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AROUND NEW YORK BAY: NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY

The Hollanders were traders and seafarers, and they found it hard to settle down into farmers, who alone can make permanent colonists. . . . The Dutch settlers took slowly and with reluctance to that all-important tool and weapon of the American pioneer, the ax, and chopped down very little timber indeed. — *Theodore Roosevelt.*



Henry Hudson's
coat of arms.

34. The Dutch Settle around New York Bay.—The English had hardly begun their settlements around the Chesapeake Bay before the Dutch began to settle around New York Bay. In 1609 Henry Hudson, an Englishman in the service of the Dutch, entered this bay in his ship the *Half Moon*, and sailed up the magnificent river that bears his name. Hudson, like Columbus and many others, believed there was a short western route to India, and

he thought that by following the course of the Hudson he would be able to reach the Pacific Ocean. He went up the river to the point where the city of Troy now stands, and there his boat ran aground. He failed, of course, to reach the Pacific by the Hudson, but his voyage up the river was of the greatest importance.¹

To understand how important this voyage was, you must know of something that happened not far from the place where the *Half Moon* ran into the mud, and that happened only a few weeks before. About the time Hudson was making his way

¹In 1619 Hudson entered Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay to find the long-sought Northwest Passage to the Pacific. On this voyage Hudson's crew mutinied, and he was bound and with eight others was set afloat. He was never seen again.