

**A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF
GREENWICH, FAIRFIELD
COUNTY, CONN., WITH MANY
IMPORTANT STATISTICS. [1857]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649754038

A History of the Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn., with Many Important Statistics.
[1857] by Daniel M. Mead

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

DANIEL M. MEAD

**A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF
GREENWICH, FAIRFIELD
COUNTY, CONN., WITH MANY
IMPORTANT STATISTICS. [1857]**

A HISTORY
OF THE TOWN OF
GREENWICH,
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONN.,

WITH
Many Important Statistics.

BY
DANIEL M. MEAD,
ATTORNEY, ETC., AT LAW, GREENWICH, CONN.

NEW YORK:
BAKER & GODWIN, PRINTERS.
CORNER NASSAU AND SPRUCE STREETS.
1857.

F 104
.G 8 M 4
Copy 2

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1857, by
DANIEL M. MEAD,
In the Clerk's Office for the District Court of Connecticut.

206441
3j

HISTORY OF GREENWICH.



DISCOVERY.

QUINNEHTUKQUT, the old Indian name for Connecticut, lying behind Long Island and a Sound with one outlet almost impassable to the unacquainted navigator, escaped for a while the attention of the early European navigators. And although John and Sebastian Cabot, in 1498, sailed along the whole coast of North America under the auspices of cross old Henry VIII., yet they never caught a view of Connecticut. Nevertheless, King Henry deemed himself rightfully possessed of the whole territory of North America, because, forsooth, a few of his subjects had cast their eyes on some of the jutting capes and promontories. In 1524, John Verazzano, a Florentine adventurer, with an outfit under the auspices of King Francis I. of France, sailed

along nearly the same extent of coast more leisurely, and he more definitely explored its bays and harbors. He lay with his vessel fifteen days in the beautiful harbor of Newport. Whether he visited New York Bay is still a mooted question among authors. The French maintain and the Dutch deny, that he did so. But it is not claimed by any that he sailed through the Sound; and he must have passed by without having seen the bays and harbors of Connecticut.

Hendricke Hudson, on the 4th of September, 1609, with a mixed crew of English and Dutch on board the *Half-moon* (*Halve-Maan*), sailed gallantly into New York harbor. He proceeded up the North river instead of the East, and searched for the Northwest Passage; for he sailed with the same purpose which actuated the unfortunate Sir John Franklin three hundred and fifty years later. Though Hudson was in his own purpose unsuccessful, yet his discoveries led to the early settlement of the Island of Manhattan. The Dutch soon commenced trading with the Indians along the shores of the Hudson, which river the Indians called *Mahicannittuck*. And then in the early part of 1613, began the early settlement

of Niew Amsterdam under the command of Hendricke Corstiaensen, who afterward became noted as an adventurer. Four small huts built at that time, were the small beginnings of the present city of New York.

About this time there was a check upon marine enterprise throughout all Europe. The Dutch, being then the most extensive navigators, recovered first from its effects. An Ordinance, passed at Gravenhague by the Assembly, on the 27th of March, 1614, restored to their navigators their customary activity. A company of merchants fitted out a fleet of five ships, and put them under the command of three distinguished sailors, Adrien Block, Hendricke Corstiaensen, and Cornelius Jacobson Mey. All arrived safely at Niew Amsterdam on the "mouth of the great river of the Manhattans" in the latter part of September of the same year. Here they separated. It was the intention of Block to sail farther up the Hudson than the original discoverer had done, while Corstiaensen should examine the Southern coast of Long Island (Serwan-Hacky or Mentoac, the land of shells), and Mey, his other fellow-commander, should sail along the coast of New Jersey.

After the departure of his former comrades, Block was compelled by accident to relinquish his design. His vessel was consumed by fire, while yet lying at Niew Amsterdam filled with provision for the projected expedition. But the intrepid Dutchman, not disheartened by the loss of his ship and the absence of his fellow-voyagers, immediately built a small vessel, which he called the *Restless*. Its length was forty-four and a half feet, and its breadth eleven and a half. This was the beginning of ship-building in New York, now owning the largest and fleetest ships in the world.

Not knowing whether the Hudson would lead to a northwest passage or not, Block would not venture in so small a vessel to find out, but chose rather to explore the East River. Accordingly, proceeding in this new direction, the *Restless* passed safely through a dangerous strait, to which Block gave the name which it has borne ever since, calling it "Hellegat, after a branch of the river Scheldt in East Flanders." After reaching the open sound he kept along the northern shore. Consequently he made the first discovery of what now forms Connecticut, when, from the deck of his vessel, he and his crew looked upon the

rocky hills of Greenwich. This was in the early part of 1614. As he passed by them, he named the Norwalk Islands the "Archipelagos," and the Housatonic he called the "River of the Red Mountains." Farther on he discovered the Connecticut, and calling it Fresh River, he sailed several miles from its mouth upward. Descending again, he continued his course through the Sound. Block Island yet bears the name of the navigator himself. Off Cape Cod he fell in with his former companion Corstiaensen, who had been exploring the southern coast of Long Island.

The crew of the *Restless* then, having been diverted this way by accident, were the first to look upon our hills. Yet they passed by, only seeing. This was five years previous to the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, in 1620. We will now forget those European visitors, and turn our attention to the native Indians, and look at their situation as given us by the various authorities, O'Callaghan in particular. Not having seen the stranger visitors, who passed them in a single day, they little dreamed of the terrible destruction about to come upon them by the hands of the brethren of these very strangers who came