

English Merchant Shipping, Maritime Communities and Trade from the Spanish Armada to the Seven Years War

Walking Tour Two – The Stuarts

Departures & Decline

This is a self-guided tour starting from Holy Rood Church, High Street, Southampton, UK. It will take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

1 Holy Rood Church, High Street, Southampton

In 1603 the accession of James I was proclaimed at the proclamation arch in front of Holy Rood Church. A few months later James and his court arrived in Southampton, to escape infection in London. Here he met the Spanish ambassador and shortly thereafter a peace was made with Spain.

The peace treaty had the effect of undermining Southampton's economy which was largely based on privateering which targeted Spanish ships. In addition, the King had brought the plague with him and the town's population was decimated in the next few months, further undermining the town economy.

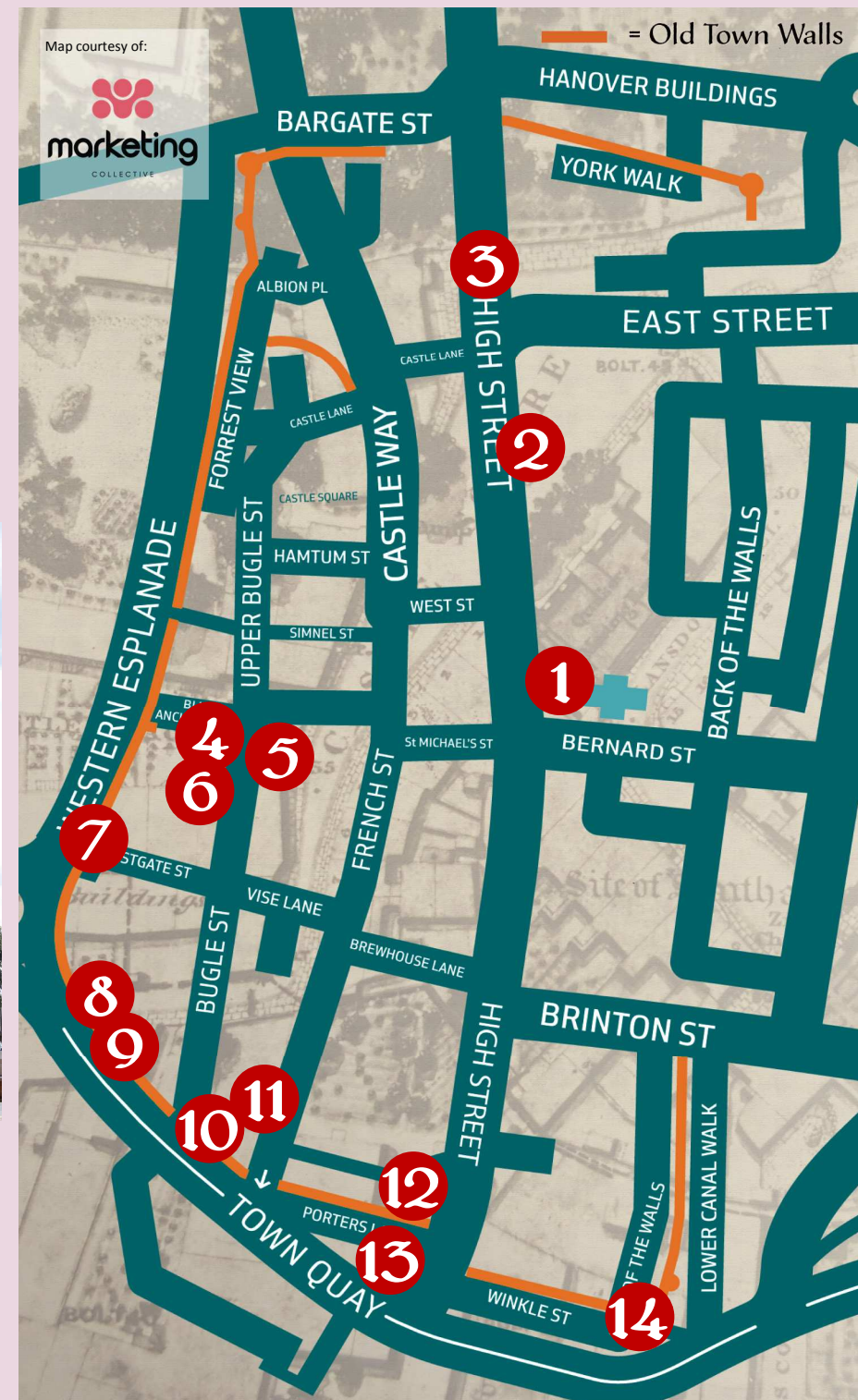
Proceed up the High Street to the Star Hotel on the east side of the street

2 The Star

In 1602 Walter Janverin, youngest son of the proprietor of the Star, Mary Janverin, had been part of the crew of the *Margaret and John* which captured two Venetian Ships, the *Jesus* and the *Balbiana*. The Venetian ambassador complained to King James who issued a proclamation against pirates – particularly naming Walter Janverin. Walter was arrested in September 1603 and a trial



Holy Rood Church





The Star Hotel

was held at Southampton which resulted in seven sailors being condemned to death in December of that year. However, there was a delay, caused by having to wait for the executioner. Eventually, six men were executed, but Walter was spared at the request of the Venetian secretary as he was the son

of 'honest parents' (those parents were also willing to pay compensation of £150). Walter was in trouble again in 1610 when the mayor sent a constable to apprehend him at the Star. The constable found his door shut and he was not 'within'; an order was made for his arrest.

Cross the High Street and on reaching the other side, look north to the Bargate

3 View of Bargate

The Bargate was the northern entrance to the town. It was the administrative centre for Southampton, where the mayor held his court, and where malefactors were imprisoned in the town lock-ups. One of the people who found himself incarcerated in the Bargate was George Hellier. The trouble started when a sailor named Edward Mitchell was away in Portsmouth serving his country in the Parliamentary navy. For his wife Alice it was too far to visit, so she went to George Hellier the carrier, to ask him to write a letter that could be sent to Edward. Alice could not read and thought George had sent her love and regret that she could not travel to her husband. George, however, held a grudge against Edward and so wrote a letter that was full of abuse and scurrilous

language; Edward thought the words were from his wife and he was furious. Alice took George to task when she found out the truth and went before the mayor, Joseph de la Motte, swearing on oath that advantage had been taken of a poor, illiterate woman. When questioned George admitted what he had done stating it was revenge because Edward had threatened to kill him. The mayor, who did not believe him, said he had vexatiously incited discord. No-one would stand surety for George and so he was imprisoned in the Bargate. The Mitchells were not a blameless couple themselves. Edward Mitchell was in trouble for beating Abraham Malzard and his wife was accused of blasphemy for saying that Jesus Christ was a bastard.



The Bargate

Walk back down the High Street and turn right on West Street, turn left onto French Street then cross the road and walk past St Michael's Church into the square; cross the square to Tudor House Museum

4 Tudor House

In the seventeenth century Tudor House was being leased to a Huguenot family called the Clungeons and their relatives the Bulkleys. James Clungeon, mayor of Southampton, had died childless in 1678 and was



Tudor House

buried in St Michael's church. His house was then let to his cousin William Bulkley who himself became mayor in 1685. The Bulkleys were early investors in plantations in the West Indies. The English had been very slow in setting up colonies compared to the Spanish and Portuguese and their first successful American colony, Jamestown, was not established until 1607. After this hesitant start however, other colonies developed not only on the mainland, but also in the West Indies. Barbados, where the Bulkleys had their plantation, had originally been a Spanish colony. The English took it over in 1625. Initially, the most important crop was tobacco, but by 1640 it was sugar. The original indentured white workforce was quickly displaced by enslaved labour and the black labour force soon vastly outnumbered the white slaveholders. Harsh rules and violence were used to maintain control over the slaves. In a link between the plantations and the Newfoundland fish industry, the poor-quality fish were sent to plantations in the West Indies as food for enslaved people, while the poorer distillations of rum were sold back to the settlements on Newfoundland.

5 St Michael's Square



St Michael's Square

In 1623 the 80-ton *Fisher* and its 32-man crew returned from the cod banks off Newfoundland with 106,000 tons of dried fish, 5,300 tons of wet fish and 9 tons of fish oil. The return trip back to Southampton had taken 16 days.

Captain John Smith, one of founders of Jamestown in Virginia, said in 1614 that the real wealth of North America was not from gold and silver but from fish: "Here every man may be master and owner of his own labour and land... If he have nothing but his hands, he may...by industries quickly grow rich."

Walk a little way down Bugle Street, you will see a small painted house which is now attached to Tudor House Museum, next to this building would have been a similar property owned by Esau Whittiffe

6 Esau Whittiffe's House

These houses were properties typically lived in by craftsmen, while the wealthier merchants lived in larger properties like Tudor House.

Esau Whittiffe was a local shipwright and, in 1606, the builder of a ship called the *Speedwell*. This 60-ton ship is one of the contenders for the *Speedwell* that



brought thirty passengers over from Leiden in 1620 and which was due to take them across the Atlantic to start a new life in America. The passengers were religious migrants. They were puritanical Protestants and were unhappy with the Anglican form of Protestantism established by Elizabeth I and continued by her successor James I. The Leiden group was joining up with another group of migrants who had travelled down from London on a second ship, the *Mayflower*. The two ships were supposed to sail in convoy across the ocean but, unfortunately, the *Speedwell* was not seaworthy, which caused the voyage to be interrupted as the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* were forced to put into Plymouth, where the *Speedwell* was abandoned.



Tudor House and cottage

Carry on down Bugle Street and turn left onto West Gate Street and walk down towards the gate

7 West Gate

In 1620 the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* were moored on the West Quay. The 181-ton *Mayflower* was the larger of the two ships although only ninety feet long. The first in-depth research into the size of the vessel was undertaken by two editors of the Southampton Record Society, J W Horrocks and R C Anderson.

Conditions on board the vessel were very basic, with only limited room and it was not possible to stand up fully below decks. A bucket over the side acted as a toilet and as the voyage progressed there would be a terrible stench from human excrement and rotting food. Many people suffered from seasickness.



Amazingly, only one person died on the trip and there was one birth, a boy named Oceanus by his parents, Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins.

To strengthen the nerves of the pilgrims their pastor John Robinson, who was not sailing with them, sent them a prayer in a letter.



And the Lord in whom you trust & whom you serve even in this business & journey, guide you with His hand, protect you with his wing, and show you and us His salvation in the end and bring us in the meanwhile together in the place desired, if such be His good will

Stay inside the gate, walk south down to Cuckoo Lane, on the left of the lane there is stone and brick work which is the remains of Bull Hall

8 Bull Hall

The owner of Bull Hall, the second Earl of Southampton [1545-81], a staunch Catholic, was involved in plots against Queen Elizabeth and was in league with the Spanish. In contrast, his son, the third Earl [1573-1624], was a theatre-lover and patron of William Shakespeare. The third Earl, however, also involved himself in plots and was condemned by Elizabeth for supporting the Earl of Essex's rebellion. His property, Bull Hall, was seized by the Queen and he languished in the Tower of London, although he escaped execution and was released when James I ascended the throne.

The 3rd Earl of Southampton then became interested in developing colonies and was a founder of the Virginia Company. He funded voyages such as that of Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602, who was the first Englishman to travel to New England. Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* was inspired by events around early exploration, and the character Stephanus is said to be based on the pilgrim Stephen Hopkins, who had been shipwrecked off Bermuda in 1609.

Stephen Hopkins was a Hampshire man originally born in Upper Clatford from where he moved to Hursley. After he had been shipwrecked he managed to make his way to Jamestown, but returned to England on the death of his first wife Mary, who had been running the family inn in Hursley. He remarried and returned to America as one of the Mayflower pilgrims, along with his new wife Elizabeth and their young daughter Damaris, as well as his children Constantia and Giles from his first marriage. He was the only pilgrim who had previous experience of travelling to the New World.

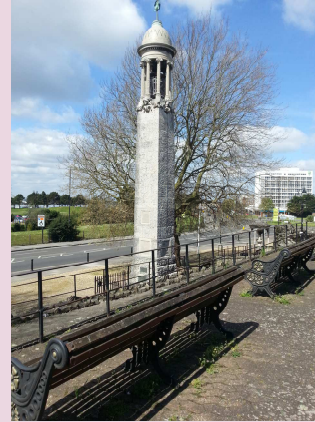


Bull Hall

Opposite the remains of Bull Hall is the Mayflower Memorial

9 Mayflower Memorial

John Alden, who was possibly the son of Southampton fletcher, George Alden, joined the Mayflower pilgrims in Southampton and went on to be one of the leaders of the new colony. His descendants, along with descendants of other pilgrim families, are allowed to put a plaque on the memorial which was not erected until 1913.



Mayflower Memorial

Ten years after the sailing of the *Mayflower* in 1630, during the Great Migration, another group of a thousand colonists lead by John Winthrop and John Cotton was in Southampton with the *Arabella* and eleven other ships.

The fleet assembled at Southampton Water with 1000 passengers bound for Massachusetts. On 29 March Winthrop began his journal in which he recorded the voyage and the early history of the colony. He made an address to the colonists whilst in Southampton, possibly at Holy Rood, called "A Model of Christian Charity". It is one of the most important early texts in American history. In it he calls for a community of individuals dedicated to one another and also expresses the hope that if they follow God's plan they will become "as a city upon a hill." That phrase has been a commonplace among American political leaders to the present day.

Between 1620 and 1640, 50,000 people left England for America.

Carry on along Cuckoo Lane, cross Bugle Street to the Wool House

10 Wool house



Mrs Long was the wife of a Southampton man captured by Barbary pirates in 1642, a time when pirates from North Africa were preying on ships along the south coast. They wanted the skills of mariners like William Long so they kidnapped him and took him off to the Barbary Coast of North Africa. To get him back, a ransom had to be paid. Poor families had to beg to raise the money; the Mayor donated 5s towards Long's possible release.

A Redemptionist Preacher told of the suffering of captives and unspeakable torture they experienced. Families went to Parliament to lobby for the prisoners and, as a result, there was to be a small extra tax levied on imported goods to raise money.



The Wool House

It is said many of the Barbary corsairs were, in fact, captained by turbaned English renegades and crewed by English, French and Dutch sailors. It was also claimed that most of the money raised by tax was being siphoned off by the Navy. King Charles I tried to levy ship money for "the safety of the seas against certain pirates, as well as Turks and others" but he was called a tyrant and it precipitated the civil war. Those men who did gain their freedom and arrived back in England can be found in town records requesting alms for their onward journey home.

*Carry on along Town Quay and cross French Street.
On the left is a red brick building, once a former poor
house and formerly a workshop*

11 St John's

In 1671 a workshop was set up here, with a master and six boys to be instructed in woollen manufacture, but the trade which had sustained Southampton since the Middle Ages was at an end. Eventually the operation was moved to the poor house in St Mary's, which was soon to become the workhouse. In the first half of the 17th century Southampton's trade was centred on fish and manufactured cloth, traded to France. Its trade was affected by the civil war, but did benefit from trade via Tangier (a Portuguese colony, part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, wife of Charles II). However, Tangier was lost towards the end of Charles II's reign and Southampton had to rely on mainly coastal trade thereafter.

Proceed down French Street and at the bottom turn



Site of St John's Poor House

*left onto Porters Lane. Walk to the end, to the
remains of the Water Gate*

12 Water Gate

In 1616, the *Treasure*, carrying Sir Thomas Dale, came back from Virginia. He brought back to the port 'exceedingly good tobacco' – two hundredweight valued at £112. It is highly likely that this is the ship that also brought Pocahontas to England.

Pocahontas was a Native American and the daughter of Powhatan the paramount chief in the region of



Water Gate

Virginia. She saved the life of the Englishman, John Smith, who had been captured in 1607; she herself was later captured by the English in 1613. Pocahontas converted to Christianity and took the name Rebecca. A year later, when she was still only 17, she married John Rolfe. They had a son, Thomas, and the family travelled to

England in 1616. Pocahontas was used to promote investment in the Jamestown settlement. She settled in Gravesend in around 1617 but died shortly thereafter.

The growth of the tobacco industry led to an increase in the numbers of enslaved people being transported to the colonies. In 1626 Thomas Combes of Southampton sent three ships with 60 enslaved Africans to St Kitts, two ships were lost in a hurricane and the other returned with 30,000 tons of tobacco.

*Turn right onto High Street and walk around to the
other side of the Water Gate*



Water Gate, Town Quay side

13 Town Quay

Town Quay had for centuries been a place for ship building. In 1607 Peter Priaulx, a Huguenot merchant, was building a ship at the quay, the purpose of which was to go to Newfoundland for fish and train oil. Train oil was a product of whaling. The Priaulx family were still in the fish and train oil business in 1636 when their train oil was shipped to Bilbao. Other Southampton clothiers also invested in ships and voyages to Newfoundland, including the widow Mary Rigges and her brother-in-law Robert Rigges, William Hapgood and Robert Toldervey. Voyages were, however, a risky business; in 1638 their 100-ton ship, the *Charity*, had collected dry fish worth £732, together with 18 serges. The fish was intended for Malaga, but it never reached its destination as it was lost in a storm. Peter Priaulx's ship, the *Fisher of Southampton*, was attacked twice by pirates, in 1623 and 1627, and was finally taken as a French prize. As well as French pirates there were also Barbary pirates. They seized the *Blessing of Southampton* off the Canary Islands in 1635 when it was making for Madeira. Because of the dangers several merchants insured their ships and cargoes, although this generally only covered part of the value.

*Cross over the High Street and continue down Winkle
Street to God's House Gate at the end of the street*

14 God's House Gate

During the English Civil War, Southampton was taken by the parliamentary forces and Governor Murford established himself at God's House Gate. After the Restoration things did not improve for Southampton. In the Anglo-Dutch War, the town was threatened with attack by the Dutch, whose fleet could be seen from God's House Tower. This war proved to be the final blow to the town in its slow decline. In 1683 a letter from the mayor of Southampton to Sir Leoline Jenkins, the Secretary of State, complained:



God's House Gate

It has been a rich place, but is now quite the contrary. The late rebellion (ie the Civil War) despoiled the chamber of all public moneys, in the plague 1,700 inhabitants died, the Dutch war robbed them of almost all their ships, and lastly the Act of Prohibition rendered all their looms useless, by which many families were supported that are now become burdensome. The public revenues are incredibly sunk, particularly the duty on sweet wines, which heretofore yielded £200 per annum and now scarce brings in £6, by which the Corporation is under great difficulties

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For more information on the project

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Scan the QR code to see some short
films of some of the characters and
stories described in this tour



Discover more stories of Southampton's connections to the
Pilgrim Fathers, with our special film on YouTube:

A Funny Thing Happened
on the
way to *America*

