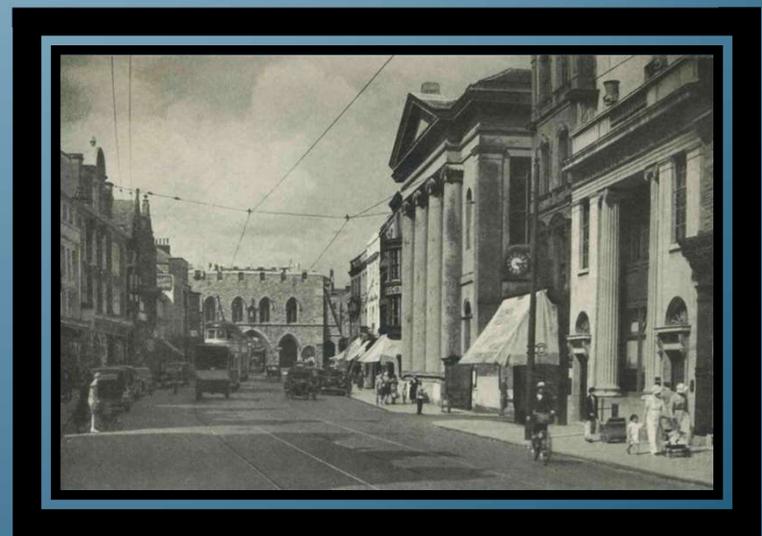


The Titanic City

How did the Titanic have an impact on the city of Southampton? (through its building and legacy)

SOUTHAMPTON

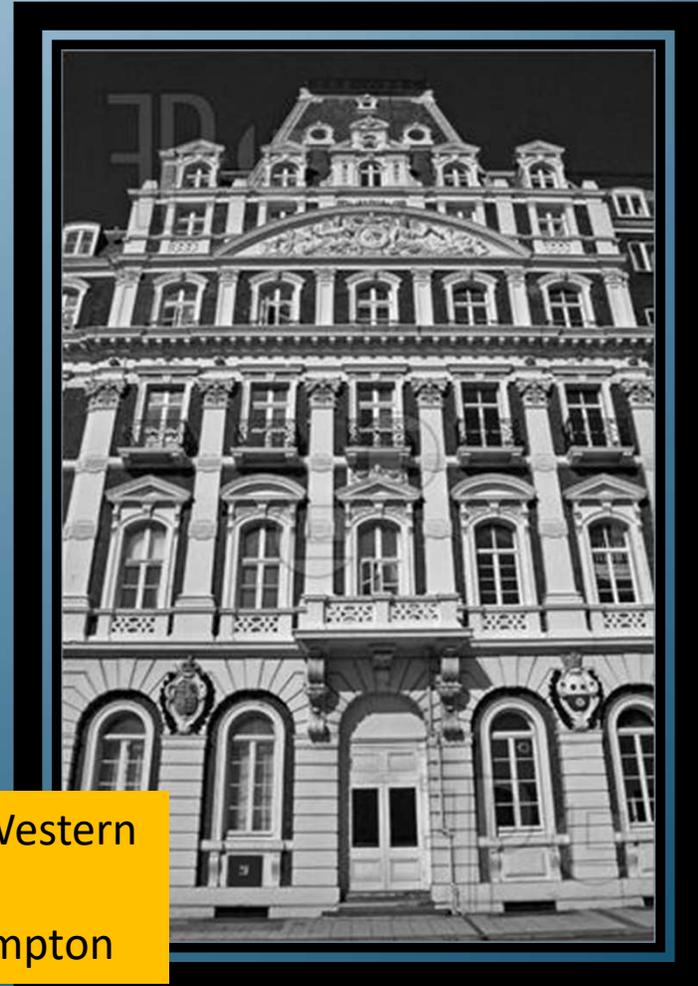


The Titanic City



Benefits to Trade

How was Southampton to benefit from having the Titanic docked at Southampton?



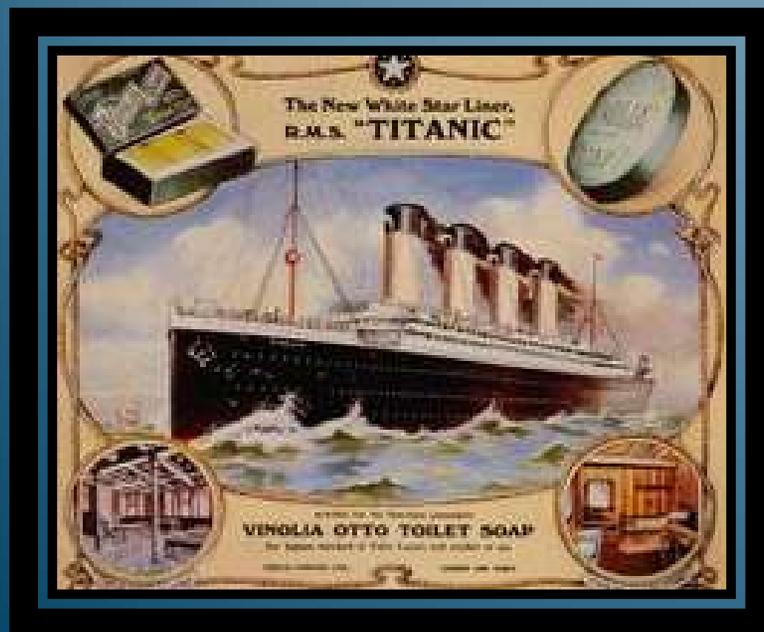
South Western
Hotel in
Southampton

Amongst the local firms who benefited from Southampton being home to the great liners was Millers Navel Suppliers - they were were tailors who supplied uniforms for the crew. Charles George Hibbert and Co of Southampton and London, export merchants, supplied bottled beer

"They appear to have been particularly proud of supplying the Titanic, for they made special bills or posters `Bottled beer for the White Star liner Titanic, the largest vessel in the world'"
Titanic Voices p49



Oakley and Watling Fruit and Vegetable Suppliers based on the High Street was another local firms who relied on their trade with the Titanic.



"We did food, meat, poultry, tin foods for all the large ships. My father, Eric Grey moved down to Southampton in 1911. We were in Queens Terrace, later in Oxford Street. My father who died in 1956, put food on the Titanic and he saw the ship off on her maiden voyage."

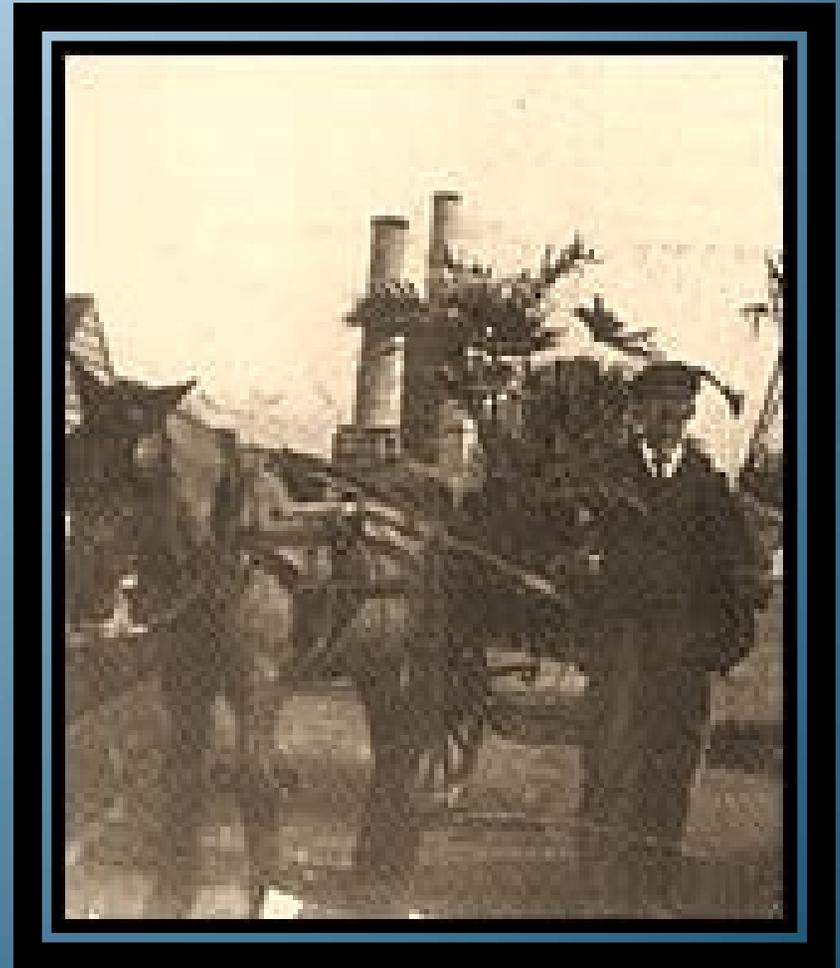
Aubrey Grey. Titanic Voices p54

F G Bealing and Son Nursery was a horticulture florist which owned large nurseries and flower fields at Burgess Road, Highfield.

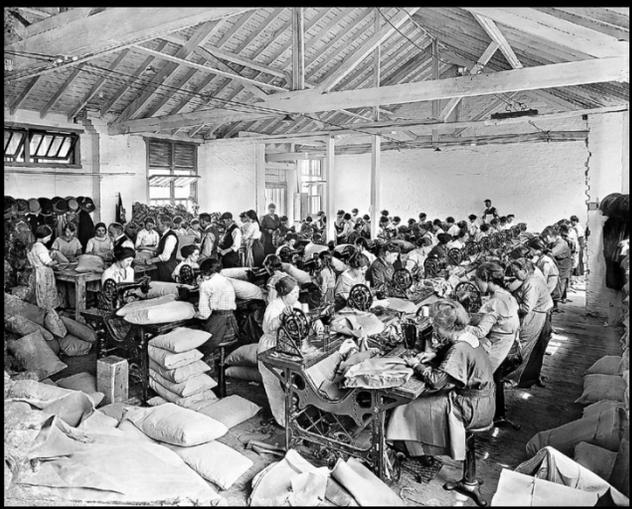
There were numerous glasshouses for different types of plants; thousands of plants were needed for the liners.

Every time a White Star liner was in port Mr Bealing accompanied by his son Frank (junior) and his foreman Mr W F 'Bill' Geapin would load their mule drawn carts, usually in the evening, with flowers, palms and plants and drive them to the docks to the quay alongside each liner.

Titanic Voices p50



Employment Benefits



What sort of jobs could they do,
with the coming of the Titanic?



Interior of the Belvedere Arms. Many crew members were recruited through word of mouth.

Titanic Voices, p59 Oral History Archive

The great liners like Titanic may have carried the rich and famous across the Atlantic in the lap of luxury, but for many of the crew members, working on board meant an escape from grinding poverty in the native Southampton.

The local economy flourished in 1912 as new shops, restaurants and businesses opened to service the growing port and passenger trade. The town itself was rapidly expanding, with a population of over 119,000 in 1912. Job opportunities in the docks, in shipbuilding and on board ship brought migrants from all over Britain and Ireland to settle in Southampton

"The Largest ship in the world went to sea from Southampton harbour on the tenth of April, 1912. People spoke of the tenth of April as a great day in the history of Southampton, for many fathers of families had found employment on the Titanic, many women's faces were lightened because the shadow of need and poverty had been banished from their homes."

Titanic From Rare Historical Reports



Coal strike of 1912

This was a time of social unrest there was already a strong Trade Union in the area with a great deal of support from within the docks itself. 1911 was a particularly busy period for the Trade Union in Southampton.

"In almost every street numbers of working men were aimlessly about idle. Men went out in the early morning to look for work, pulling their belts tighter to make up for the lack of breakfast while their children went to school cold and with their hunger only partly satisfied."

Titanic Voices, p18

The White Star Line brought a great deal of employment to the area at a time when work was very uncertain and you were only paid for the time you were on board ship.



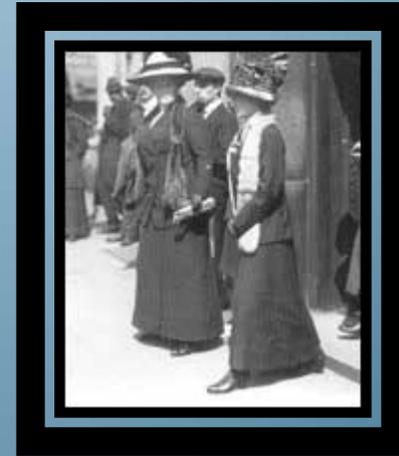
A City in Mourning

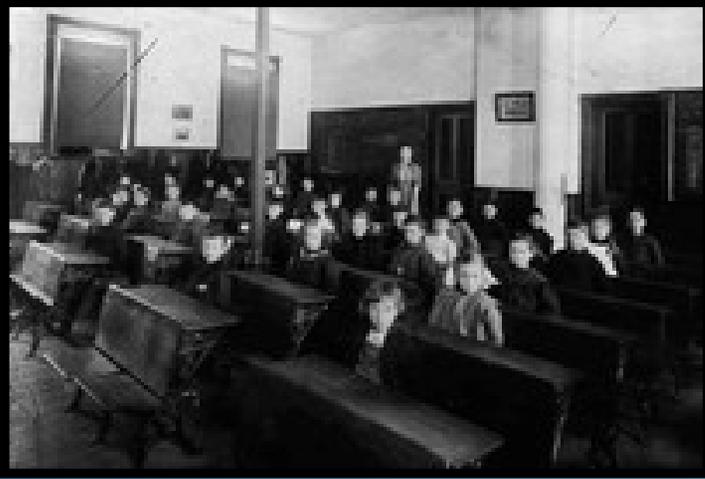
The sinking of the Titanic was the largest maritime disaster to ever hit any one city.

Of the crew, 724 lived within the Southampton area. Of this number, only 175 returned home to their friends and families.

"Southampton remained a town in a state of shock. Flags flew at half mast, condolence notices filled the local newspapers and a memorial service was held at St Mary's Church on 20th April."

Titanic Voices , p250





**In one school in Northam,
120 out of the 240 children
on the roll lost their father.**

1912, May 23rd. The Mayor visited this department this morning to see the orphans of the Titanic victims.

1913, April 15th. Today being the anniversary of the Titanic disaster, a great many girls are away on account of mothers' illness and grief in the homes upsetting the children - It is a sad echo of last year."

Northam Girl's School log book
Southampton City Council
Archives Service



"The scenes in some part of the town were heartrending. Nearly a thousand families are directly concerned in the fate of the crew alone, and in most cases the only breadwinner of the family is lost.

In some of the poorer streets, where firemen and seafarers live in large numbers very sad sights have been witnessed....In some streets nearly every house is represented on board the Titanic, and the manner in which bereaved women fasten on to the faintest glimmer of fresh intelligence is painfully pathetic. This is the greatest disaster that Southampton has ever known."

Titanic From Rare Historical Reports p47



Children giving to the Titanic Relief Fund



Southampton orphans enjoying an organised holiday at Ryde in Isle of Wight.

The Titanic City

Consequences on Southampton

A growing city

A city in mourning

Businesses benefitted

Employment for crew and dockers

Children orphaned

Crew members died

Hotels

Jobs needed at a time of poor economy

Mental scars

More customers

Businesses supplying the ship with goods

Coping with grief

Main breadwinners
No income coming in

More staff employed

Promote their businesses

Craftsmen used to create the beauty of the Titanic

People came to Southampton in search of work-migration

Family in poverty

Improved reputation

Titanic Relief is set up

Increase in crime

Your Task

Choose to write about this in one of the following styles:

- A letter in the Times Newspaper
- A diary entry/ series of diary entries from a local person (e.g. shipbuilder, crew member, a family member)
- A non-chronological report
- A newspaper report
- A narrative story of your choice

One extra fact

Did you know?

53 members of the Olympic crew refused to sail because they felt that the collapsible lifeboats added after the Titanic disaster were unsuitable. This pressure meant that the Olympic made changes: raised the height of the bulkheads, added more lifeboats and reinforced the hull with a double skin.

