HENRY HUDSON 400 EXPLORES NEW YORK-DUTCH HISTORY USING GOOGLE MAPS

The Henry Hudson 400 Foundation has inaugurated a revolutionary map project on its website that tells the story of 17th century exploration and the history of the early Dutch settlement of New York with the help of 21st century digital mapping technology provided by Google. These maps can be viewed at www.henryhudson400.com.

Henry Hudson 400 is a nonprofit foundation organized to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival in New York in 1609. Its mission is to connect history to the future based on themes from the 17th century that are still relevant today, including tolerance, commerce, trade, exploration, and maps. Google Maps offers powerful, user-friendly mapping technology and local business information in the context of satellite imagery, street level imagery, and user-contributed content. Google Maps is the most popular online mapping site in the world and can be accessed at maps.google.com

Borrowing from the National Archives of the Netherlands, Henry Hudson 400 has taken a selection of rare maps and documents, and in collaboration with Google, overlaid them onto contemporary Google maps of the same areas. These rare maps and original documents will be exhibited at the South St. Seaport Museum this fall in an exhibit entitled *Island at the Center of the World: An Exhibition.* The interactive historic maps on www.henryhudson400.com also chart the courses of Henry Hudson's four voyages in search of a shorter route to Asia. On his legendary third voyage, ice storms near the North Pole forced a U-turn that led Hudson and the crew on his boat, the Half Moon, to eventually drop anchor along Mannahatta, which led to the first Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam.

Along with the historic voyages, these interactive maps are lavishly adorned with photos and 3-D models of Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, and rich historical information is integrated into the maps. People can click on the maps to discover the tantalizing history of some of the first New Yorkers as well as intriguing information on the unique multicultural mix that is today's New York. This innovative and customized application built with Google Maps technology allows users to visually navigate and explore the historical, cultural and economic ties between the Netherlands and the United States with cutting edge techniques. There is also a portal for users to upload stories of their own American or Dutch ancestry. The maps offer many avenues of exploration:

> -Students, teachers and history buffs can trace historic voyages and learn the captivating details of exploration.

> -New Yorkers, both natives and newcomers, can trace their Dutch DNA or their ancestry in the earliest settlers as well as learn about the newest New Yorkers.

-Environmentalists, in the section called Water Challenges, can trace the coastlines of the 17th century and read about climate change through the years.

-Culture seekers, under Events, will find a guide with key links to the major events of the 2009 Henry Hudson commemoration, including the Glory of Dutch Bulbs at The New York Botanical Garden, a transatlantic Job Swap, The New Amsterdam Trail, and the H209 international water forum.

According to Angela Haines, executive director of Henry Hudson 400 New York that spearheaded the collaboration, "Maps are destiny -- in the 17th century they were kept under lock and key away from the scrutiny of political enemies or competitors. This innovative map project with Google allows us to celebrate the Dutch legacy but also to link to the future, from globalization to environmental challenges, with the benefits of Google's cutting edge technology."

Jeff Martin, Product Marketing Manager for Google Maps, adds, "We were happy to contribute technological support to the Henry Hudson Foundation to help illuminate this era in American history and, through the juxtaposition of 17th century hand-illustrated cartography with modern digital maps, to highlight the dramatic evolution of mapping over time."

Henry Hudson 400 New York is a foundation created to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's legendary voyage for the Dutch to the Hudson River and New York. The unique character of New York City, originally New Amsterdam, has been shaped by the legacy of the multiethnic and tolerant culture of 17th century Amsterdam. Henry Hudson 400 is producing a series of special events in 2009 to celebrate the spirit of freedom, enterprise, and diversity shared by Amsterdam and New York. www.henryhudson400.com

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