



# Henry Hudson, A Life

By Andrew Mikolajczyk

# Background

- \* Richard Hakluyt compiled the documents and published a book entitled *The Principle Navigations Voyages Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation*
  - \* Hakluyt's book fueled the people's enthusiasm for English exploration
- \* By the time Henry Hudson appeared in historical documents, he was approximately forty years old, a captain, and veteran of Seafaring
  - \* Hudson was a seasoned mariner, a man with a strong and resourceful wife, and three son's
- \* Hudson's ambitions were to take his place within the great pantheon of the European explorers: Columbus, Magellan, Cabot, Cortes, and Da Gama

# Attempt 1

- \* Hudson's first attempt to reach Asia was based on a theory that due to the proximity of the sun at the North Pole, the sun will melt the ice and the traveler will be blessed with *“perpetual clearness of the day without any of the darkness of the light.”*
- \* Hudson's goal was to sail straight over top of the world, past the North Pole
- \* April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1607 Hudson left England for the Northeast Passage, and hopefully land at Cathay (Northern China)
  - \* Hudson's ship, the *Hopewell*, was a seventy foot wooden boat with a crew of twelve

# Close but No Cigar

- \* The *Hopewell* came within 600 miles of the North Pole
  - \* On this expedition, Hudson charted the islands of Spitzenberg and Hudson's Tutches and noted the potential profit to be gained from Whaling and Walrus hunting in these remote islands
  - \* *“This morning we saw that we were compassed with Ice in abundance... And this I can assure at present... by this way there is no passage.”*
- \* Hudson did manage to disprove Throne's theory and eliminate one possible route to Asia

# Attempt 2

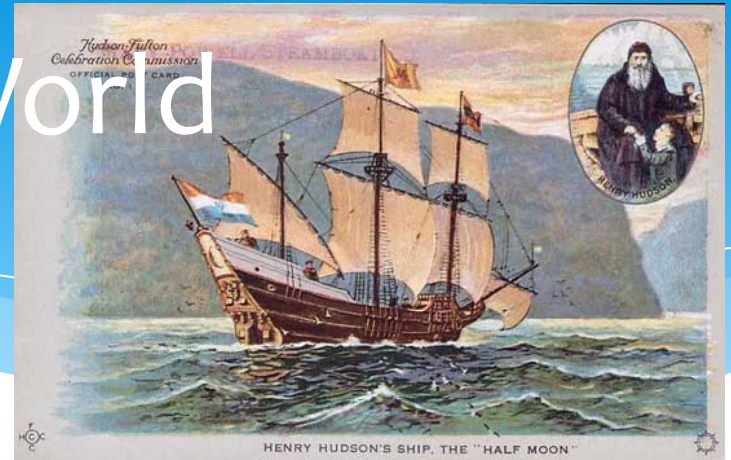
- \* Henry Hudson's second voyage attempted to find a Northeast Passage through Nova Zembla (modern day Novaya Zemlya) sailed on the *Hopewell*
  - \* When Hudson reached Nova Zembla he found his path to the Kara Sea blocked by ice
  - \* Due to the ice on both his attempts to find the Northeast Passage, left Hudson "out of hope to find passage by the Northeast"
  - \* "For when we were at Nova Zembla on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, void of hope of a Northeast Passage, I therefore resolved to use all means I could to sail to the Northwest"
- \* After weeks at sea in the arctic weather, the crew mutinied and forced him to return to England



# Fired and Hired

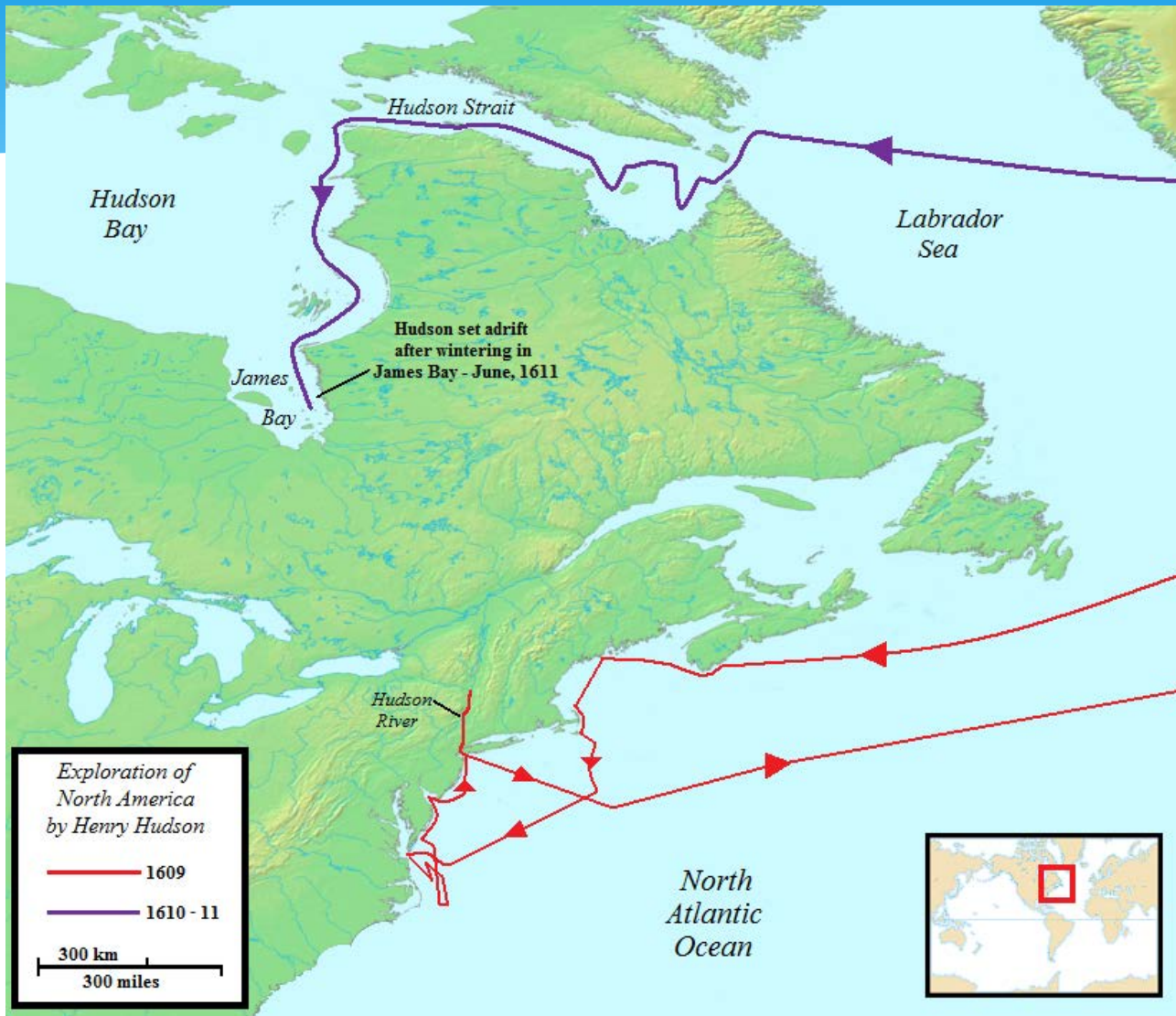
- \* Upon his return to England, Hudson had received several letters from his friend, and famous New World explorer and soldier, John Smith, leader of the Jamestown settlement
- \* Hudson felt that he was correct in believing that there was a Northwest Passage to the Pacific somewhere north of the Jamestown colony
- \* Fired by the **Muscovy Company**, the Dutch courted Hudson to find a shorter route to China
- \* Hired by the **Amsterdam Chapter of the East India Company** and wealthy Dutch merchants represented by **Emanuel van Meteren**, Hudson's directive was to find a Northeast Passage despite his and other's previous failures

# The New World



- \* Disregarded his company orders and sailed for the Northwest Passage, Hudson's vessel for the voyage, **Halve Maen (Half Moon)**
  - \* Sailed near the Jamestown settlement, and moved north entering Delaware Bay, the first European to do so
  - \* Hudson then sailed north and reached what are today, the outer reaches of New York harbor along the coast of Staten Island
- \* Hudson recorded in his journal that the land had great trading potential and an excellent harbor
- \* Hudson's crew one night supplied several Native Americans with alcohol in order to part the Indians with their furs. When the Indians would not yield their goods **Juet** and several crew members ambushed the Natives early the next morning wounding one Indian and taking the furs located outside of their dwelling







# A Hero's Welcome

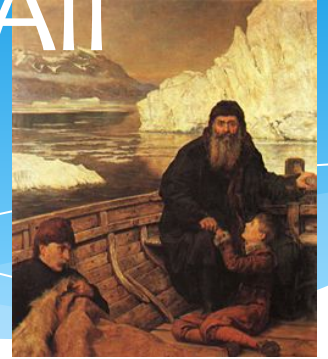
- \* While anchored, the English authorities detained Hudson and confiscated all of his charts, logs, and maps of his voyage
- \* The nation who could claim Hudson's charts and logs could claim commercial ownership of the land he had discovered
- \* The Dutch learned of this through their spies and managed to obtain copies of Hudson's report to the East India Company and van Meteren, who in turn published Hudson's report with additional comments, "as fine a river as can be found, wide and deep, with good anchoring ground on both sides"

# Attempt 3



- \* Hudson was still obsessed with finding a Northwest Passage to Cathy (Northern China) and set sail again in April of 1610
- \* Hudson used the ship, The *Discovery* during this voyage, and sailed into the “Great Bay of Ice” (now known as the Hudson Bay)
- \* Winter approached and supplies got low, they were forced to drag the *Discovery* onto the land as well to prevent it from being crushed by ice
- \* The sailors contracted scurvy, legs lamed with disease which was made worse by the frostbite and foot rot

# The Mutiny that Ended it All



- \* Dissatisfaction by the whole crew led to a mutiny again, this time his son was also against him, and the crew sent Hudson adrift in the Hudson Bay
  - \* When the crew returned to England, four crew members were charged and imprisoned on charges of mutiny but eventually all were acquitted
- \* Native American legends of the area claim that Hudson reached land and quietly lived out the rest of his life among the Indians
- \* Historians believe that what most likely happened to Hudson was that he perished in the icy waters of the Hudson Bay

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