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On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Dutch Heritage



Through the Municipal Seals in New York
1609 to 2009

Second Edition

Compiled by Marvin W. Bubie



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**On the Trail of Henry Hudson
and Our Dutch Heritage
Through the Municipal Seals of New York
1609 to 2009**

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Cover design created by Richard Vang, ©2014, Square Circle Press.

Front cover: The image used for the seal is a photograph by Richard Vang, of Henry Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, taken just south of Albany during the flotilla that commemorated the 400th anniversary of the explorer's voyage up the Hudson River. Photograph ©2009, Square Circle Press.

Back cover: Stained glass representation of the Half Moon, created for the municipal buildings of the Town of Halfmoon.

Title page: Representation of the Half Moon on a thread painted quilt, created by Barbara Brown for the Town of Stuyvesant for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial in 2009. The image has been cropped for use on the title page.

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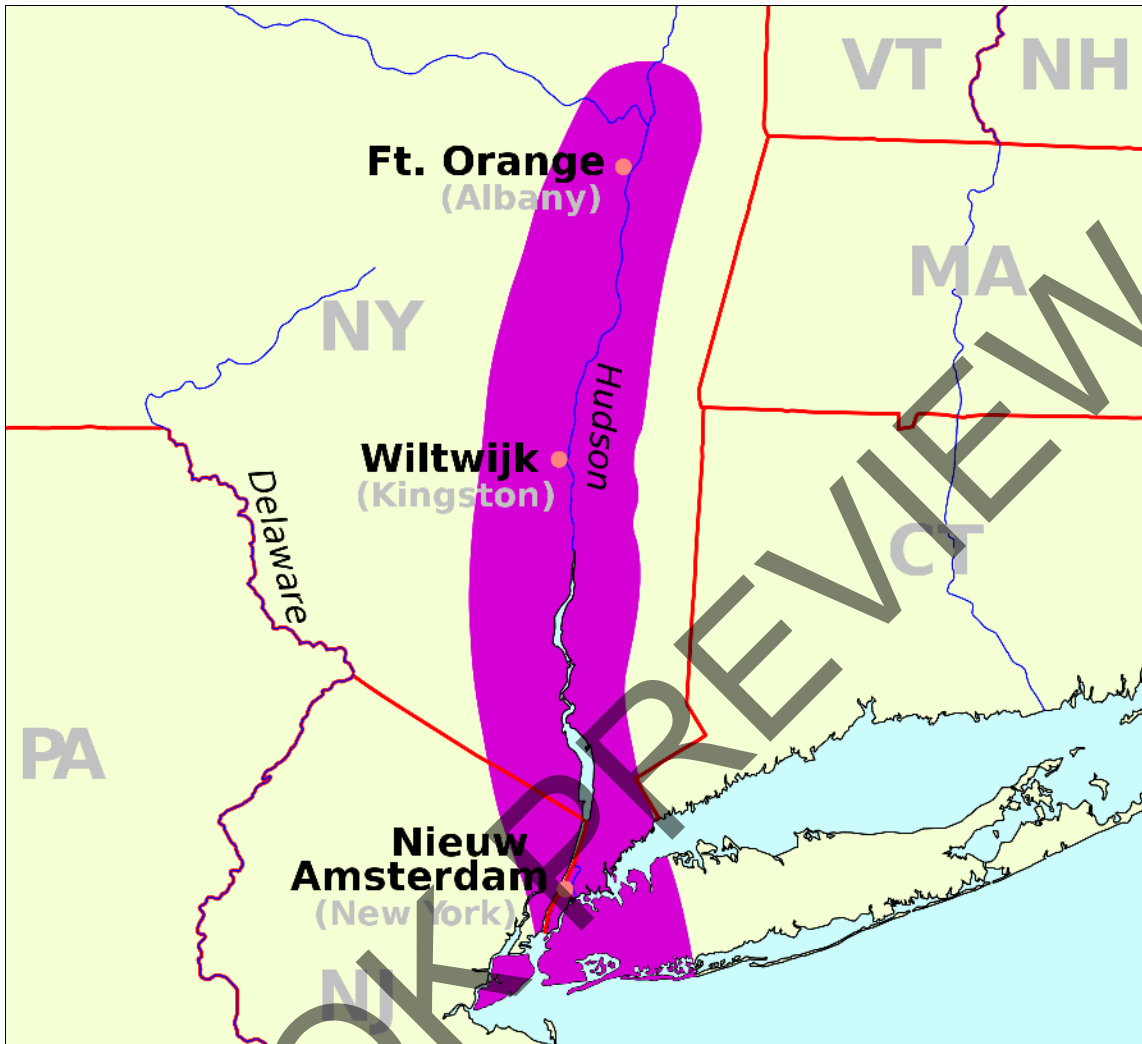
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New Netherland, ca. 1650 . This has been cropped from the original, *Karte von Neu-Niederland und Neu-Schweden etwa 1650* (Map of New-Nederland and New-Sweden ca. 1650), available on the Wikimedia Commons web site. Though it is a modern representation and seems to be somewhat controversial, it gives an excellent representation of the geographic region covered in this book.



New York City

New York City has one of the oldest seals having adopted it in 1686. Therefore, it is one of the seals which, on official record, follows the ancient rules of heraldry, but the text below has been revised into more common language. It contains an illustration of the beaver similar to the earlier seal of New Amsterdam. The beaver was of primary economic importance to New Netherland.

The coat of arms are displayed upon a shield, with the sails of a windmill in a diagonal cross. Two beavers are between the sails, above and below, and on each side is a flour barrel.

Supporting the shield, is a sailor, who holds a plummet in his right hand, his left arm supporting the top of the shield. Above his right shoulder is a cross-staff. On the other side is a brave of the Lenni Lenape of Manhattan, his right arm supporting top of the shield, his left hand holding the upper end of a bow, the lower end of which rests on the

ground. The shield and the supporters rest upon a horizontal laurel branch.

The date of 1625, beneath the horizontal laurel branch is the year of the establishment of New Amsterdam.

Upon the crest is an American eagle with wings displayed, upon a hemisphere. The eagle replaced the British crown in 1783.

The legend is a ribbon encircling the lower half of the design, with the words *Sigillum Civitatis Novi Eboraci*, Latin for Seal of the City of New York.

The whole is encircled by a laurel wreath.

Borough of Manhattan

In addition to the seal of New York City, each of the five boroughs has its own administration, each with a President of the Borough and of course, their own flag and their own seal. The Borough of Manhattan is coterminous with New York County.

The seal of Manhattan is very similar to the seal of New York City, with a crest showing windmill blade, beaver, and barrels of flour. The Dutch sailor and Native American also appear as does the American eagle on a hemisphere. The laurel wreath is not included and the date on the seal is November 1, 1683. This is the date when New York City was divided into wards, Manhattan being one of them.





Town of Hyde Park

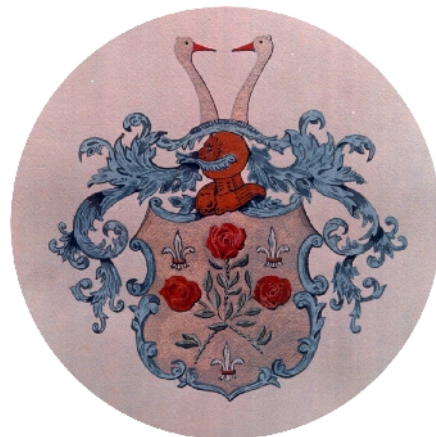
Hyde Park was originally settled by Jacobus Stoutenburg, of Dutch descent, in 1742 and was known at that time by the family name. He was a descendant of Peter van Stoutenburg of Amersfoot, Pays d'Utrecht, Netherlands. His most notable position was the first Treasurer of New Amsterdam (New York City). The town was officially named Hyde Park in 1812. Its seals provide a perfect example of the development of seals and municipal logos in American life.

The new seal above was adopted officially in 2014. It celebrates the iconic view of the Hudson River from Hyde Park, long enjoyed by artists, residents, and visitors to the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. It features a stone wall with daffodils in the foreground, a distinctive feature of the town, along with Henry Hudson's ship the Half Moon, and a border of stars symbolizing the 32nd U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The seal was designed and created by Town Historian Carol Kohan and graphics designer Yvonne Laube.

As a way to present a town seal that would be more easily recognized by the public as representative of the multiple facets of modern Hyde Park, the town went from a more traditional heraldic seal, to one that is more of a tool for corporate branding. Since 1964, the seal had been a composite coat of arms of two of the town's founding families, the Stoutenburgs and the Roosevelts. It was designed by then Town Historian Beatrice Frederiksen and Reverend Gordon Kidd of St. James Episcopal Church, and drawn by Albert McClure, curator with the National Park Service. The older seal of Hyde Park is a variation of the Stoutenburg family crest, with three roses added to represent the Roosevelt family. *Roosevelt* means "field of roses" in Dutch. Franklin Roosevelt was of Dutch lineage and he was godfather to Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, who was born in 1943. The town plans to retain the coat of arms as an important part of the town's administrative history.

In addition to this interesting history, the town has used a silhouette of FDR as their marketing logo on signs around the town. Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park is another major tourist attraction. However, with the passing of anti-smoking legislation, the image, complete with cigarette holder jutting from the President's mouth, has become somewhat controversial.





Village of Catskill

“Rip Van Winkle” is a short story by American author Washington Irving, first published in 1819. Set just before the American Revolution, the character falls asleep in the Catskill Mountains for twenty years. He dreams of watching Henry Hudson and his crew playing 9-pins, and wakes up to find many changes in America and the Catskills. Interestingly, Irving wrote the story while living in England, and later claimed to have not ever been in the Catskills before he wrote it.

In addition to the natural beauty of the Catskills depicted in the seal, the Half Moon is shown sailing the waters of Rip Van Winkle’s flowing beard while he sleeps.



Village of Waterford

The simple seal of the Village of Waterford shows only a Dutch sloop under a half moon, but it speaks volumes of history.

In the 17th century Dutch traders and trappers first settled in Waterford, originally known as "Halfmoon" for the northernmost point of Hudson's 1609 voyage. When the village site was purchased in 1784 by Colonel Jacobus Van Schoonhoven and several others, settlement came rapidly. The village was incorporated in 1794, taking its name from the fording place on the Mohawk River, and is the oldest continually incorporated village in the United States.

Waterford lay at the head of sloop navigation on the Hudson River, and prospered from that trade when the Champlain and Erie Canals opened. At Waterford, sloop freight was loaded onto canal barges for transport, and the village became a major gateway to the canal system.



About the Author

Marvin Bubie was born and raised in the Capital District, graduating from Averill Park High School and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is retired from General Electric and has lived in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Virginia. In addition, he spent eighteen months in Germany with the US Army, and has returned to Europe many times visiting Switzerland, Italy, Austria, and Germany. Over the years he has collected the seals of various cities, towns, counties, boroughs, and villages in this country, as well as those in Europe. He has published two similar books, *Along the Erie Canal with the Municipal Seals of the Cities, Towns and Villages of New York*, and *Celebrating the American Revolution: Municipal Symbols of a Free Country*, and is at work on another book of seals related to railroading heritage.