



Timelines of  
Point  
Pleasant  
History

# The Henry Hudson Voyage of 1609

## For Additional Information:

The New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, published Juet's Journal in 1959. It contains the entire text of the journal with notations and an introduction by well-known state historian John T. Cunningham.



## Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum

416 New Jersey Avenue  
PO Box 1273  
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742  
(732) 892-3091

Web: [www.pphsm.org](http://www.pphsm.org)  
Facebook: @PPHSMNJ  
Twitter: @PointMuseum  
Email:

[ppbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ppbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



## The First Word on Point Pleasant:

"This is a very good Land to fall with, and a pleasant Land to see."

Right: Henry Hudson's Ship *The Half Moon*

Written history of the Point Pleasant area began on September 2, 1609 when Henry Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, sailed northward along the New Jersey shore and past Point Pleasant. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that other European explorers had sailed by, but they left no records. Aboard the Half Moon was a crewman named Robert Juet who kept a journal. For the most part it is a matter-of-fact series of entries – detailing lands seen, tides, currents and water depths. But occasionally Juet departed from his usual style to express an opinion. And so it was that at the end of that day he became the first ever to write of the charms of the Jersey Shore, proclaiming "This is a very good Land to fall with, and a pleasant Land to see." It would be presumptuous to claim that Juet was referring exactly to the area that was to become known as Point Pleasant, but he was the first person to see it and write about it. And to the joy of publicists hundreds of years later, he liked what he saw.

Little is known about Robert Juet of Limehouse, England. He was probably an officer, but it is not known if his journal was an official ship's log or a private diary created by an inquisitive and literate sailor. It is silent on the subject of an attempted mutiny early in the voyage. In a subsequent trip with Hudson, Juet was implicated in a mutiny. He died in 1611 as that voyage was returning home. The following is the entry of the Juet Journal for the day the Half Moon sailed up the Jersey coast and into Raritan Bay for several days of rest and restocking before exploring the Hudson River. Notations are made of probable (at the time) unnamed landmarks:

*The first of September, faire weather, the wind variable betweene East and South, we steered away North North-west. At Noone we found our height to bee 39. degrees 3 minutes. Wee had soundings thirtie, twentie seven, twentie foure, and twentie two fathomes, as wee went to the Northward. At sixe of the clocke wee had one of the twentie fathomes. And all the third watch till twelve of the clocke at mid-night, we had soundings one and twentie, two and twentie, eighteen, and two and twentie fathoms, and went sixe leagues neere hand North North-west.*

*The second [of September], in the morning close weather, the winde at South in the morning; from twelve until two of the clocke we steered North North-west, and had sounding one and twentie fathoms, and in running one Glasse we had but sixteene fathoms, then seventeene, and so shoalder and shoalder until it came to twelve fathoms. We saw a great Fire, but could not see the Land, then we came to ten fathoms, whereupon we brought out tacks aboard, and stood to the Eastward East South-east, foure Glasses. Then the Sunne arose, and we steered away North againe, and saw the Land from the West by North, to the North-west by North, like all broken llands. [The coast between Atlantic City and Little Egg Inlet], and our soundings were eleven and ten fathoms. Then wee looft in the shoare, and faire by the shoare, we had seven fathoms. The course along the Land we found to be North-east by North. From the Land which we had first sight of, until we came to a great Lake of water, as wee could judge it to bee, being downed Land, which made it to rise like llands, which was in length ten leagues [Barnegat Bay]. The mouth of that Lake hath many shoalds, and the Sea breaketh on them as it is cast out of the mouth of it [Barnegat Inlet]. And from that Lake or Bay, the land lyeth North by East and wee had a great streame out of the Bay; and from thence our sounding was ten fathoms, two leagues from the Land. At five of the clocke we Anchored, and being little winde, and rode in eight fathoms water, the night was faire. This night I found the Land to hall the Compasse 8. degrees For [far] to the Northward of us we saw high hills [Navesink Highlands, Staten Island hills or both]. For the day before we found not above 2 degrees Variation. This is a very good Land to fall with, and a pleasant Land to see.*

Copyright © 2019 Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum (PPHSM). All rights reserved. The material published on this website is intended for general information only. The PPHSM is not responsible for the content of any third-party website to which links are provided from this website. Any links to websites are provided for your information and convenience only. The PPHSM does not endorse or control these websites and cannot guarantee that material on those sites is in all respects accurate, complete and current. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, or otherwise without prior permission of the Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum, P.O. Box 1273, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742.