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THE
PALISADES
NEWSLETTER

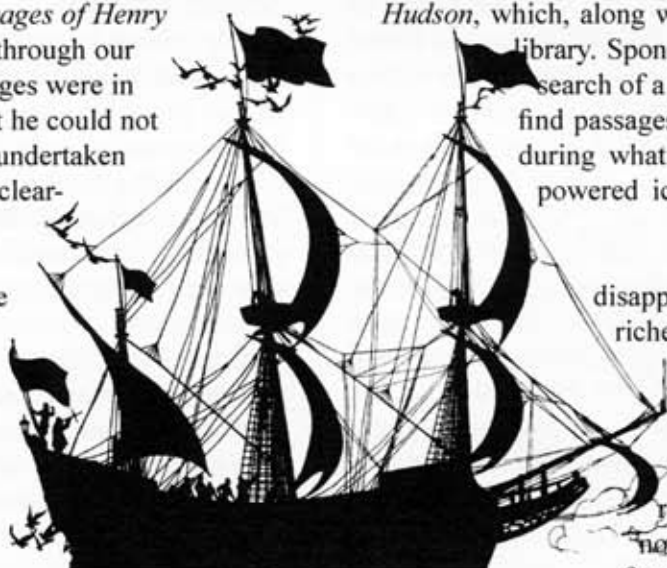
MARCH 2009 NUMBER 204

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUDSON'S HISTORIC VOYAGE

The 85-foot Dutch ship *Half Moon* sailed up the Hudson River nearly to Albany in September 1609 in search of a northwest passage to Asia. This year New York State celebrates that voyage as well as Champlain's 1609 discovery of the lake named after him and Fulton's initial 1807 steamboat journey on the Hudson.

I became aware that this was not the first but the third voyage by Hudson when I read Donald Johnson's *Charting the Sea of Darkness: The Four Voyages of Henry Hudson*, which, along with other books on him and the Hudson River, is available through our library. Sponsored by an English society, Hudson's first and second voyages were in search of a northeast passage to Asia by way of the north of Europe, but he could not find passages through thick sea ice. This is not surprising since it was undertaken during what is known as the Little Ice Age. (It took the advent of nuclear-powered icebreakers before that route could be navigated.)

While English investors were disappointed in Hudson's failure to find an open route to the riches of the Orient, the Dutch East India Company, England's greatest trading rival, funded his third voyage in 1609 with the stipulation that it too would be to the northeast. After sailing up the coast of Norway and experiencing ice blocking his passage, he abandoned that route and turned westward to the New World seeking a northwest passage. He explored the coast of North America from Nova Scotia and Maine



HALF MOON

down to Chesapeake and Delaware bays. Hudson's voyage took place two years after the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, and well before that at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Hudson's ship entered the river that would bear his name on September 10, sailed upriver to present-day Albany then departed New York harbor for Europe 24 days later. He returned to England instead of Holland where he was arrested for sailing under another nation's flag. Some have suggested that Hudson was acting as an English spy to get Dutch maps. On his fourth voyage, which was sponsored by English adventurers in 1610, he discovered Canada's Hudson Bay but perished when his crew mutinied and set him adrift in a small boat.

Hudson's explorations led to the founding of New Netherlands, which included New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island and sites on the Delaware and Housatonic rivers. Surprisingly, the first Dutch settlement was not New Amsterdam but Fort Nassau on Castle Island near Albany in 1615. While New Netherlands capitulated to England in 1664, Dutch influence continued long afterward.

While 17th century Dutch documents have been in the possession of New York State for more than a century, the Dutch language, being very different from that of today, hampered their translation into English. Dr. Charles Gehring, however, learned this older language. Over the last several decades he translated huge numbers of documents as the Director of the New Netherlands Project of New York State. They are now regarded as a national treasure. Russell Shorto's popular book *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan*

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PALISADES LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY WINDOW DEDICATION



STAINED GLASS ARTIST AND LOCAL RESIDENT HARRIET HYAMS WITH KIM AGNEW COHEN IN FRONT OF STAINED GLASS WINDOW DEDICATED TO BEATRICE AGNEW, IN HONOR OF HER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

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Hours: M-Thu 11-9, Fri-Sat 11-5, Sun 1-5, Closed April 12, Easter

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FOCUS ON JOB RESOURCES AT THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Tomorrow's Workplace employment resource center serves Rockland County. Services include: resume workshops, computer training software and job bank.
Web site: www.tomorrowworkplace.org

Don't overlook the New York State Department of Labor web site. It has the latest information on unemployment benefits. You can also find publications on job searching, interviews and resumes and a database of all job openings on file with New York State; www.labor.state.ny.us.

Thinking of a career change? *The Occupational Outlook Handbook* tells you the expected job prospectus, earnings, training and education needed for hundreds of different jobs; www.bls.gov/oco.

Use *Resume Maker Ultimate* on the library's public computer to create personalized resumes and cover letters. It includes career planning and assessment tools and tips on interviewing and negotiating salaries.

Go to the library's website for:

Learning Express. Practice exams for civil service, GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, NYS Real Estate Broker and Nursing exams.

Gale Business and Company Resource Center. Research potential employers by looking up information on thousands of businesses, including key personnel, financials, news articles and industry outlook.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Services for Senior Citizens

Thursday, March 5, 11-1:00 pm. *Chat with Eva Steen*, Community Outreach Caseworker for the Thorpe Senior Center, about services for seniors in Rockland County. Learn about social activities and/or opportunities to volunteer. For further information call 359-4058.

Palisades People Symposium - Body and Soul: Healthy Living 2009

Sunday, March 8, 3:30 pm, at the Esplanade, 640 Oak Tree Road. Join us for an enlightening panel discussion with *Carol Baxter*, food and nutrition expert; *Ray Bernick*, psychiatrist; *Paula Heitzner*, master yoga teacher; and *Celia Wang*, spa manager, *Weleda*. Suggested donation \$10.00.

Database Series: Novelist

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm. Can't decide what to read next? Learn how to use this reader guide.

Flower Arranging

Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 pm. Learn to display your