

Salcombe in 1607: A Pirates' Haunt



The inhabitants of the haven town of Salcombe, are sorely oppressed and endangered through the insolence of dissolute seafaring men, who often come into the town in great numbers, two hundred armed men at one time, and threaten, when they are denied such things as they would have, that they will burn the town. They often strip the country adjoining of sheep and other commodities, and take from poor fishermen their boats and barks. Moreover, they murder each other, and bury them in the sands by night, and daily commit other outrages... It is impossible to suppress them as they are so bold as to put themselves in strength to make resistance and can always take refuge in their ships lying off the harbour.'

*(Correspondence between the County
Justices and the King's Council)*