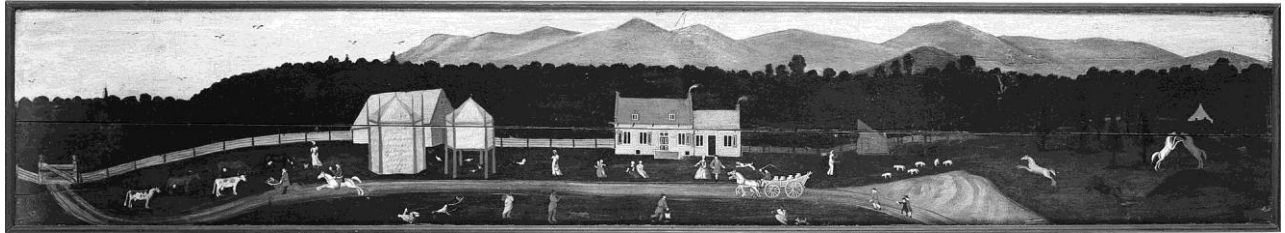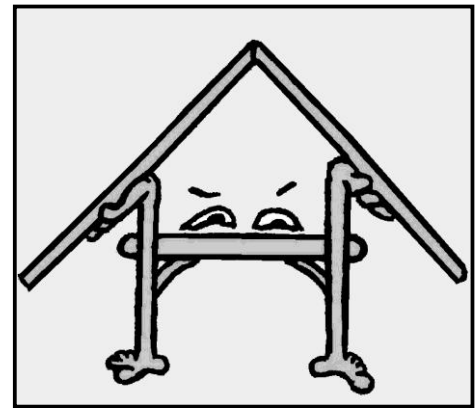# Dutch New York

In 1609, Captain Henry Hudson sailed over 3,000 miles to find a pathway to India. Instead, he found New York State! Henry was an Englishman, but he worked for the Dutch in the Netherlands, who decided that they owned New York. They even called it New Netherland.

Dutch people started to move here. At first, they wanted to trap the animals that lived in the forests, because their fur was worth a

lot of money. Soon the Dutch spread out and farmed so they would have plenty to eat. They cut down many of the forests where the Native Americans lived, which created bad feelings between the Dutch and the natives. Sometimes there was fighting. Most people don't know it, but New York State was once the wild west — and Schenectady was on the edge of the wilderness!

The Dutch built very large barns, because food was the most important thing, and these barns could hold many farm activities. On the other hand, the Dutch built very *small* houses. This is because they didn't know how long they could live here. Both barns and houses were built of large beams of wood, put together to make a giant H.

This method is so strong that some of these buildings are still standing — 300 years later!

In 1664 the English took over New Netherland. They called it New York. Still, the Dutch never left, and many New Yorkers are descended from the Dutch who settled the tree-covered wilds of New York.