

Colony of New York

For more than 300 years, there was very little contention between England and Holland. After the conclusion of the Thirty Year War in Europe, they began a rivalry over who would dominate the seas. Henry Hudson, an Englishman, was unable to convince anyone in England to back his proposed expedition to search for a route to the Indies. He already had a failed attempt under his belt and wanted another shot at it. He eventually approached the Dutch, who had become England's biggest rivals in trade. He was hired by the Dutch East India Company to find an eastern route to the Indies. Due to heavy ice, the expedition was unable to follow their prescribed route, through the Arctic Ocean north of Russia. They turned around to sail home, but acting outside of his orders, Hudson set sail west to try and find a passage in that direction.

Hudson explored the Northeastern coast of America and eventually entered a wide river heading inland near present day New York City. He hoped the river, that now bears his name, would provide him with a passage to the Pacific Ocean. After traveling approximately 150 miles up the river, he found it too shallow to continue so he turned around.

When Hudson returned home to England, he was detained by English officials for sailing under another nation's flag. He forwarded his account of his discoveries to his Dutch employers. The Dutch laid claim to the land he explored in America naming it New Netherland. The English already viewed it as their land from the exploration of John Cabot in the late 1400's. If the Dutch kept the land, it would separate it from the other English colonies and would prevent total British dominance in North America.

Although the English demanded the Dutch to surrender the land to them, and the Dutch agreed, the Dutch continued their residence and constructed a fort on the southern part of the island. This was the beginning of New Amsterdam. The Dutch settled and inhabited the land until 1664.

Charles II, king of England, never stopped believing the land belonged to England and made a grant to his brother James, the Duke of York. The Duke wasted no time in taking his claim and soon had sent a squadron of men, 300 strong to take control from the Dutch. Peter Stuyvesant, the governor at the time, wanted to defend his colony but the people weren't behind him. They had tired of his tyrannical tactics and wanted to take part in government, but weren't given the chance under his rule. He knew he was no match for the English stronghold and surrendered jurisdiction easily without bloodshed. The name "New Netherland" was quickly changed to New York and the city of New Amsterdam was changed to New York City.

Timeline/Interesting Facts of New York Colony

1609-Henry Hudson explored the coast of America, extending up the river that would later be named for him
1624-1st Dutch settlement was established. The Dutch ruled New Netherland for 40 years.
1664- The British Army gained control of New Netherland and changed name to New York
1765-NYC hosts 1st Colonial Congress to discuss the King of England's Stamp Act
1776- New York declares independence on July 9 and becomes one of the original 13 states
1777- New York's 1st Constitution
1783- Last British troops leave NYC and Gen. George Washington enters city to cheers of New Yorkers
1785-1790-NY becomes 1st capital of U.S. and George Washington is inaugurated as 1st President
1802-U.S. Military Academy opens at West Point
1827- NY outlaws slavery and becomes an important part of the Underground Railroad
1848- NY holds 1st nation's women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY.
1860's- NY supplied almost 1/6 of all Union forces who fought in the Civil War.
1886- Statue of Liberty was received as a gift from France and dedicated on Oct. 28 in New York Harbor
1902- New York City's 1st skyscraper was built and named the Flatiron Building
1952- New York became the permanent headquarters of the United Nations
1969- Woodstock...need I say more?
1977- The "I Love NY" tourism campaign was created to boost the state's economy during a recession.
1993- Terrorist attack at the World Trade Center killed 6 people and injured 1,000
2000- Hillary Clinton becomes first female to be elected to New York's Senate
2001- Terrorist attack at the World Trade Center killing 3,000 people
2008-David Peterson became the first African-American governor in NY. He is also the first governor to be legally blind.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hudson
http://www.ianchadwick.com/udson/udson_03.htm
<http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/new-york>
<http://www.celebrateboston.com/history/new-york.htm>
<http://www.usahistory.info/colonies/New-York.html>