DOCUMENT 7
OUTLINE OF MILLER CHRISTY’S MANUSCRIPT, THE LAST GREAT MONOPOLY

Supplementary Document #7 to:
eighteenth-Century Naturalists of Hudson Bay
by Stuart Houston, Tim Ball, and Mary Houston

http://www.mqup.ca/books/eighteenth-century/christy

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The reasons for placing this material on the world-wide web are given on p. xix of Eighteenth-Century Naturalists of Hudson Bay. Document 7 should be read in conjunction with Appendix C (The Ten HBC Manuscripts of Graham and Hutchins) in Eighteenth-Century Naturalists.

* indicates a spelling error
The Last Great Monopoly:  
A History of the Hudson's Bay Company,  
From its establishment in the Year 1670 to the present times;  
with Accounts of the North-West, X.Y., &  
other Fur Companies that were  
incorporated with, or opposed to, it.  
By Miller Christy.

In two Volumes.  
Volume I.  
London: 1894.

Contents. 
Chapter I: Introduction

The Hudson's Bay Company! What a halo of Romance still clings 
around this ancient Corporation! What stirring pictures are called 
to mind by the mere mention of its names—pictures of heroic deeds & 
perilous travel, of exciting adventures & hair's breadth escapes, of 
hunting & of trading, of Indian & of Buffalo, of fights by land or 
fights by sea, & of hard-fought contests with Nature in one of her 
 sternest moods! No historian could wish a more exciting theme, no 
novelist a more romantic tale, than that long series of stirring 
episodes which goes to make up the History of this great Company. It 
is the history of a small, but powerful, merchantile* concern, which, 
having its origin in the granting of a monopoly* by an impecunious 
Stuart sovereign, from its head-quarters in a busy street in the 
heart of commercial London, not only governed & controlled but for 
almost exactly two centuries actually possessed a territory larger 
than the whole of Europe, with the exception of Russia, & which has 
continued to exist in a flourishing state even to our own day, unlike 
most of the many other similar chartered monopolies owing their 
origin to the short sight or impecuniosity of the English sovereigns 
of the sixteenth & seventeenth century. The history of the world can 
hardly provide a more striking scene than that of the operations of 
"the Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay" (as 
it is styled in its original charter), which, like the 
equally-powerful, but now defunct, East India Company, has been 
largely instrumental in preserving to the British Crown one of its 
most extensive & valuable possessions. The history of the Hudson’s 
Bay Company, though not unique, is in every way exceptionally 
interesting & striking. Few chapters in English history relate 
events of which the Englishman may feel more proud; for seldom have 
daring discovery, successful trade, & romantic deeds been so long & 
so strangely blended. It is the history then, of the great Company
which I am about to relate. Great as is the mass of literature bearing upon the subject, no complete or adequate narrative of its operations has ever before been produced.

The Hudsens Bay Company had its origin in, & owed its very comprehensive rights, powers & priviledges* to, a Charter granted by King Charles the Second on May 2nd, 1670, in the ____ year of his reign. But it is necessary, in order rightly to appreciate the events which led up to its formation, to go back at least as far as the year 1610, when Captain Henry Hudson, at the cost of his life, but to his everlasting fame, discovered the huge inland sea which has ever since been known as Hudson's Bay. And, even when the student has gone back so far, he finds it imperative to glance much further back still, if he is to take a really comprehensive view of the circumstances; for, although Hudson may rightly be regarded as the discoverer of the huge bay which is named after him, there were earlier explorers who, if they did not actually discover the Bay itself, undoubtedly discovered the Entrance to it, & of these deserve brief notice.

Although there can be no doubt that the Norsemen discovered the north eastern coasts of the American continent at a very early date, the first explorer of them who was within the practical range of history was John Cabot.

Chapter II. The discovering of Hudson's Bay (40 pp.)


The Exploits of two Fur-traders (70+ pp.)

Chapter IV. Early Operations (1675 to 168x) (100+ pp.)

Chapter V. The Chartering of the Company (1670) (15+ pp.)

Chapter VI. The Commencement of operations (1670-1674) (25+ pp.)

b) Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk (30+ pp.)

c) heard Alexander Frazer & others (70 pp.+

d) 1817. It will now be necessary to turn back and speak (40+

pp.)

BOX 2.
Extract of the Company's first memorial book (March 1682 to March 1778)
Extracts from Company's Outward letterbooks (No. II, 1680-1688)
Extracts from the first ledger, 1557-1675
Rough extracts from the Company’s minute books,
October 1671 to November 1680
Nov. 1680 to Nov. 1682
1682 to 1684
1684 to 1686
1686 to 1688
1688 to 1690
1690 to 1692
1692 to 1694
Includes notes re salaries and prices and this statement:
“Secretary to inform all Co-servants & porters that they shall not
presume to smoke tobacco in the cellar nor any of the warehouses upon
paine of being discarded.”
1694 to 1696
1696 to 1698
1698 to 1700
Losses suffered by the company through the capture of their ships by
the French between 1682 and 1688 with interest on value to 1713

BOX 3
Father Marest’s letter to Father Lamberville concerning Hudson’s Bay
Forster’s Northern Voyage of 1786
Bacqueville de la Potterie
Monsieur Jérémie’s account of Hudson’s Bay Strait
Jérémie’s Relation du Détroit et de la Baie de Hudson
Neill’s History of Minnesota (1882)
McPherson’s Annals of Commerce (1805)
Douglas, Thomas, 1771-1820 (philanthropist and promoter of emigration
from Scotland)
Harmon – description of Canadian voyageurs
Hind’s Red River Exploring Expedition (1860)
List of old papers relating to the Hudson’s Bay & North West
Companies, the property of C.N. Bell, Esq.
Memos relating to the early parochial registers of the Red River
Settlement
Map of Red River Settlement, 1820
Map of Red River Settlement, 1816
Ross’s adventure on the Columbia (1849)
The Duke of Ca R Lincourt’s Travels (1800)
Rev. John West, chapter one
Rev. John West, chapter two
Bryce’s Manitoba (1882)
Pinkerton’s Geography
Notes from Chappell’s voyage to Hudson Bay, 1814
The Fur Trade of Canada (Canadian Magazine 1823)
Captain Cook’s Geography of Hudson’s Bay (Hakluyt Society)
Bliss [Blins?] Statistical trade, etc. 1852 BNA 1833
Beltramie’s Travels to the Mississippi
Morgan’s sketches of celebrated Canadians
J. Oldmixon’s British Empire in America 1708
Extract from Wales’s Voyage to Churchill 1768-9 Philosophical Transactions
Journals of House of Commons

BOX 4. Appendices
Appendix. A list of Secretaries . . .
Appendix. A list of the Governors . . .
Appendix. A List of the principal Posts, Forts, Factories, or other Trading Establishments owned or occupied by the H B C from 1668 to 1899.
Appendix. A List of the principal trading vessels owned or used by the H B C from 1670 to 1899

Printed Charter, 1816
[Then typed material begins]
An Act, 1821,
An Act 16 Geo. III, Cap. 6, - 1776.
£20,000 for discovering a passage
£5000 to those who might approach by sea within one degree of the Pole.
58 Geo. III, Cap. 20, - 1818. An Act for Discovering Longitude at sea
Appendix. An Act to make further provision for the trade with the Indians & for the administration of Justice in the Hudson’s Bay Company Territory, 1859.
Appendix. 31 & 32 Victoria, Chap. 105. - 1868. An Act for enabling her Majesty to Accept a Surrender of Rupert's Land from the H B C & to admit the same into the Dominion of Canada

BOX 5
A Bibliography of the Hudson's Bay Company to 1887 as compiled by Miller Christy for a history of the Company he proposed writing.