

Appendix II.

SCANDINAVIANS IN CANADA, 1619--1620.

The first arrival of Scandinavians in Canada took place in 1619. Christian IV., King of Denmark and Norway, being desirous of sending an expedition to discover the way to China through the "Northwest passage," requested Captain Jens Munk, who has been mentioned above, to take charge of it. The expedition, when leaving European waters, consisted of sixty-four men, forty-eight of whom were on the ship "Enhiörningen," and sixteen on a smaller ship "Lamprenen."

Captain Munk and his crew sailed from Copenhagen, May 9, 1619. Two days later, the log records, one of the sailors jumped overboard and drowned. A week later, because of a leak in one of the ships, it was found necessary to lie over for five days in Karmsund, Norway, where three new men were added to the crew.

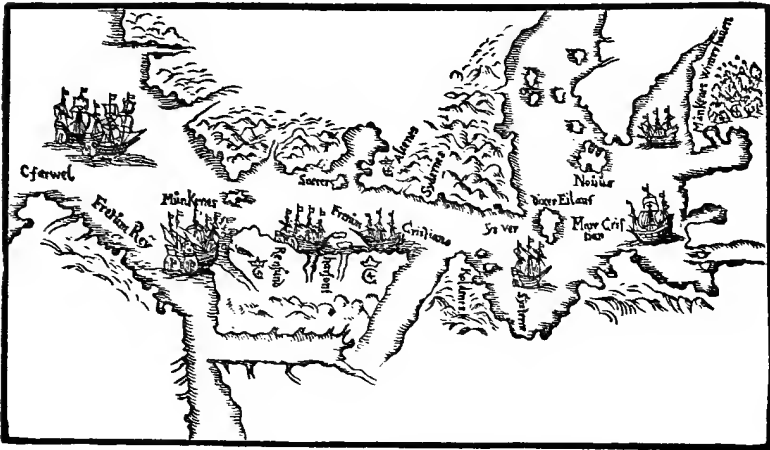
They passed the Shetland Island and Faroe Islands, Cape Farewell, crossed Davis Straits, entered Frobisher Bay, then Hudson Straits. In July they came to Salvage Islands, where they met some Eskimos. After sailing around for some time in Ungava Bay, they re-entered Hudson Straits, and crossing Hudson Bay, which Munk called Mare Christian, the crew landed, on September 7, 1619, at the mouth of Churchill River.

Meantime he had lost, on August 8, one of his crew, Anders, from Stavanger, Norway, who was buried in Haresund (Icy Cove). And before he left winter quarters, the rest of his crew perished, save two with whom he started and completed his return voyage to Europe, reaching Norway on September 21, 1620.

Munk had taken possession of the new land, in the name of his king, calling it Nova Dania. Due to the intense cold, massive snow drifts and lack of proper equipment for living in such frigid regions, the crew could not obtain fresh food by hunting. They

had no snow-shoes or "ski." They had very little fur clothing. They were thus compelled to spend their time on and near the ships, without sufficient exercise and without proper food. The never-varying fare of salt meats brought on scurvy. Every week witnessed several deaths. The conditions aboard the ships were frightful. In the annals of polar travelers the experience of the Munk expedition is one of the most terrible. On February 25, Munk had twenty-two dead, on April 10, forty-one, on June 4, sixty-one.

First on June 18, the ice gave way to the ships. With extreme difficulty, Munk and his surviving crew of two got the lesser ship,



MAP OF CAPTAIN MUNK'S SAILING ON HUDSON BAY, 1619.
From Jens Munk: *Navigatio Septentrionalis*.

on June 26, ready for sailing. On July 16, they left what may be called the first Scandinavian, we may also say, the first Lutheran cemetery in North America. For almost all of the mariners were Lutherans by faith. They even had in their midst Rev. Rasmus Jensen from Aarhus, Denmark, who preached his first and last Christmas sermon in America on Christmas day, 1619.

Jensen died on February 20, the following year. The first Lutheran minister in America lies buried in Canada.

Captain Munk has left us a book which describes his journey

to and from Hudson Bay: "Navigatio Septentrionalis," 1624, edited and published anew by P. Laurissen (Copenhagen, 1888. An English translation has been made for the Hakluyt Society). From this carefully kept book, or Relation, as Munk calls it, we see the piety of the author and learn when and under what circumstances the several members of the expedition died.

At least two of the crew were English, the mates William Gordon and John Watson (died May 6, 1620). Less than a dozen may have been Germans and Swedes. At least twelve were Norwegians, while the majority were Danes.



CAPTAIN MUNK'S WINTER QUARTERS IN 'NOVA DANIA' (CANADA).
From Jens Munk: *Navigatio Septentrionalis*.

The Norwegians were:

Anders Staffuanger (d. Aug. 8, 1619, seaman).

Laurids Bergen (d. Feb. 5, 1620, seaman).

Hans Skudenes (d. March 1).

Christoffer Opslö (Oslo, d. April 5, chief gunner).

Oluff Sundmøer (d. April 24, mate to the captain of the hold).

Halffward Brönnie (d. April 27).

Thoer Thönsberg (d. April 28).

Anders Marstrand (d. May 3).

Morten Marstrand (d. May 4, boatswain's mate).

Suend Marstrand (d. May 12).

Erich Hansen Li (d. May 19). Munk says, Li "had been very industrious and willing and had neither offended anyone nor deserved any punishment. He had dug many graves for others, but now there was nobody that could dig his, and his body had to remain unburied."

Knud Lauritzsen Skudenes (d. in May).

Of the Danes we give these names:

Jens Helssing (d. Jan. 27, seaman).

Rasmus Kiöbenhauffn (d. Feb. 17).

Rev. Rasmus Jensen (d. Feb. 20, minister).

Jens Borringholm (d. March 1).

Erich Munk (a nephew of the captain, d. April 1).

Mauritz Stygge (d. April 10, lieutenant).

Peder Nyborg (d. in May, carpenter).

No doubt also the majority of the following are Danes:

Hans Brock (d. Jan. 23, 1620, second mate).

Oluff Boye (d. March 8).

Anders Pöcker (d. March 9).

M. Casper Caspersen (d. March 21. He was probably a German surgeon).

Povel Pedersen (d. March 21).

Jan Ollufsen (d. March 25, skipper), navigating officer of *Enhiörningen*.

Ismael Abrahamsen (Swede ? d. March 29).

Christen Gregersen (d. March 29).

Suend Arffuedsen (d. March 30, carpenter).

Johan Pettersen (d. March 31, second mate. He was buried in the same grave with Erich Munk).

Rasmus Clemendsen (d. April 5, mate of the chief gunner).

Lauritz Hansen (d. April 5, boatswain).

Anders Sodens (d. April 8).

Anders Oroust (d. April 16).

Jens Bödker (d. April 16).

Hans Bendtsen (d. April 17).

Oluff Andersen (d. April 17, servant).

Peder Amundsen (d. April 19).

Morten Nielsen, Butelerer (d. April 28, butler).

Jens Jörgensen (d. May 12).

Jens Hendrichsen (d. May 16) "skipper," master of *Lamprenen*.

On the fourth of June, Munk gave up all hope of life. We give below the entry which Munk on that day made in his book. We accompany it with a facsimile of a page of his manuscript, which is preserved in the University Library of Copenhagen.

"On the 4th of June, which was Whit-Sunday, there remained alive only three besides myself, all lying down, unable to help one another. The stomach was ready enough and had appetite for food, but the teeth would not allow it; and not one of us had the requisite strength for going into the hold to fetch us a drink of wine. The cook's boy lay dead by my berth, and three men on the steerage; two men were on shore, and would gladly have been back on the ship, but it was impossible for them to get there, as they had not sufficient strength in their limbs to help themselves on board, so that they and I were lying quite exhausted, as we

had now for four entire days nothing for the sustenance of the body. Accordingly, I did not now hope for anything but that God would put an end to this my misery and take me to Himself and His Kingdom; and, thinking that it would have been the last I wrote in this world, I penned a writing as follows:

(FACSIMILE OF MANUSCRIPT OF CAPTAIN MUNK. LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN.)

Jeg høst bødme Jeg Nu for guts skuld om
 Naagen Krestne Menisker hender hied
 att kome att die Met Arme Legom.
 med die Andere som Nu her hoss findes
 udi Jorden wille Lade Kome, och tagendis
 lön aff gud i hemelen. Och att dene
 min Betalning Maatte bliffu Min Nard
 Dig Jant tilfaldet of Konge tilfaldet
 ffis Int en Saufmildigt alle find:
 Jant findes Ende for ord skuffu Jant
 att Min fadig fuppen of biden Maatte
 Jant Min fadlige affgang Nard gatt
 Att, for med allindom yder Natt of min
 Sird: Int finge Rige. Jant Munk
 Jant funder,

In print the above given writing appears thus:

"[Efterdi at Jeg nu icke haffuer
 forhaabning at kunde leffue]
 her hoss beder Jeg Nu for guts skuld om
 Naagen Krestne Menisker hender hied
 att kome att die Met Arme Legom
 med die Andere som Nu her hoss findes
 udi Jorden wille Lade Kome, och tagendis
 lön aff gud i hemelen. Och att dene

min Relation Maate blifue Min Naad
 dig here och Koning tilstelet
 thie det er sanferdigt Alt huad i
 hrude findes Ord for ord skreffuet paae
 Att Min fatig hustru och bören Maatte
 Nyde Min Ynkelige Affgang Noget gaat
 Att, her med Alluerden gode Natt och min
 Siel i det Euige Rige: Jens Munk”

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We append this translation:

“Inasmuch as I have now no more hope of life in this world, I request, for the sake of God, if any Christian men should happen to come here, that they will bury in the earth my poor body, together with the others which are found here, expecting their reward from God in Heaven; and, furthermore, that this my journal may be forwarded to my most gracious Lord and King (for every word that is found herein is altogether truthful) in order that my poor wife and children may obtain some benefit from my great distress and miserable death. Herewith, good-night to all the world; and my soul in the eternal kingdom.

“Jens Munk.”

Munk concludes his “Relation” with this prayer:

“*O Almighty, Eternal God, Gracious Father, and Heavenly Lord, who hast commanded us to call upon Thee in all necessity and adversity, and also dost promise that Thou wilt graciously hear our prayer and save us, so that we may thank Thee for Thy loving kindness and Thy wonderful acts, which Thou doest towards the children of men: I have now, on this long and perilous journey, been in danger and necessity, in which I have nevertheless experienced Thy gracious help and assistance, in that Thou hast saved me from the ice bergs, in dreadful storms, and from the foaming sea. Thou wast my chief pilot, counselor, guide, and compass. Thou hast led and accompanied me, both going and coming. Thou hast led me out of anxiety, disease, and sickness, so that by Thy help I have regained my health, and have returned to my native country, which I entirely believe to be Thy doing. Nor has it been accomplished by my own understanding or providence, wherefore I humbly and heartily give thanks to Thee,*

O Thou my gracious Father. And I pray that Thou wilt give me grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that I may henceforth be found thankful to Thee in word and deed, to Thy honor and glory, and for the confirmation of my faith with a good conscience. To Thee, O Holy Trinity, be Praise and Thanksgiving for ever, for these and all Thy benefits.

“To Thee alone belongs all Power and Glory

“for ever and ever

“*Amen.*

“Isaiah, Chap. xliv.

“Fear not, for I have redeemed thee. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, that the rivers shall not drown thee.”*

* The passage is Isaiah xliii, 1, 2. The translation differs slightly from the English version.

In the “Lutheran Observer” (Philadelphia), Dec. 27, 1907, I have related about the articles in the American press which have dealt with the Munk expedition. Rev. Rasmus Andersen, of Brooklyn, New York, deserves the credit of having called attention to the fact that there were Scandinavians in Canada as early as 1619-20. The best from his pen on this subject is found in “Teologisk Tidsskrift,” I., 26ff. (1899), Decorah, Iowa. His article is a digest of the Munk journal in the edition of 1883. Neither he nor the other American writers, however, have used the carefully edited English edition of the Hakluyt Society. The present writer has consulted both editions.