



Glossary of Terms

(list will be updated on a continual basis)

Aft – near the stern; toward the rear of the vessel

Aft Cabin – often called the captain’s cabin, a large cabin at the stern of the vessel

Anchor – the device by which, when dropped to the bottom, the vessel is held fast

Binnacle – a box near the helm containing the compass

Boom – a spar used to extend the foot of a fore-and-aft sail or studding sail

Bow – the front of the ship, the rounded part of a vessel forward

Bowsprit – a large and strong spar, standing from the bow of a vessel

Deck prism – a prism of glass fitted into the deck to allow light into the compartment below

Fore – toward the front of the vessel, used to distinguish the forward part of a vessel or things in that direction

Guns – armament with a naval carriage; the original *Providence* had 12 four-pound guns and 14 small rail guns

Jibboom – the boom rigged out beyond the bowsprit to which the tack of a jib is lashed

Main deck – the largest deck on a vessel

Main hold – cargo hold, also holds provisions, spare parts and sailors

Mast – a spar set upright from the deck to support rigging, yards and sails

Port – the left side of a vessel, looking forward, used in place of “larboard”

Quarter Deck – raised deck toward the stern where navigation and command of the vessel take place

Shrouds – a set of ropes reaching from the mastheads to the vessel’s sides to support the mast

Spar – the general term for all masts, yards, booms, gaffs, and other such timbers

Starboard – on the right side of the boat, looking forward

Stern – the aft end of a vessel

Tiller – a bar of wood or iron put into the head of the rudder, by which the rudder is moved to steer the vessel

Windlass – the machine used in merchant vessels to weigh the anchor

#tallshiptuesdays