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John Cabot

Giovanni Cabdo or more famously known as John Cabot. His fame is from navigating and exploring parts of what he thought was Asia. He is known for helping England become powerful in the 16th and 17th centuries in North America by starting colonies there. Cabot was born in about 1750 somewhere in Italy.

FAMILY

Cabot was born to the son of a spice merchant named Giulio Cabdo. When he was just 11 years old, Cabot learned sailing and navigating from Italian seamen and merchants that he was around. In 1474, he married a young lady named Mattea. Over the years, they had three sons named Ludovico, Sancto, and Sebastiano. His youngest son, Sebastiano, followed in his father’s footsteps to become a pilot major for Spain exploring and trading.

ACHIEVEMENTS

John Cabot was known for having financial troubles and having problems with not completing projects that he started but King Henry VII issued him a ‘seeke out, discover, and finde’ to search unknown lands. In May 1497, Cabot and a crew of only 18 men sailed on a small ship called *The Matthew* to discover land. It isn’t exactly known where he landed on June 24th but sources say either Labrador, Newfoundland or Cape Breton Island. They explored the land and took ownership of the land for the English king. Cabot and his crew thought they were in some part of Asia but were not. 20 pounds was given to Cabot by the king when he returned from this journey.

INTERESTING FACTS

On Cabot’s second voyage, he had over 200 men and 5 ships. Also on this voyage. he carried many items for trading with the Indigenous people there because he thought it was India that he had claimed. Some sources say that he was killed on this voyage but then others sources have a document record of him being alive in 1500. It is also said that a priest that was on the voyage established a Christian settlement in Newfoundland. It is known that one ship that had some severe storm damage did return to where he first claimed the land of England.

When Cabot would have financial trouble, he would run away from that place. He was given several projects but didn’t complete them. Cabot’s last years changed how some people in Europe thought of him after he had so many problems with his fiances in his lifetime. Cabot and his crew were famous for becoming the 2nd group of explorers to reach what is now Canada. The first explorers were the Norse around 1000 CE.

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