

2005

## Henry Hudson

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### Recommended Citation

Published in Encyclopedia of New York State, edited by Peter Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2005, p. 737

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Title: Hudson, Henry

Author(s): Paul Otto

Source: *Encyclopedia of New York State*. Ed. Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss. Syracuse University Press, 2005. p737.

Document Type: Article

Hudson, Henry (fl late 16th century-early 17th century). English mariner and explorer. Little of Henry Hudson's life is known before about 1607. Hudson sailed for both the English and the Dutch and is chiefly known for his explorations and discoveries in North America. The Hudson River, Hudson Strait, and Hudson Bay are all named after him. His final four voyages are documented; all of these focused upon exploration for a northern passage to Asia. In his first two (11 May-25 Sept 1607 and 2 May-5 Sept 1608), he sailed for the Muscovy Co, first exploring the Arctic Ocean between Greenland and Spitzbergen [now in Norway], and then between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya [now in Russia]. In his third (4 Apr-17 Nov 1609), under the employ of the Dutch East India Co, he journeyed first north into the Arctic. Upon finding his way blocked by ice, he turned westward to North America, where, he was led to believe through his correspondence with Capt John Smith, a passage to the East might lie. In his fourth (departed 2 May 1610), undertaken for a group of English merchants, he explored the waterways later named after him in Canada--Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay.

It was on his third voyage that Hudson and his crew explored and mapped New York Bay and the Hudson River to a point 25 miles (40 km) beyond the later site of Albany. He undertook this voyage in a Dutch-built ship, the Half Moon (Halve Maen), that he sailed as far north as Albany. Beyond that point five of his crew explored the river in a small boat. During exploration of the Hudson River, Hudson and his crew had numerous encounters with Native Americans, including Mohicans (Mahicans) and various bands of Munsee speakers. Some of these encounters were peaceful; others ended in bloodshed on both sides. On his return to Europe, Hudson was detained by English authorities, but his reports reached his Dutch employers. Information concerning his interaction with native people who offered valuable furs in exchange for inexpensive items of European manufacture immediately led to Dutch exploitation of the fur trade and eventually to Dutch colonization of the area. His third voyage also helped complete the mapping of the Atlantic coast of North America.

On his fourth voyage, while bound by ice in Hudson Bay, most of his crew mutinied, casting him adrift on 3 July 1611 with his son John and seven other men, most of them ill. Although later voyages to the same region searched for him, no sign of him or his men was found.

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Otto, Paul

**Source Citation** (MLA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Otto, Paul. "Hudson, Henry." *Encyclopedia of New York State*. Ed. Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss. Syracuse University Press, 2005. 737.