Henry Hudson & Native Americans

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Hudson’s Journey in the New World

Most likely the first place Hudson’s first steps onto the soil of the New World was along the coast of Staten Island.

This location was also probably where the first meeting of Hudson and Native Americans took place.

The Indians described Hudson as dressed in a “red coat all glittering with gold lace.”

Hudson described the Natives as wearing dear skins and skins of other native animals for clothing.

The *Half Moon* anchored at many points along the Hudson River itself.

Hudson explored the rest of the Staten Island coast and parts of the New Jersey coast.

He sailed up the river and anchored along the Verrazano Narrows.
In mid-September, around the fifteenth of the month, Hudson anchored at night near Indian Point and Catskill.

By using Hudson log’s and first mate Juet calculations we can conclude that Hudson met with the Native Americans in these regions as well.

While anchored at Indian Point and Catskill, Hudson greeted the Native Americans aboard the *Half Moon* for the first time.
Hudson met with the indigenous people on the coast and traded European steel knives, hatchets, and beads for Native American corn, bread, and oysters.

The crew was quick to note the amount of furs the Natives had to trade and were correct in judging the potential for trade and profit.

Hudson sent a small boat ahead to sound the river only to be attacked by Indians.
When the boat returned, one of Hudson’s crew members had been killed by an arrow shot through his throat.

A meeting with the Indians were the Native American leader broke an arrow and threw it into a fire, symbolizing peace between the explores and Indians.

Hudson’s crew members soon began to ply the Indians with alcohol, in order to obtain the more valuable furs the natives had brought with them.

One of the Indians became so intoxicated that Hudson’s crew had him stay the night on the *Half Moon*.
Sail No More

Hudson used a small craft to explore the river north of Albany

With the combination of shallow soundings and the ship running aground, Hudson realized he could go no further upriver

“Been up 24 to 27 miles in which there was only seven feet of water inconstant soundings”
As he sailed down river, Hudson had meetings with other Native American tribes that lives along the river. Natives were peaceful and beneficial for both sides, however a meeting near present-day Peekskill ended in violence. One of the natives snuck into Hudson’s cabin and stole, “my pillow, two shirts, and two bandoliers.” Hudson fired on the native as he attempted to escape. “They appear to be a friendly people, but have a great prosperity to steal and are exceeding adroit in carrying away whatever they take a fancy to.” This was to be Hudson’s final encounter with the Native Americans on the river.
Bibliography


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