



‘Henry Hudson and The Half Moon’ is about the voyage made by Henry Hudson in 1609. In that year Hudson, under contract to the VOC (Dutch East Indian Trading Company), sailed from Amsterdam northward towards the pole to search for a northeasterly route to China. Against orders Hudson changed course and sailed westward to search for the passage. After crossing the Atlantic Ocean the ship, after a period of roaming down the east coast of America, arrived at the mouth of the Hudson River. Hoping for the possibility of a passage, Hudson decided to explore this river, afterwards named after him. The river was navigable up to the point where Albany currently lies. The ‘Half Moon’ eventually reached this point. When it became obvious that there was no possible northwest passage, Hudson was forced to end the expedition. Because of breach of contract he didn’t dare to return to Amsterdam and so sailed to England where he got into trouble for having worked for the Dutch.

The continuous story can roughly be divided into 5 parts:

- 1 - A prediction by the original inhabitants of North America, the Indians, that an unknown ship shall appear at the coast and on the rivers of their land. After the arrival of this ship life shall be forever changed.
- 2 - The origins of the VOC and their search for a passage to India. Amsterdam 1608. There are rumors that the VOC is going to begin a new expedition to search for a Northeast Passage. An English explorer appears: Henry Hudson.
- 3 - The journey of Hudson in 1609 with the ship the “Half Moon” - at first in the direction of Nova Zembla and later in a westerly direction - until the coast of America is reached. This part is based on the logbook of the first mate, Juet.
- 4 - The 31-day journey in which the “Half Moon” explores the Hudson River. The logbook of the first mate, Juet describes the beauty of the river and its banks, as well as the troubles met along the way. The journey is centered on the many contacts between Hudson and his crew with the Indians, who watch amazed as a strange ship sails up their river.
- 5 - When at a certain point the river becomes unnavigable Hudson is forced by this, as well as pressure from his crew, to end the journey and return across the ocean.