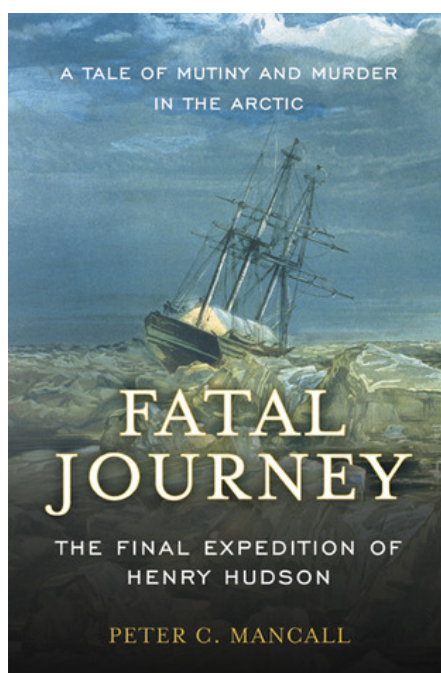




Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson

Peter C. Mancall

Download now

Read Online ➔

Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson

Peter C. Mancall

Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson Peter C. Mancall

The English explorer Henry Hudson devoted his life to the search for a water route through America, becoming the first European to navigate the Hudson River in the process. In *Fatal Journey*, acclaimed historian and biographer Peter C. Mancall narrates Hudson's final expedition. In the winter of 1610, after navigating dangerous fields of icebergs near the northern tip of Labrador, Hudson's small ship became trapped in winter ice. Provisions grew scarce and tensions mounted amongst the crew. Within months, the men mutinied, forcing Hudson, his teenage son, and seven other men into a skiff, which they left floating in the Hudson Bay.

A story of exploration, desperation, and icebound tragedy, *Fatal Journey* vividly chronicles the undoing of the great explorer, not by an angry ocean, but at the hands of his own men.

Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson Details

Date : Published June 9th 2009 by Basic Books (first published May 28th 2009)

ISBN : 9780465005116

Author : Peter C. Mancall

Format : Hardcover 303 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Biography, World History



[Download Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson Peter C. Mancall

From Reader Review Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson for online ebook

Marian Willeke says

I found "Fatal Journey" to be a lighter read than expected; however, this had a lot to do with the fact that this particular story of Hudson's last journey requires conjecture based on what few facts we have. Mancall did an excellent job weaving what few sources he had on the issue with the narrative approach to this historical period. I was impressed with the context and supporting sources that was provided to help provide more insight to the motivations and circumstances of both Hudson and his men. While there definitely leaves a lot of possibilities for Hudson's fateful end, this book is an excellently written history on a subset for the age of discovery presented along Hudson's timeline. Although I was disappointed because there was less detail on the shipping aspects itself, this had a higher overview of what drove maritime regulations and expectations for seamen.

Jim says

A story of exploration and tragedy in the Arctic, the story of the final voyage of Henry Hudson...in 1610, the Englishman Hudson set out with a small ship and a 22-man crew to seek the Northwest Passage across the north of the Americas to reach "the South Sea (the Pacific)." Navigating their way through dangerous icebergs, Hudson and his men made it to the Straits and the Bay now named for him. As Hudson traveled south into Hudson's Bay, he hoped it connected to the Pacific and he would soon arrive in Japan. It was not to be. Instead, Hudson was trapped in the ice in James Bay. What happened next was a mutiny by Hudson's crew and the death of Hudson. Peter Mancall does a good job of telling the story, giving us also a good background about the Age of Discovery, when men in small sailing ships voyaged around the world seeking riches but also to expand human knowledge of the world in which we live.

Chris says

I suppose I should note that I actually forgot the title of this book even though I finished it yesterday. And the book isn't really that bad. Supposedly a chronicle of Hudson's last and fatal journey, the book does look at the exploration of the north that was going on in the late 1500s and early 1600s. The weak part, strangely enough, is the description of Hudson's last trip where it becomes very difficult to keep track of who is who in the crew. Additionally, I would've liked to know what happened to Hudson's family. Yet, if you are looking at the discovery of the Northwest passage, this is something that you should read. The writing is good and engaging. It keeps the reader though the story.

Howard says

This is a disappointing account of one of the most successful of all the European explorers of North America. It is marred by supposition and presumption as well as repetition and unnecessary digressions that smack of padding the story.

I gave it two stars only because I did learn some things about Hudson's voyages of discovery and his tragic fate in the fourth and final one that I had not known before reading the book.

Nathan Albright says

For some reason, which I am not consciously aware of, I have a taste for reading books about historical mutinies for some reason or another from time to time [1]. Mutinies thrive on situations where trust is lacking and where danger is high, and those circumstances certainly were in play during the early explorations of the age of discovery, where provisioning was often lacking and where intrepid captains in search of new paths to spices and trade wealth put themselves and their crews in harm's way. It is not a wonder that there were mutinies given the absence of state control over far flung ships of discovery, but rather that they happened as rarely as they did. In this particular book we have a bit of puffing by the author but a great deal of interesting context about the subject of the book, Henry Hudson, and his life and times. Since Henry Hudson was an early English navigator and explorer who is remembered through his exploration of Hudson Bay and the Hudson River in the unsuccessful search for the Northwest Passage--he also unsuccessfully sought the Northeast Passage--he is certainly well worth knowing about.

This book, in a bit more than 200 pages, reads like a historical mystery novel. The author begins in media res with a discussion of the mutiny that left him marooned in subarctic Canada while his erstwhile servant led a group of unhappy people back towards England, many of whom would not make it. After that the author spends a couple of chapters looking at the context of northern exploration and the desire for European countries of new trade routes that would help in obtaining spices. Finally, after this the author discusses Hudson's previous explorations in the North Atlantic and his efforts to find a Northwest Passage. Finally, after nearly 100 pages, the author begins talking about the fatal voyage that led Hudson to discover the bay named after him that stranded his crew in ice for an entire winter and that after some moves by a few upset crew members, led to a mutiny by four (or more) of his sailors that led to him and a few others (including one of his sons) to being put in a small boat and left behind as the mutineers set sail for home. Most of the book focuses on the interrogations of the few surviving crew, the efforts by others to find the few traces of his efforts to survive that could be found, the murder trial of a couple of the surviving crew members that was inconclusive, and the author's own reasonable speculation as to the ultimate and unpleasant fate of Hudson and those marooned with him.

In many ways, this is a melancholy book that serves to push a somewhat leftist agenda. The author spends a lot of time talking about the social animosities of the crew members based on matters of class, and his speculation about Hudson is based on his desire to point out the fragility of European explorers and their dependence on the know-how of the local indigenous population. Indeed, a less than charitable reader would suspect that there are a few obvious motivations for the author writing this book. For one, it allows him to praise the culture and knowledge of indigenous peoples in the age of exploration, which the author has written and edited about at some length. In addition, the research involved is close to his own existing interests in the efforts of the English establishment (led by Haklyut and others) to support missions of exploration and colonization. This, therefore, is no great stretch for the author, and allows him to add to his list of published works without requiring a substantial amount of new research, especially given the paucity of accounts to work with and the large amount of room for guesswork and speculation that the subject affords.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2016...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2017...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2012...>

Susan says

1 1/2 - 2 stars tops.

This book may be summed up with one sentence from page 228: "In death, his explorations would provide his country not with the vaunted passage to the east, but something of even more enduring value and significance - lands, bays, and rivers whose fortunes and history would forever link one hemisphere to the other."

"A tale of mutiny and murder in the Arctic."

Sounds exciting doesn't it? Excitement was what I anticipated. Did NOT happen. Dry, dry, dry - such an interesting subject and the author could not have related the events in a more boring manner. This story does pick up a bit around page 152 or so. The sum of Hudson's life is found in the statement on page 228 (see above). The source material was interesting.

Gigantic disappointment!

Edgar Lavoie says

I have tremendous respect for the historian who wrote this: well researched, well written. Claims he has insights that others have missed, and I want to believe him: e.g., that Hudson was the premier mariner/explorer of the Arctic regions of his era; that he normally chose his crews well, but slipped up when choosing for the last, "fatal" voyage. When I finish, I plan to read another Hudson history, "God's Mercies" by Douglas Hunter. I live in Northern Ontario, and the fact that Hudson was likely the first European visitor to the region, rather intrigues me. Mind you, there are some who say the Vikings were first.

Audra says

This is an interesting look at almost-primary sources that manages not to be boring. I'm a big fan of maps, especially endpaper maps, so I would have liked to have had a better map than the frontispiece, but that's really a minor complaint, especially considering the interesting (and idiosyncratic) illustrations chosen for the book.

Because I like to wonder "what if?" his speculations on the fate of Hudson was just too short, but realistically there isn't a lot to go on. (I sure would like to know what the deal was with that rock found in Ontario, though.) He manages to entwine the historical record with an interesting and even lively narrative that does not pall.

Now I want to go read about Frobisher and Davis. And listen to Stan Rogers' Northwest Passage about 87 more times.

Theresa says

This may sound a bit crazy, but this book made me miss Canadian Winters.

Jill Hutchinson says

This is not a book I would usually read but it was loaned to me by my cousin who said, "Read it". I did and he was right.

This is a fascinating history of the obsession of the British to find the "Northwest Passage" which they believed could be reached by a river that led from the Atlantic to the Southern Pacific through North America. Numerous explorers including the Dutch and French gave it a try but soon felt they had better things to do. But the British mariners were convinced that it existed and various companies were developed to underwrite the explorations. The most famous of the intrepid explorers was Henry Hudson whose name has been given to various bays and rivers in North America based on his discovery of bodies of water, all of which he thought were the "passage".

This book concentrates on his fourth and final voyage in 1610-11, from which he did not return. Based on diaries and writings of two crew members of those who were involved, it appears that after being trapped in the ice for months, a portion of the crew mutinied and put Hudson, his son and several other loyal sailors into an open boat and left them to perish. No trace was ever found of them. A court of inquiry exonerated those men that brought the ship back to England, which I thought was a bit surprising.

The author also covers the voyages of other explorers who braved the Arctic waters in their futile search for the "passage" and it is a rip-roaring tale of bravery, deprivation, and the spirit of discovery which drove these men. Recommended.

Juliet says

A bit stiff & stuttering. A lack of primary materials means the narrative is too reliant on conjecture ("perhaps he" and "he may have") and there's not enough information available to tell an exciting, immediate story. Likewise, the novel is "filled out" with extraneous contextual information. A certain amount of historical context and details of the day is enlightening -- the heavy leaning on it here feels tangential.

Michael says

Somewhere between a 3 and a 4 for me. Interesting but somewhat repetitive, the book focuses on the last voyage of Henry Hudson on the *Discovery*. After spending the winter of 1610 icebound in what is now the Hudson Bay, a number of Hudson's crew mutinied the following spring. The mutineers forced Hudson, his teenage son, and seven other mostly ill men into a shallop (small boat) and sailed away, abandoning Hudson

and his companions to their unknown fate. Or at least that is what the surviving crew claimed when they returned to England, with the further explanation that the actual "mutineers" had all been conveniently killed by Inuits on the voyage home, and the few returning survivors were simply innocent witnesses to the mutiny. (Okay...sure...maybe.) In any event, this sounds like a rollicking good adventure/mystery -right? Unfortunately, the problem is that with so little historical evidence (and that "evidence" is so compromised, given the self-interests of the sources), there isn't much to say about what actually happened to Hudson that isn't pure conjecture. So this subject, taken by itself, would probably be better served by an article as opposed to a book, or alternatively as a component of a book covering a much broader topic. Mancall sort of tries to informally take the latter approach by also discussing a number of other matters (piracy laws, the search for a northern route to the Spice Islands, Deptford and the Masters of Trinity House, etc.) but the result was a bit disjointed for my taste. Still, overall an interesting subject and interesting read.

Bill says

So little is actually known about Henry Hudson's life and death, I am absolutely amazed that Mancall was able to eke over 300 pages out of his subject matter. However, his lack of source material was more than likely the reason behind my lack of interest while reading this book.

J.M. says

Really wanted to like this but just can't get into it.

Shawn says

Excellent but brief recounting of the last trip of Henry Hudson. While this book is not an academic work it seems well researched and adequately documented. I would recommend this to anyone interested the grim but stirring history of European exploration of the Arctic and the quest for the Northwest Passage.
