

be killed at once, as many do, rather than to fall into the hands of their enemies. When this execution was over, we set out upon our return with the rest of the prisoners, who went along continually singing, without other expectation than to be tortured like him of whom we have spoken. When we arrived at the rapids of the river of the Iroquois, the Algonquins returned into their own country and the [Hurons] also with some of the prisoners, all much pleased at what had taken place in the war, and because I had gone with them willingly. So we all separated with great protestations of mutual friendship, and they asked me if I would not go to their country, and aid them continually like a brother. I promised them I would.

* * *

1613

ROBERT JUET

In the same year that Champlain journeyed south into Iroquois territory, 1609, the English navigator Henry Hudson (c. 1570–1611), then working for the powerful Dutch East Indies Company, abandoned his orders to seek out a Northeast Passage leading around Russia to the Americas, and defiantly sailed west toward what is at present the coast of the northeastern United States. Eventually, he entered the large, complicated bay at the lower end of a river (now named for him), which, with its major tributary, the Mohawk, flowed south from the country of the Iroquois. Exploring the islands of the bay, including Manhattan, Hudson sailed up the river for 150 miles or so, to the vicinity of the modern city of Albany. In every part of his exploration of this river, Hudson and his crew encountered Native peoples (Lenni Lenape or Delaware, as well as Mahicanni or River Indians, among others), with whom they traded when not exchanging rank suspicions and even acts of open hostility and violence. At the northernmost extent of the expedition, the explorers also entertained one eventually befuddled Indian with brandy. Then, with the same odd mixture of curiosity, mercantile savvy, and armed intransigence, they went downriver again. Robert Juet (d. 1611), who kept the best contemporary record of the voyage but about whom little else is known, apparently was an English sailor. His penchant for violence may well have colored how he rendered what he saw and took part in. In June 1611, when accompanying Hudson on his final voyage, Juet helped foment a mutiny among his discontented fellow sailors. They overpowered Hudson and set him adrift, with his son and a handful of supporters, in a small boat and with few provisions, in what thereafter was known as Hudson's Bay. They were never seen again. Juet himself, acting as navigator for the starving mutineers, died a few days before they reached the coast of Ireland that September.

*From The Third Voyage of Master Henry Hudson*¹

[September 4, 1609]

* * * At night the wind blew hard at the north-west, and our anchor came home and we drove on shore, but took no hurt, thanked be God, for the ground is soft sand and ooze. This day the people of the country came aboard of us, seeming very glad of our coming, and brought green tobacco, and gave us of it for knives and beads. They go in deer skins loose, well dressed. They have yellow copper. They desire clothes, and are very civil. They have great store of maize or Indian wheat, whereof they make good bread. The country is full of great and tall oaks.

The *fifth*, in the morning, as soon as the day was light, the wind ceased and the flood came. So we heaved off our ship again into five fathoms water, and sent our boat to sound the bay,² and we found that there was three fathoms hard by the southern shore. Our men went on land there, and saw great store of men, women, and children, who gave them tobacco at their coming on land. So they went up into the woods, and saw great store of very goodly oaks and some currants. For one of them came aboard and brought some dried, and gave me some, which were sweet and good. This day many of the people came aboard, some in mantles of feathers, and some in skins of divers³ sorts of good furs. Some women also came to us with hemp. They had red copper tobacco pipes, and other things of copper they did wear about their necks. At night they went on land again, so we rode very quiet, but durst not trust them.

The *sixth*, in the morning, was fair weather, and our master sent John Colman, with four other men in our boat, over to the north-side to sound the other river, being four leagues from us. They found by the way shoal water, two fathoms; but at the north of the river eighteen, and twenty fathoms, and very good riding for ships; and a narrow river to the westward, between two islands. The lands, they told us, were as pleasant with grass and flowers and goodly trees as ever they had seen, and very sweet smells came from them. So they went in two leagues and saw an open sea, and returned; and as they came back, they were set upon by two canoes, the one having twelve, the other fourteen men. The night came on, and it began to rain, so that their match⁴ went out; and they had one man slain in the fight, which was an Englishman, named John Colman, with an arrow shot into his throat, and two more hurt. It grew so dark that they could not find the ship that night, but labored to and fro on their oars. They had so great a stream, that their grapnel⁵ would not hold them.

The *seventh*, was fair, and by ten of the clock they returned aboard the ship, and brought our dead man with them, whom we carried on land and buried, and named the point after his name, Colmans Point. Then we hoisted

1. The text is from *Henry Hudson the Navigator*, edited and translated by G. M. Asher (1860).

2. New York Bay.

3. I.e., diverse.

4. A wax-coated fuse kept burning to ignite the matchlock guns that soldiers carried before the

invention of the flintlock mechanism. Whereas in the latter device gunpowder is lighted by sparks struck from a piece of flint stone, matchlock weapons had to be lighted by hand.

5. Small claw-tipped anchor.

in our boat, and raised her side with waist boards⁶ for defence of our men. So we rode still all night, having good regard to our watch.

The *eight*, was very fair weather, we rode still very quietly. The people came aboard us, and brought tobacco and Indian wheat to exchange for knives and beads, and offered us no violence. So we fitting up our boat did mark⁷ them, to see if they would make any show of the death of our man; which they did not.

The *ninth*, fair weather. In the morning, two great canoes came aboard full of men; the one with their bows and arrows, and the other in show of buying of knives to betray us; but we perceived their intent. We took two of them to have kept them, and put red coats on them, and would not suffer the other to come near us. So they went on land, and two other came aboard in a canoe; we took the one and let the other go; but he which we had taken, got up and leapt over-board. Then we weighed and went off into the channel of the river, and anchored there all night.

* * *

The *fifteenth*, in the morning, was misty, until the sun arose: then it cleared. So we weighed with the wind at south, and ran up into the river twenty leagues, passing by high mountains. We had a very good depth, as six, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, and thirteen fathoms, and great store of salmons in the river. This morning our two savages got out of a port⁸ and swam away. After we were under sail, they called to us in scorn. At night we came to other mountains, which lie from⁹ the river's side. There we found very loving people, and very old men: where we were well used. Our boat went to fish, and caught great store of very good fish.

* * *

The *one and twentieth* was fair weather, and the wind all southerly: we determined yet once more to go farther up into the river. * * * Our master and his mate determined to try some of the chief men of the country, whether they had any treachery in them. So they took them down into the cabin, and gave them so much wine and *aqua vitae*¹ that they were all merry: and one of them had his wife with them, which sat so modestly, as any of our country women would do in a strange place. In the end one of them was drunk, which had been aboard of our ship all the time that we had been there: and that was strange to them; for they could not tell how to take it. The canoes and folk went all on shore: but some of them came again, and brought stropes of beads: some had six, seven, eight, nine, ten; and gave him.² So he slept all night quietly.

The *two and twentieth* was fair weather: in the morning our master's mate and four more of the company went up with our boat to sound the river higher up. The people of the country came not aboard till noon: but when they came, and saw the savages well, they were glad. So at three of the clock in the afternoon they came aboard, and brought tobacco, and more beads,

6. Boards inserted atop the low sides, or waist, of a ship.

7. Watch.

8. Hole for a gun.

9. I.e., away from.

1. Brandy.

2. I.e., gave him the wampum belts. "Stropes of beads": belts of wampum, made from marine shells and used as a kind of money.

and gave them to our master, and made an oration, and showed him all the country round about. Then they sent one of their company on land, who presently returned, and brought a great platter full of venison dressed by themselves; and they caused him to eat with them: then they made him reverence³ and departed, all save the old man that lay aboard.

* * *

The *first of October*, fair weather, the wind variable between the west and the north. In the morning we weighed at seven of the clock with the ebb, and got down below the mountains, which was seven leagues. Then it fell calm and the flood was come, and we anchored at twelve of the clock. The people of the mountains came aboard us, wondering at our ship and weapons. We bought some small skins of them for trifles. This afternoon, one canoe kept hanging under our stern with one man in it, which we could not keep from thence, who got up by our rudder to the cabin window, and stole out my pillow, and two shirts, and two bandoliers.⁴ Our master's mate shot at him, and struck him on the breast, and killed him. Whereupon all the rest fled away, some in their canoes, and so leapt out of them into the water. We manned our boat, and got our things again. Then one of them that swam got hold of our boat, thinking to overthrow it.⁵ But our cook took a sword, and cut off one of his hands, and he was drowned. By this time the ebb was come, and we weighed and got down two leagues: by that time it was dark. So we anchored in four fathoms water, and rode well.

The *second*, fair weather. At break of day we weighed, the wind being at north-west, and got down seven leagues; then the flood was come strong, so we anchored. Then came one of the savages that swam away from us at our going up the river with many others, thinking to betray us. But we perceived their intent, and suffered none of them to enter our ship. Whereupon two canoes full of men, with their bows and arrows shot at us after our stern: in recompense whereof we discharged six muskets, and killed two or three of them. Then above an hundred of them came to a point of land to shoot at us. There I shot a falcon⁶ at them, and killed two of them: whereupon the rest fled into the woods. Yet they manned off another canoe with nine or ten men, which came to meet us. So I shot at it also a falcon, and shot it through, and killed one of them. Then our men with their muskets killed three or four more of them. So they went their way; within a while after we got down two leagues beyond that place, and anchored in a bay, clear from all danger of them on the other side of the river, where we saw a very good piece of ground: and hard by it there was a cliff, that looked of the color of a white⁷ green, as though it were either copper or silver mine: and I think it to be one of them, by the trees that grow upon it. For they be all burned, and the other places are green as grass; it is on that side of the river that is called Manna-hata. There we saw no people to trouble us: and rode quietly all night; but had much wind and rain.

* * *

3. Paid him their respects.
4. Ammunition belts.
5. Tip it over.

6. A light cannon.
7. Whitish.