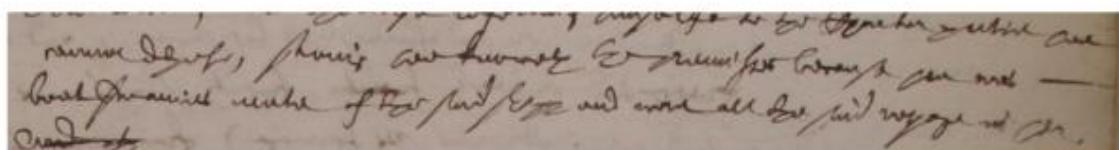
at London for her to goe and come
to estate Mr E. Goodman and Company, the said
he deposeth for that he had beene Steereman in all the
said Voyages of the said shipp S. D. going from
London to the West Indias, and that hee was
a Master and Mr E. Goodman, and that hee was

"The premisses he deposeth for that he the deponent was not onely
for the voyage arlate wherein she was stranded, but in two former
voyages stiersman of the sayd ship" [HCA 13/72 f.90v] [CONCLUSION:
Steersman]



Yours,
John H. and went into the said shipp after
being farrre foygott the shipp to the port of
London, and in or about the moneth of October
1643 (about three moneths after the adjudication aforesaid)
being in possession of the said vessel, put and constituted this
deponent master of her, and hee then entred master upon her at Port
Lewes in Bretany to goe home to England, and afterwards came up
to London in the moneth of November last
all the said foygott being masters mate of sayd shipp by me

"after such buying of the said shipp the Santa Hellen by the said da
[?Groots] and company aforesaid, namely in or about the moneth of
October 1643 (about three moneths after the adjudication aforesaid)
being in possession of the said vessel, put and constituted this
deponent master of her, and hee then entred master upon her at Port
Lewes in Bretany" [HCA 13/72 f.95r] [CONCLUSION: Master]



you are, anytyme to goe thereto and have
me I doff, thens awaynes to you for to bring you and
that thens will make of the my self and were all the said voyage w. me.

"all which hee knoweth being masters mate of the said shipp the said
voyage" [HCA 13/70 f.669v] [CONCLUSION: Master's mate]

"hee knoweth the premisses because hee was boatswaines mate of the
said shipp and went all the said voyage in her" [HCA 13/70 f.671r]
[CONCLUSION: Boatswain's mate]

Can we refine raw machine generated metadata using a combination of NPL, controlled vocabularies, and programmable decision rules?

LANGUAGE DENOTING OCCUPATION

"The premisses hee deposeth being one of the company of the *Bridgewater ffrygott*, and sawe the same soe done"
[HCA 13/72 f.90r] [CONCLUSION: One of the company]

"The premisses he deposeth for that he the deponent was not onely for the voyage arlate wherein she was stranded, but in two former voyages stiersman of the sayd ship" [HCA 13/72 f.90v] [CONCLUSION: Steersman]

"after such buying of the said shipp the *Santa Hellen* by the said da [?Groots] and company aforesaid, namely in or about the moneth of October 1643 (about three monethes after the adiudication aforesaid) being in possession of the said vessel, put and constituted this deponent master of her, and hee then entred master upon her at Port Lewes in Bretany" [HCA 13/72 f.95r] [CONCLUSION: Master]

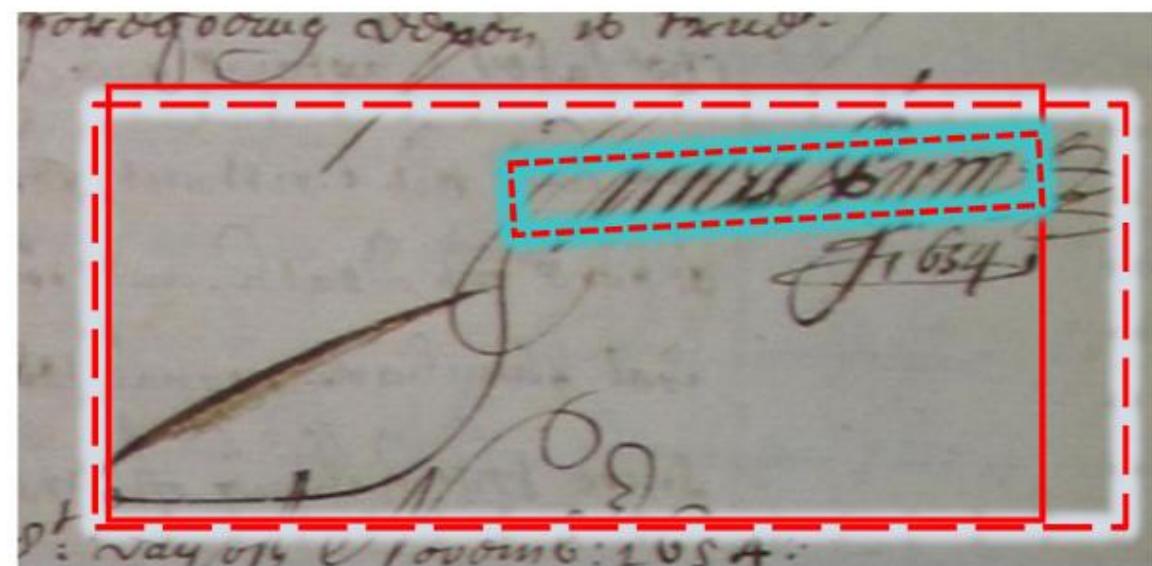
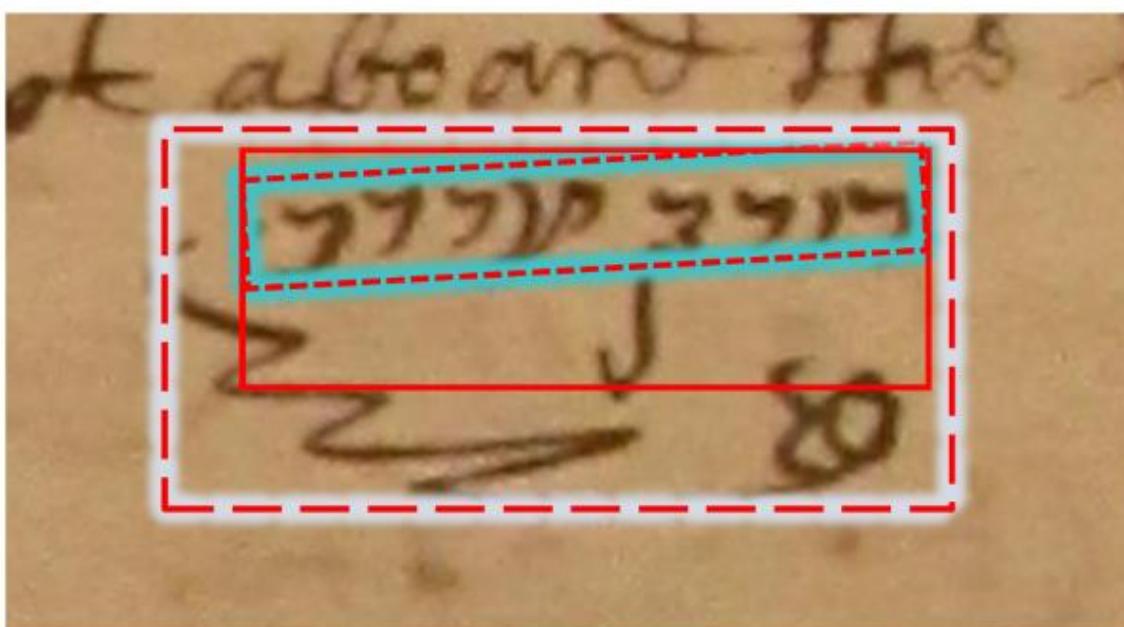
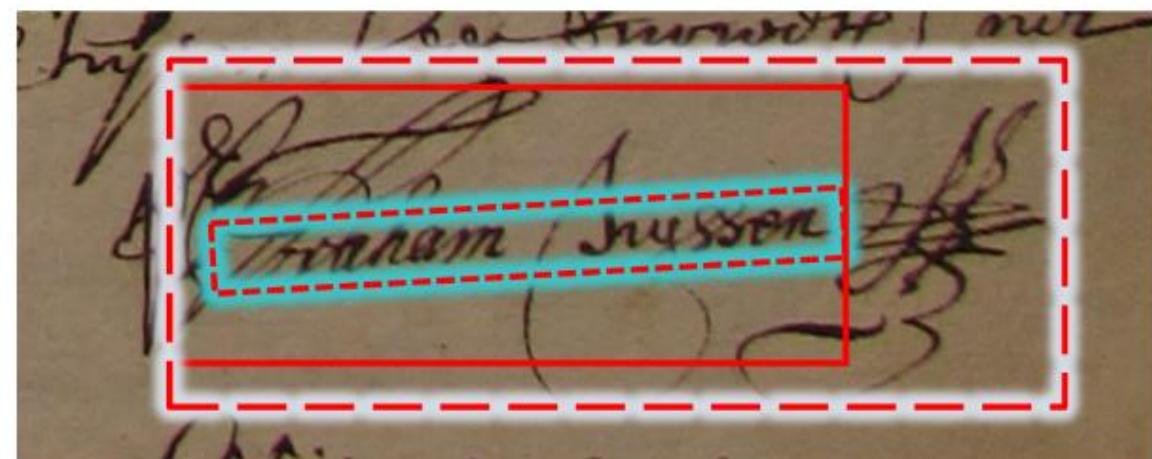
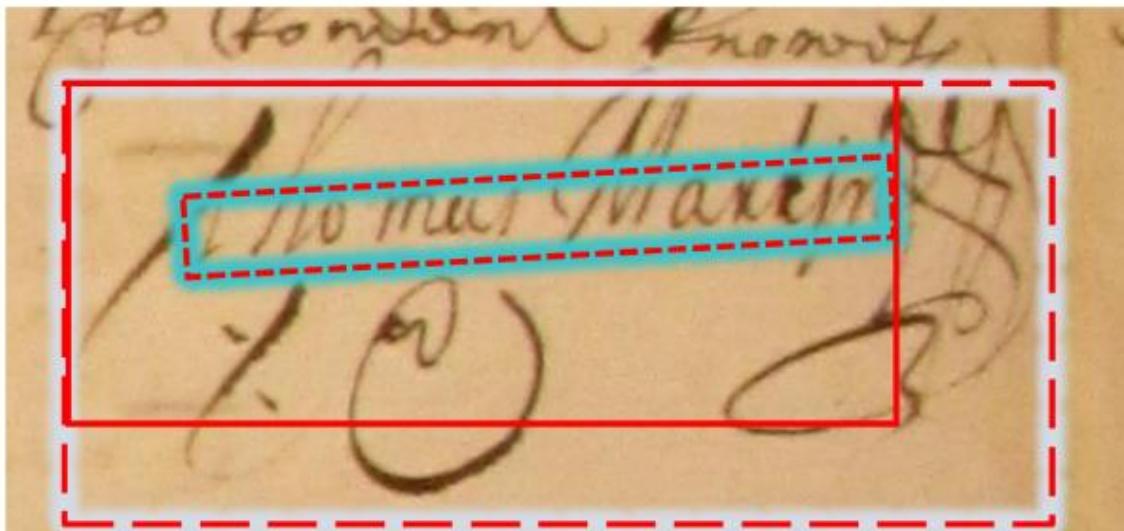
"all which hee knoweth being masters mate of the said shipp the said voyage" [HCA 13/70 f.669v] [CONCLUSION: Master's mate]

"the premisses because hee was boatswaines mate of the said shipp and went all the said voyage in her" [HCA 13/70 f.671r] [CONCLUSION: Boatswain's mate]

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KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1371_f_27v_Two.PNG	HCA 13/71	Initials	Mariner; Boatswain
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KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1368_f_687v.PNG - CREATE HCA 13/68	HCA 13/68	Signature	Mariner; Boatswain [of the Civill Society]
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Visual geometries of flourishes – C17th Irish, Dutch, English & Moroccan merchants



Source: Clockwise from top LH side: KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1368_f.34v.PNG, KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.366r.PNG, KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1370_f.134r.PNG, KaggleTestSnippet_HCA_1368_f.58r.PNG



Appendix

Twitter poll and thought experiment



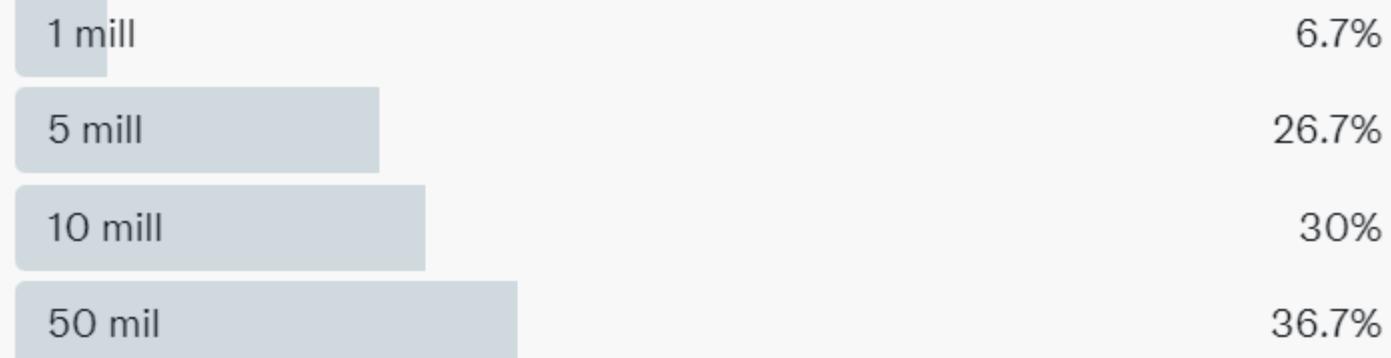
Pinned Tweet



MarineLives @Marinelivesorg · Jan 6

...

How many letters were sent and received by English mariners in the C17th?
Please take our poll and tweet your comments. My answer on January 10th,
when I talk about mariner literacy and the literacy intensity of work at a
[@Prize_Papers](#) lunchtime talk prizepapers.de/lunch ✓



30 votes · 19 hours left

1

5

1

