

Adriaen Block, the Discovery of Long Island Sound and the New Netherlandt Colony: What Drove the Course of History?



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~400 years ago

The Dutchman Adriaen Block makes the first map of the Sound and Long Island



La Nuova Francia

Castaldi, 1556



Adriaen Block

- He shipped wood from Scandinavia to Spain
- Sailed in the Mediterranean - in 1609 conquered an illegal ship with cargo near Portugal ==> he became wealthy!!
- Sailed one time to Indonesia (1606-1609)
- Was married and had five children
- Sailed four times to the Americas and made the first map of Long Island Sound and surroundings



A mural by Reginald Marsh in the US Customs House (near the spot where New Amsterdam was located) portrays him as a generic European (copied from an unrelated museum picture) among the great sailors of the world



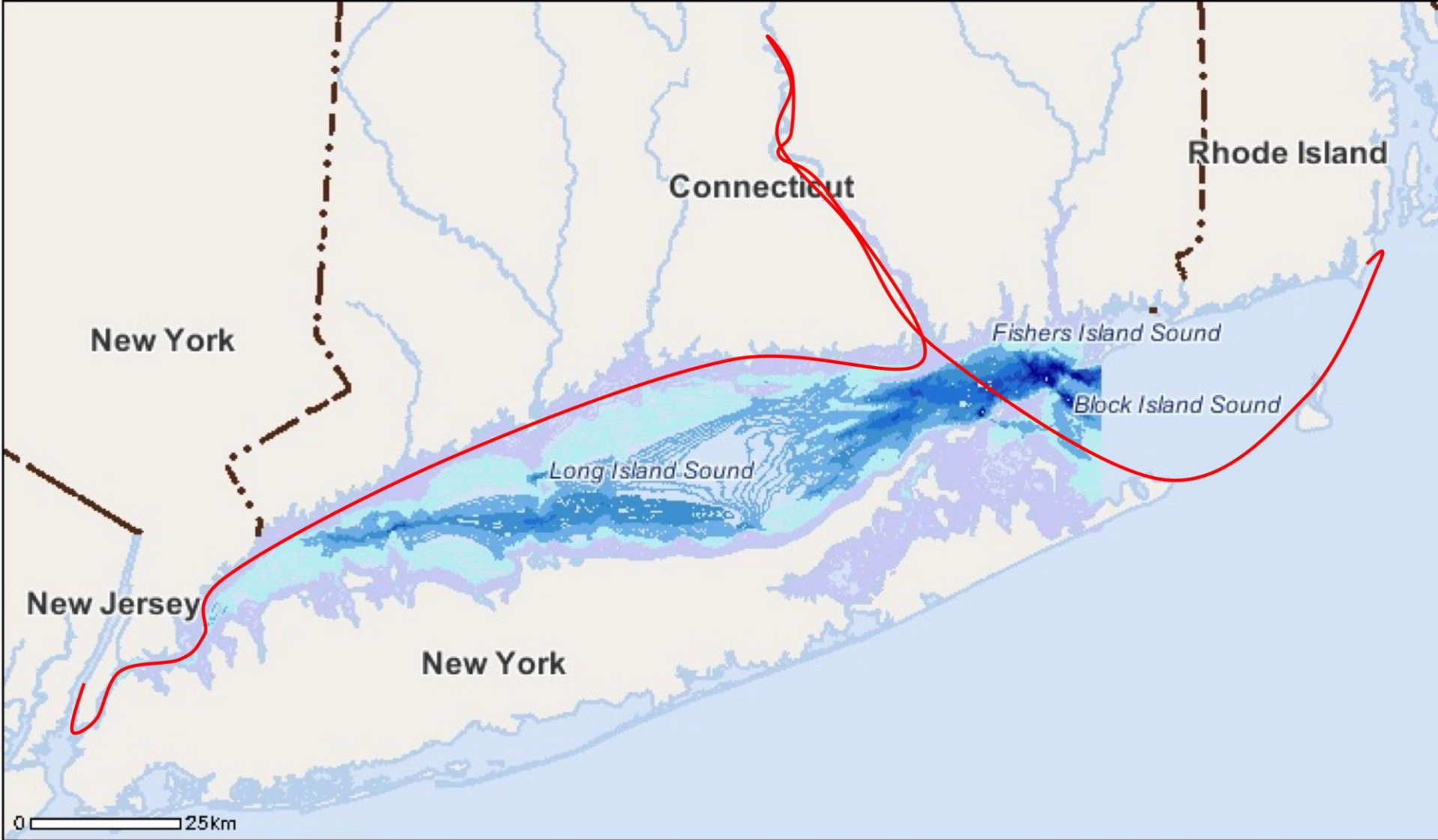
Adriaen Block sailed up the Hudson River (“Tijger”) in fall 1613 together with Hendrick Christiansen (Fortuyn). Mutiny and unease over profit sharing with captain Mossel (Nagtegael). The Tijger burned up (remnants at Devey street probably an 18th century river boat from the UK). Part of his crew become pirates stealing Mossels ship!

Overwintered on Manhattan and built with natives a 40’ long, new ship (the ‘Onrust’)

Spring 1614 - sailed with the Onrust through the East River into LIS and up the Connecticut River (Versche Rivier) then on to Montauk, Block island and then RI and Cape Cod.

The modern 'ONRUST' in its full 2009 glory

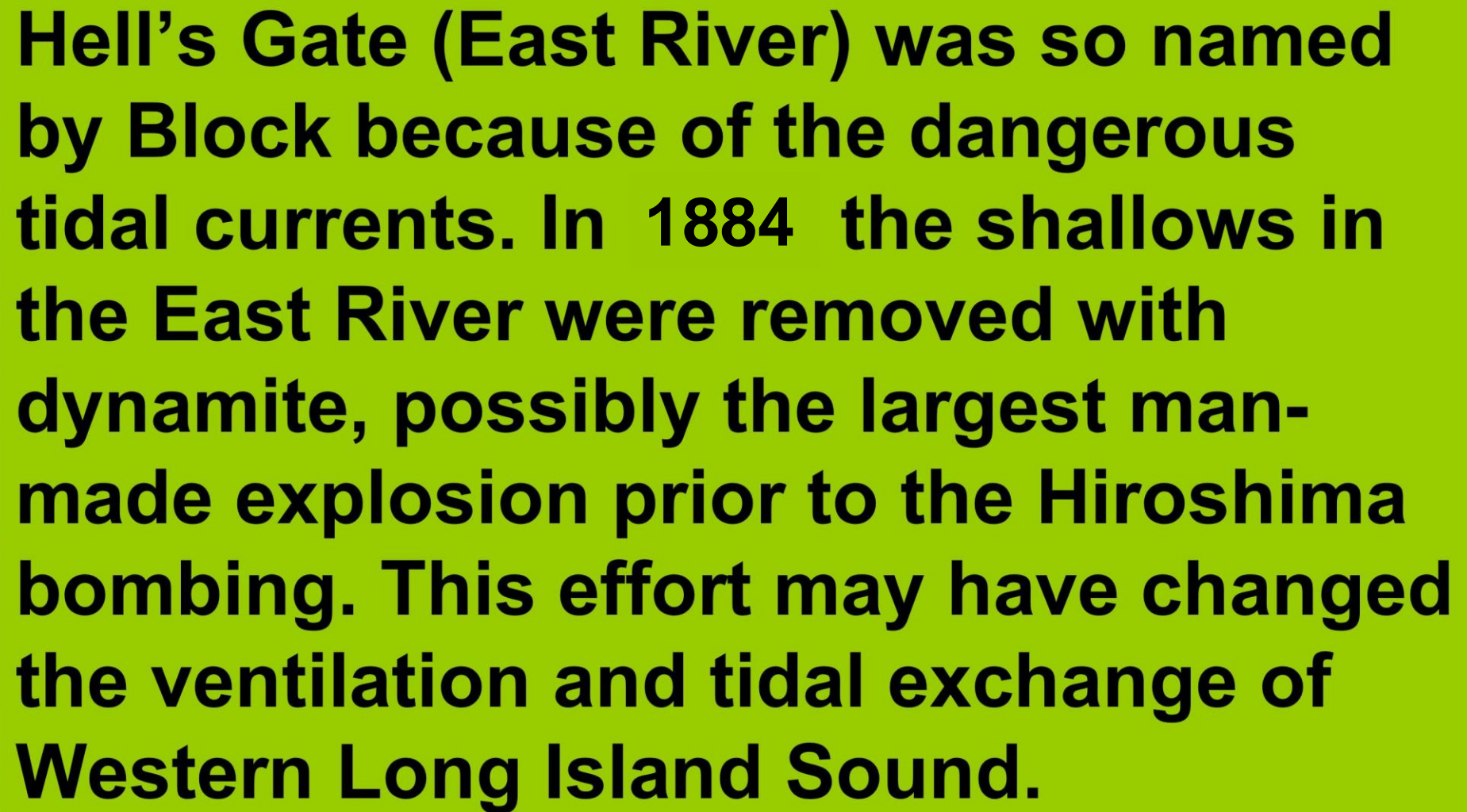




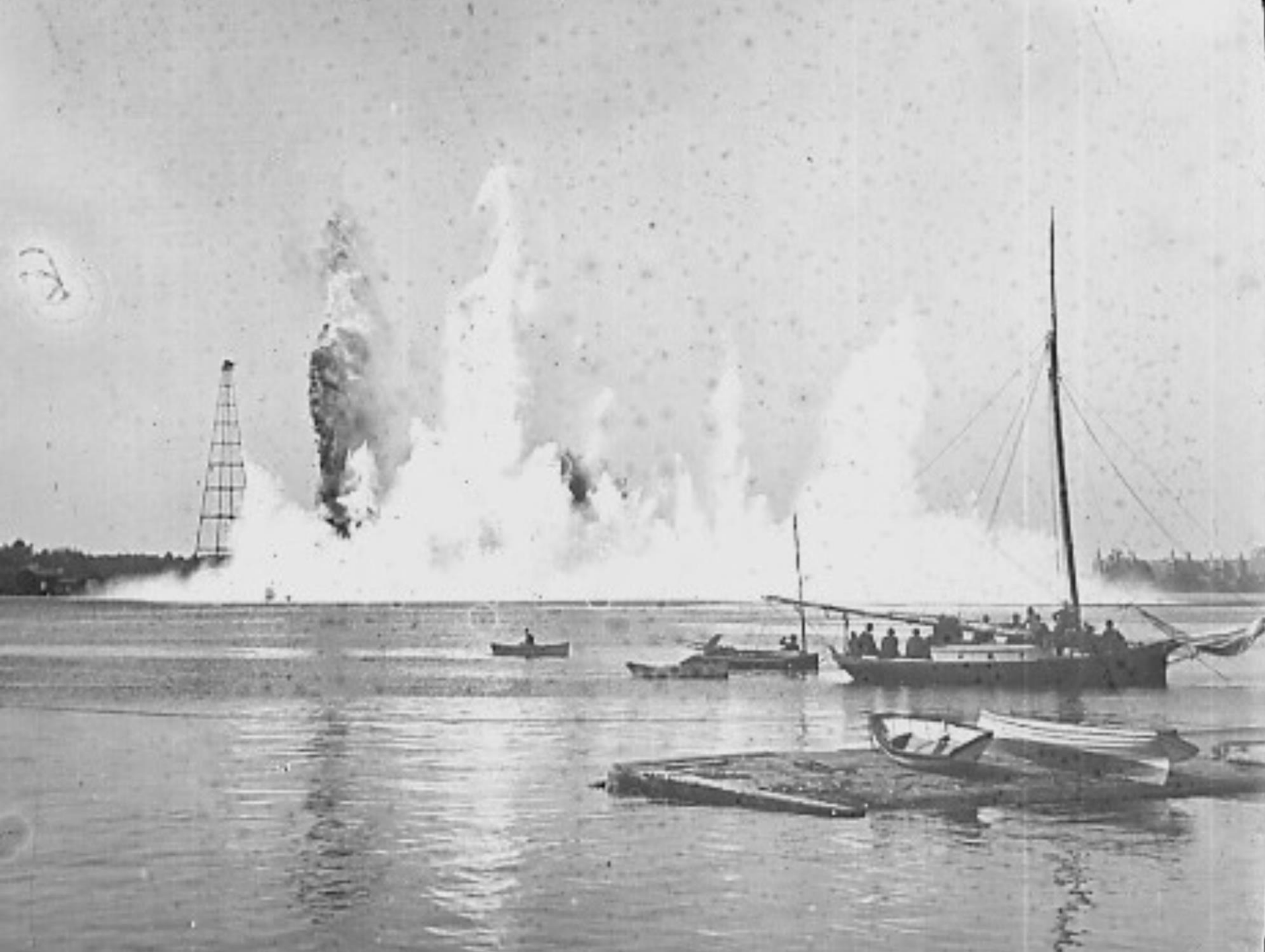
Adriaen Block's trip with the ONRUST, April 1614



Hells Gate



Hell's Gate (East River) was so named by Block because of the dangerous tidal currents. In 1884 the shallows in the East River were removed with dynamite, possibly the largest man-made explosion prior to the Hiroshima bombing. This effort may have changed the ventilation and tidal exchange of Western Long Island Sound.

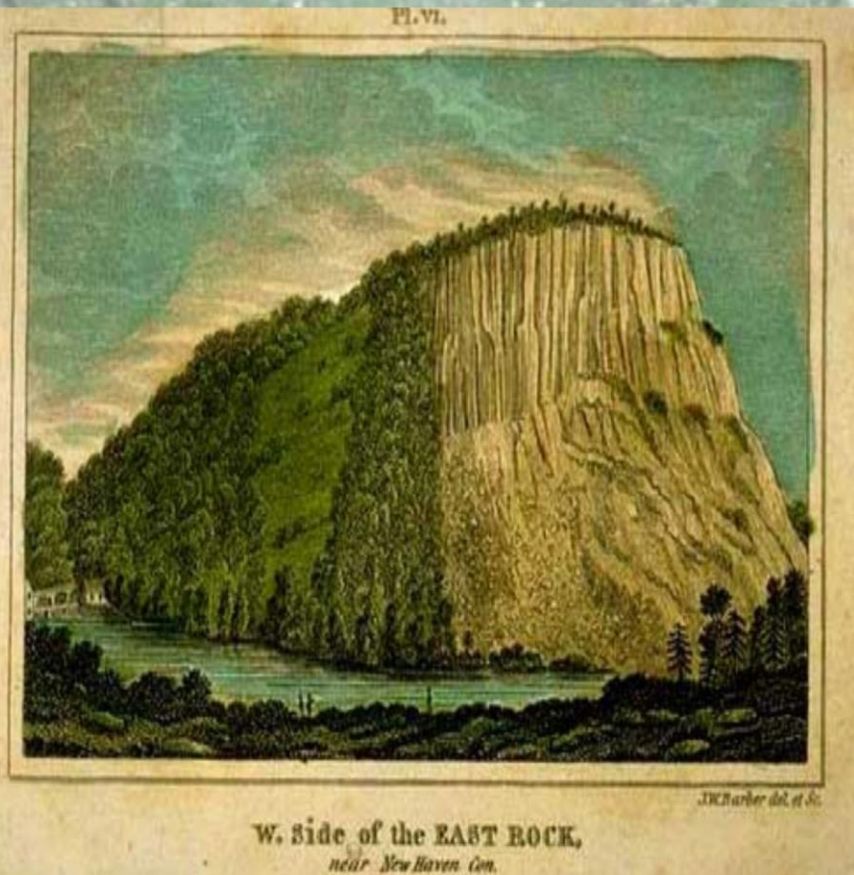


The Figurative Map of Adriaen Block, 1614

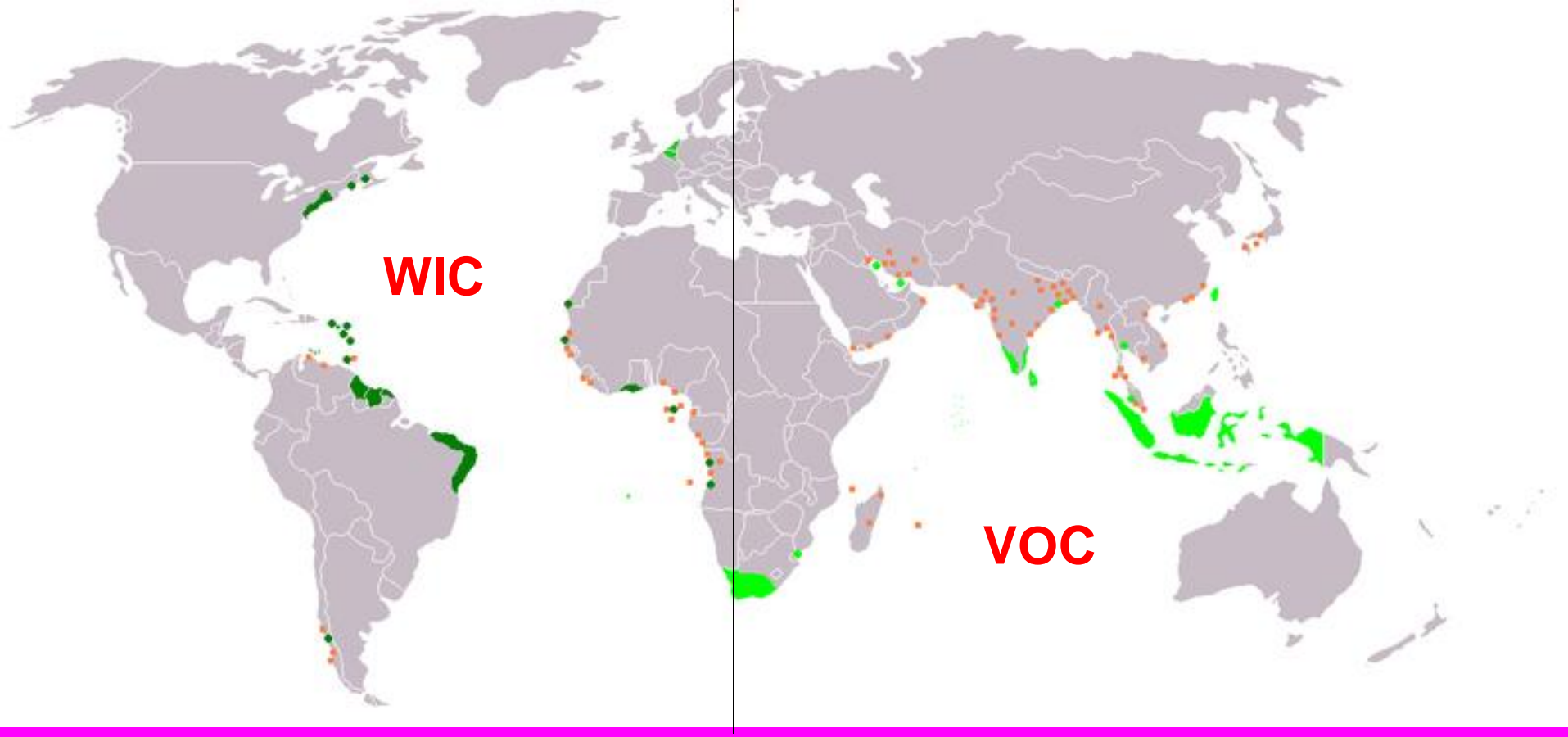
Detail of LIS



The name **Rhode Island** may come from Adriaen Block (**Rood Eylant**)

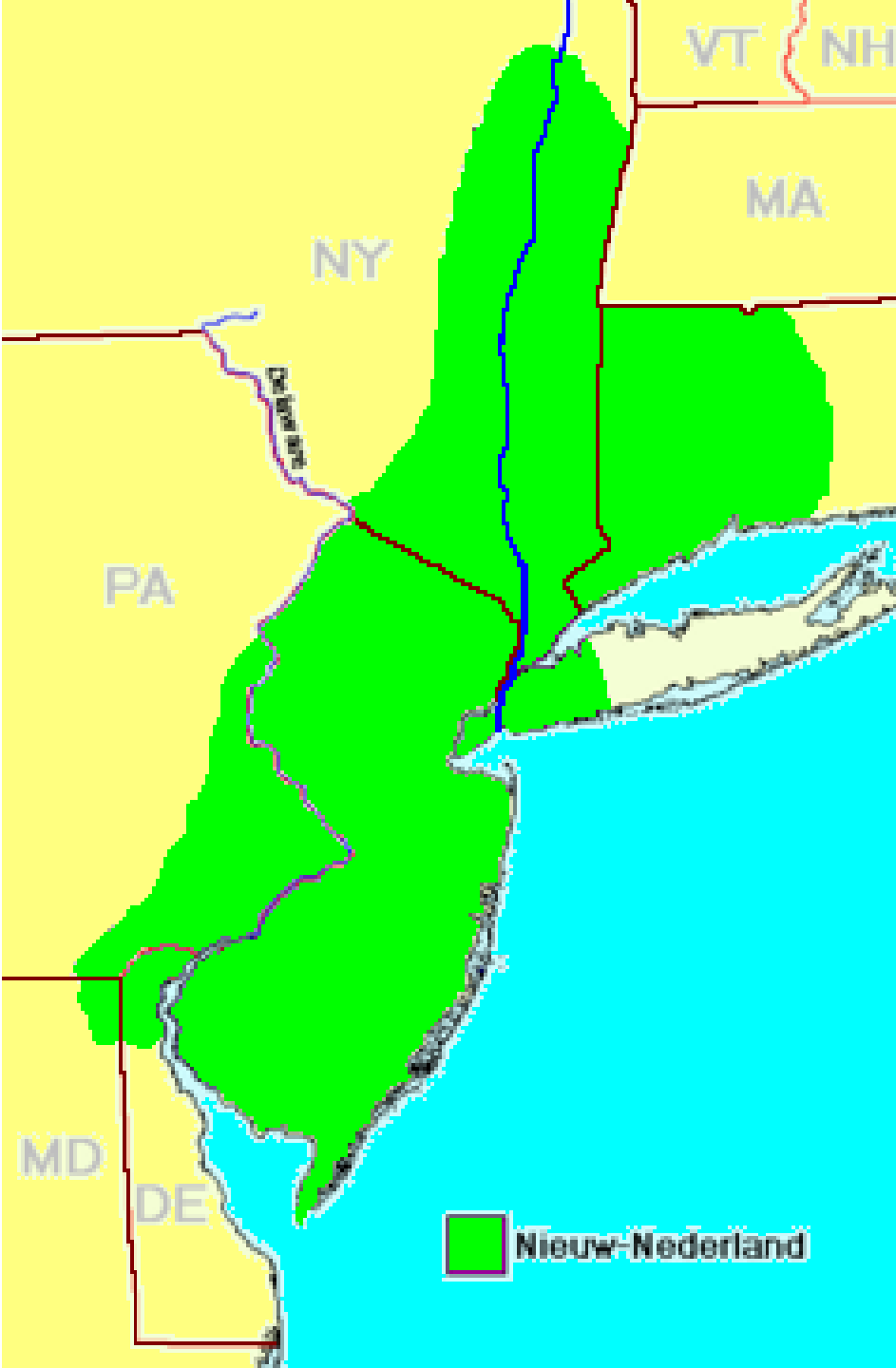


The Roode Bergh
(Red Hill) near New
Haven

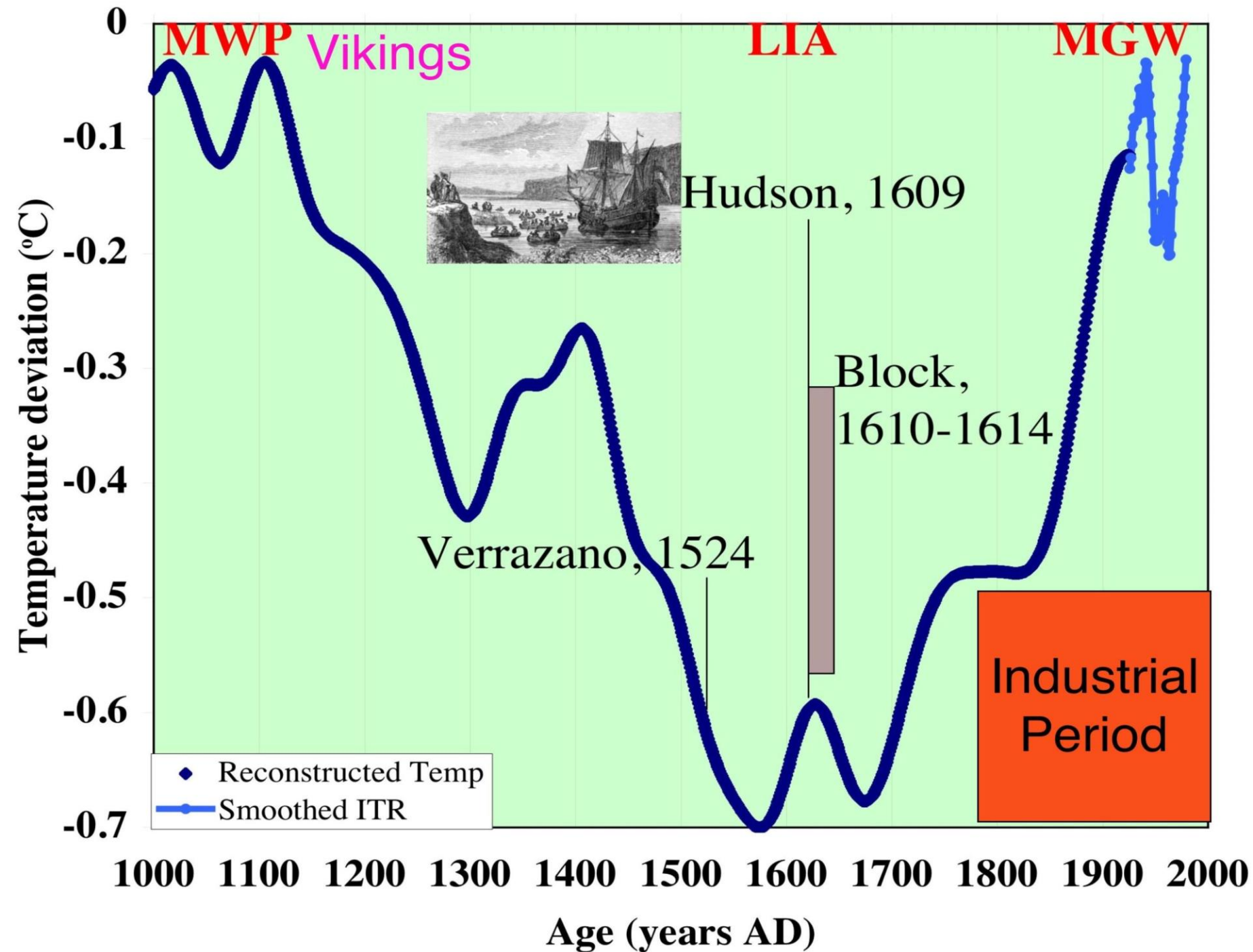


THE DUTCH COLONIAL EMPIRE IN THE MID 1600s

The VOC had Indonesia, Mauritsius, Formosa (Taiwan), the deshima in Japan, holdings in Korea and S-Africa (the Boers)



NN from Delaware Bay to the Connecticut River. Nassau County on LI was Dutch, whereas the Suffolk end was British. Albany (Beverwijck) was where the Dutch Fort Nassau and Fort Orange were present.



Seal of New Amsterdam, 1623

- **Sigillum Novi Belgii**, formal appearance of our furry friend the beaver, like in so many Canadian seals (think-Hudson Bay Co, the French territories).
- Albany was known as Beverwijck and many are the street names that refer to Beavers and its dams-an important part of the local economy

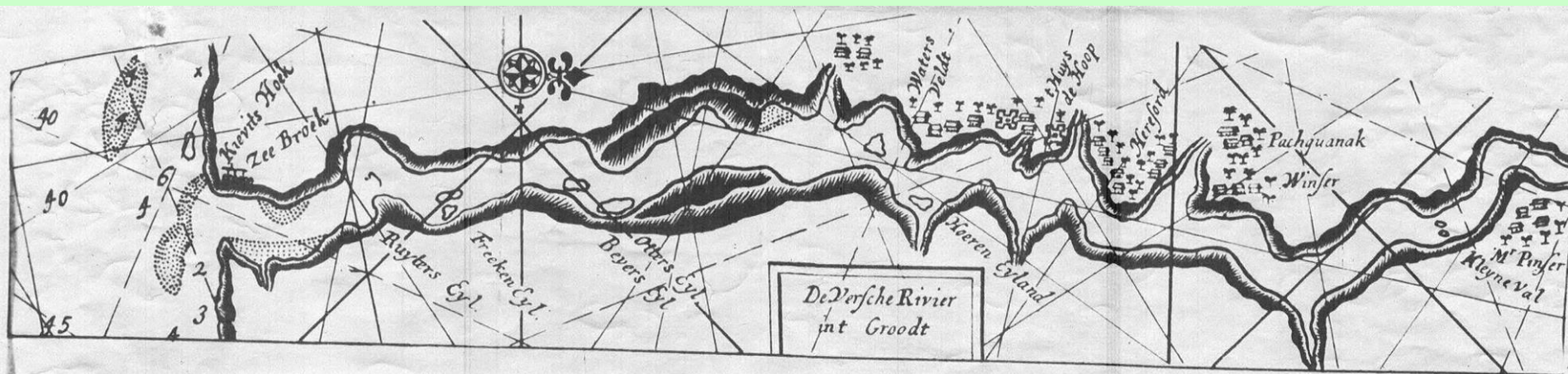


Map of the Connecticut River or “Versche Rivier” in Dutch colonial times (in ‘t groodt). This map stems from around 1635 – the trading post / fortification ‘t Huys de Hoop’ was already established (1623-1633) but the Dutch names were still used. The Treaty of Hartford (1650) made this area formally English property

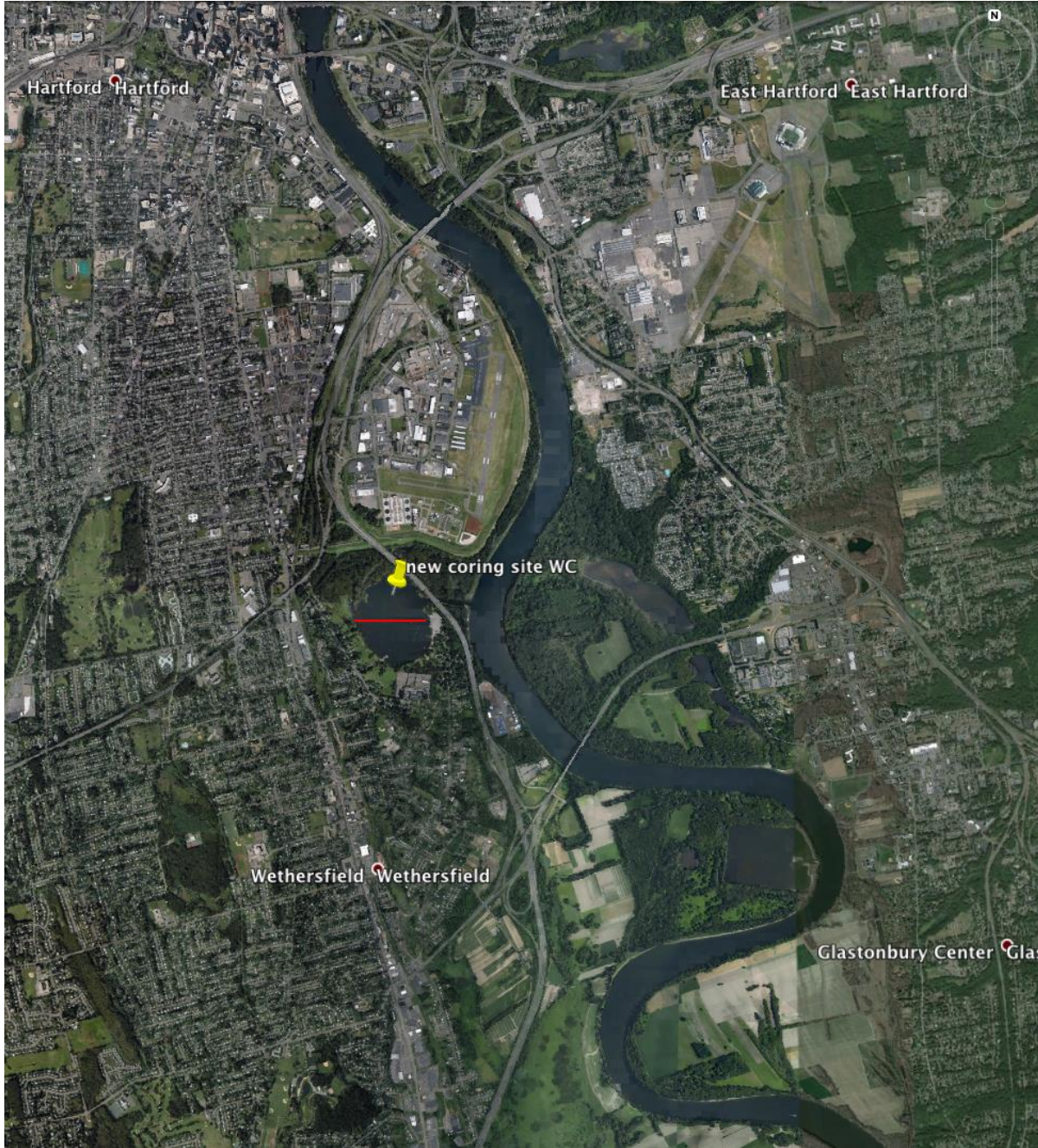
Plovers

Corner

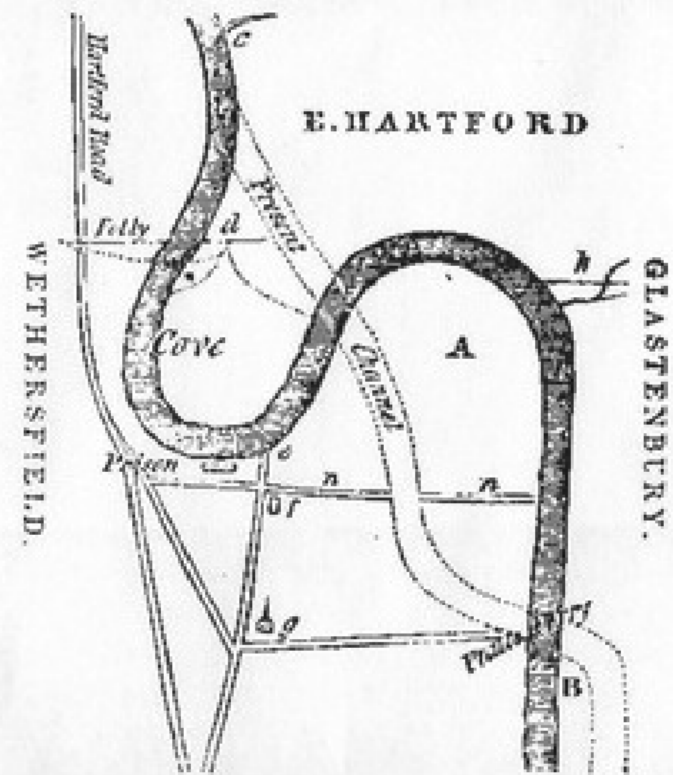
Pre-1623 settlement	Zeebroek = Old Saybrook	Waters Veldt = Wethersfield	Hereford = Hartford
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Hoeren Eyland



Modern course of the Connecticut River with the Wethersfield Cove and Keeney Pond as oxbows.



Connecticut River prior to 1692

The growth and demise of the New Netherlands colony

- 1653 - New Amsterdam is the capital of the NN colony; freedom of religion, entrepreneurship and rowdiness rule!
- 1664 - second Anglo-Dutch war, NA taken over by British without much of a fight. Population of NA (then NY) is ~10,000; PS returns to Holland to report, but later goes back to the NN colony until his death.
- 1673 - Third Anglo-Dutch war - Dutch retake NY, call it New Orange, but give it up 4 months later. Treaty of Breda - Holland gets Run (near Banda) and Surinam near Venezuela.



THE END OF DUTCH RULE IN THE AMERICAS

Manhattan was given by the Dutch to the British in exchange for one island in the Banda Archipelago, the center of the Indonesian clove and nutmeg trade in the mid 17th century

DO I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU?



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ISLES DE BANDA. I EYLANDEN VAN BANDA.





Could it be that the nickname the “nutmeg state” for CT ultimately goes back to Indonesia and has Dutch roots?