

September 19, 1609

The *Half Moon*



shoved further up the river
to where now Albany
nestles by the water

dropped anchor
and sent a smaller boat upriver

who brought back the news
that neither the Big River
nor its westward tributary
now the Mohawk

was fit for a passage to Spice

September 20

a smaller boat was sent upstream
a second time to “sound the river”
then, uh oh, only two leagues to the north, that’s 6 miles
the river’s channel became narrow
with varying depths

On the 21st, the ship’s carpenter went ashore
to make a fore-yard
Hudson decided to test some Natives
“whether he had any treachery in them”
They brought some Natives into the cabin
to get them drink on wine and aqua-vita
but found no treachery, just a bit of drunken merriment.

September 22

in the spirit of “measure twice, cut once”
a party of five “went up without boat”
to sound the river

In the afternoon Natives boarded
to give Henry Hudson some beads & tobacco
They brought a “great platter” stacked with venison
and pointed out to the captain “all the country round about”
then departed all except the old Native hostage

And then in the evening after dark
the small boat returned
from sounding the Hudson

They had traveled upriver about 24 miles
and found the water so shallow
that the *Half Moon* would not be able

to advance much further

This was not the route to Cathay

During the next few days the *Half Moon*
worked back down the River

At one spot they gathered a big store of chestnuts

On the 25th of September
some of Hudson's sailors walked on the west side of the River
and "found good ground for corn and other garden herbs."
They noted great stands of oaks, walnuts and chestnuts
and a big amount of what Robert Juet called "good stones," plus
a "great store of slate" useful for building houses

In his report to the Dutch West India Company
the Captain would stir the advent of Dutch settlers
on the Hudson's fair shoresides



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