

NEW NETHERLAND RESOURCES
CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
Albany, NY

New York State Archives

The New York State Archives holds the original documents of the Dutch West India Company's colonies in North America and the Caribbean. The collection, which covers the period 1638 to 1664, totals 13,000 individual documents. Nearly all other sources of documentation have been destroyed, making this a unique resource for understanding the administration of the New Netherland colony.

The surviving records of the Dutch colony of New Netherland encompassed the earliest European settlements that became the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. These 17th-century records concern the full range of government functions including relations with native inhabitants, particularly the Mohawks, Mahicans, and various groups around New Amsterdam and the Delaware River. The records include the register of the Provincial Secretary, the minutes, ordinances and correspondence of the New Netherland Council, the administrative records of the Fort Orange settlement, records of the Delaware River settlement and records from the administration of Curacao. Extraordinarily detailed, these records contain a wealth of information about the people of New Netherland, with great potential for biographical and genealogical research. When using these records, it helps to understand the Dutch system of recordkeeping as well as the organization of these records. The entire collection of records was inventoried, and a calendar was prepared by E.B. O'Callaghan in the mid-19th century. This calendar provides brief descriptions of each document, as well as organizing the documents into a series of volumes.

The entire collection has been digitized and is available online on the State Archives web site at: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/topic-dutch-record>. The online resource is organized by the volumes established by O'Callaghan. Each document is identified using the creator, date, and brief description prepared by O'Callaghan. Where an English translation is available, the translation is also provided. The entire collection is fully searchable. In addition to the records of the West India Company, the State Archives preserves and makes available records of land grants, patents, petitions and deeds authorized by courts in Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown. These records were originally maintained by the New York State Department of State and are essential resources for discovering the administration of real property during the Dutch Colonial period. A majority of these records have been digitized and are accessible through the State Archives online Digital Collections. The State Archives public research room, located on the 11th floor of the Cultural Education Center, is open by appointment, Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. Inquiries about records may be sent to the Archives via e-mail at archref@nysed.gov. For more information about the State Archives visit the State Archives website at: www.archives.nysed.gov or call the Archives at 518-474-8955.

New York State Library

The New York State Library, established in 1818, is located on the 7th and 11th floors of the Cultural Education Center (CEC). The State Library's collection of 20 million items includes vast resources on the history of New York State, including New Netherland and the Dutch in New York State.

The main public floor of the State Library is located on the 7th floor of the CEC and includes a New York State law collection and an extensive local history and genealogy collection. The types of research materials found in these collections include colonial laws, family histories, genealogies, church records, town and county histories, city directories, newspapers and military records. Examples of Dutch-related materials include the Archives of the Holland Land Company and the Holland Documents 1603-1678, which are volumes 1 and 2 of the Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York. The library's collection was recently enriched by the addition of the library of the Holland Society. The New York State Library's Manuscripts and Special Collections unit located on the 11th floor of the CEC, is the proud owner of the first map (ca. 1631) of the Rensselaerswijck Manor, the only successful patroonship in New Netherland. The manor papers document over two hundred years of daily life in what is now Albany and Rensselaer counties.

These papers are augmented by the letters (personal and business), diaries, hand-drawn maps, business account journals, bills, receipts, land titles, wills, estate papers, and the like of the first people brave enough

to cross the Atlantic in the 1600s and of their descendants, who were still writing in Dutch at least until 1787. (If you're not fully conversant in Dutch, the NYSL has Dutch-English dictionaries, the earliest dating to 1708.) An online catalog search on family surnames – Veeder, Vrooman, Brees, Van Vechten, Wendel, Burgert, Visscher, Bleecker, Van Schaick, Van Antwerp, Gansevoort, Slingerland, and Schuyler, to name just a few – will yield collections that range from a single item to several boxes of documents. Also, surnames that do not turn up in catalog searches may be found in general store account journals, such as that of the Staats family business ledgers (1681-1710), which contain accounts for residents of colonial Albany.

The State Library also contains books and articles by numerous scholars based on the transcriptions and translations of the Dutch-language documents that have been done by A.J.F. Van Laer and by Charles Gehring. The footnotes and indexes in these books and articles provide the seeds for future research. An extensive microfilm/microfiche collection, the state's interlibrary loan program, and the library's digital collection provide access to the information in books and articles which are not available in their original paper format in the NYSL, thus facilitating the work of researchers whose circumstances don't allow coming to Albany, N.Y. (formerly Beverwyck). To begin your research in the collections, go to www.nysl.nysed.gov and click on the NYS Library Catalog link. For more information: Research Library Reference Desk: 518-474-5355; refserv@nysed.gov MSC Reference Desk: 518-474-6282. mscref@nysed.gov

New York State Museum

New Netherland Historical Archaeology Collections at the New York State Museum Over 3 million artifacts in the Historical Archaeology collection at the NYSM document New York's past from the earliest Dutch settlements in the seventeenth century through the mid twentieth centuries. Unique in the collection are the roughly 100,000 artifacts dating to the period between 1624 and 1664 when New York was part of a Dutch colony of New Netherland. This New Netherland archaeology collection is the largest example of its kind in the world and a rich source of information on the development of New York as a center of world commerce. Most of these artifacts were recovered during large excavations in Albany (Beverwijck) and New York City (New Amsterdam) between the 1970s and early 2000s. Artifact collections from Manhattan include those from Augustine Heerman's 1640s warehouse, the privy of New Netherland secretary Cornelis van Tienhoven, and the household of Dr. Hans Kierstede, the first surgeon for the Dutch West India Company. Albany collections include artifacts from a brick maker's house and brickyard, an illegal trading hut, the Volkert Jansen Douw House, Arent van Curler's 1640s house at Schuyler Flatts, and the 1624 Dutch West India Company outpost of Fort Orange. These artifacts are regularly made available for exhibition, research, and educational programming.

Dutch-related Artifacts in the *History Collections* at the New York State Museum

The History collections include several important Dutch-related artifacts that document life in New Netherland, the persistence of Dutch culture in New York, and decorative arts of the Dutch Golden Age. Life in New Netherland collections include household and familial artifacts (furniture, cooking equipment, delft, and silver) from prominent Hudson Valley Dutch families including Van Rensselaer, Prun, TenEyck, and Schuyler. Key artifacts include: Koster Cannon from Fort Orange, Prun family armada chest, Van Rensselaer funeral spoon, Schuyler family furniture. Dutch culture permeated the eastern New York well into the 19th century. The History collections include numerous examples of Hudson Valley Dutch and Mohawk Valley Dutch furniture and decorative arts, architectural elements, and household items. Key artifacts include a Hudson Valley-made Kas owned by Andries TenEyck (1718-1802), an Ulster County pottebunk (1720), looking glass/mirror from the Van Wie house, painted shutters from the Jurriaan Sharp House in Defreetsville, (1730), the door from the Duryea House in East Manhattan (1787), and a runaway advertisement for an enslaved person that still spoke Dutch in 1806. The 17th and 18th centuries in the Netherlands witnessed tremendous prosperity and achievement in trade, science, and the arts. Known as the Dutch Golden Age, these artifacts from the George Way Collection document this prosperous era. George Way (1950-2019) was one of the leading collectors of Dutch material culture in North America. The collection includes examples of fine furniture, a bible box, paintings of life in the Netherlands, and brass and glass decorative items.

New Netherland Timeline

The decade from 1620 to 1630 was one of extraordinary experimentation and activity for the Dutch abroad. The Dutch would outfit numerous fleets to the Americas and Asia, and the West India Company began to test what its carefully collected capital might accomplish. Although the WIC's most extensive efforts would be focused on Portuguese Brazil and Luanda, New Netherland was one of a number of colonies that the Dutch would found in the decade. Far from being marginal, New Netherland was the small, new colony that the West India Company attended to most, sending over families, farm animals, and religious personnel. New Netherland also became a destination in this decade for enslaved people, who would, under the Company's violent coercion, play key roles in establishing the colony.

New Netherland and the Atlantic World in the West India Company's First Decade Chartering of the West India Company

2nd June 1621

West India Company [WIC] granted charter for a trade monopoly by the States General.

End of the Twelve years' truce with Spain 1621

End of the Twelve years' truce with Spain; the war against Spain resumes under the leadership of Maurits of Nassau, Prince of Orange.

English Ambassador in The Hague protests the Dutch activities in New Netherland 1622

Dudley Carleton lodges a protest in the States General against Dutch encroachment on "English" land

First Company Daughters arrive in the Dutch colony of Batavia/Jacatra, Java 1622

The Dutch East India Company attempts to colonize Batavia by subsidizing the migration and dowries of single women. This policy would be discontinued in 1632.

The Nassau Fleet departs the Dutch Republic

April 1623

The Nassau fleet under the command of Jacques l'Hermite sets out on its mission to attack the West coast of South America and disrupt the flow of silver into Spain. It continues to Asia to trade. Sponsored by the Dutch East India Company, the States General and the stadtholder, the three-year mission would be a failure.

First WIC ship leaves for New Netherland July, 1623

Although the WIC was chartered in 1621, its first ship bound for New Netherland, the yacht *Mackreel*, departed two years later, in 1623. The *Mackreel* would spend a year in New Netherland and return to *patria* in the summer of the 1624.

Jesse de Forest and his Colonists arrive in Wiapoco on the Wild Coast

October 1623

Leaving the Dutch Republic with the *Mackreel* in July, the *Duyf* would take Jesse de Forest and his colonists to the Wild Coast to found a colony. The people who remained behind would be rescued by a passing Dutch ship in 1625.

The WIC plans the "Grand Design" 1623

The West India Company's directors decide to send a fleet to conquer Salvador da Bahia in Brazil and a second fleet to capture the Portuguese slave trading port of Luanda in Africa. The fleet departs for

Bahia at the end of December 1623.

First colonists arrive in New Netherland 1624

First colonists arrive in New Netherland where they are settled at Fort Orange (Albany), the mouth of the Connecticut River, on High Island (Burlington Island) in the Delaware River, and on Governors Island. Forts are built on Governors Island and on the upper Hudson (Fort Orange). Cornelis May, as senior skipper, is considered first director of New Netherland.

Birthplace of New York State on Governors Island 1624

Birthplace of New York State by de facto transformation of the New Netherland territory into a province by imposing the Republic's legal-political infrastructure with the planting of the first settlers on Governors Island (then named Noten Eylant or in English, Nutten Island until 1784); the locus of New York's cultural patrimony of toleration.

First Religious Personnel arrive in New Netherland 1624

Bastiaen Jansz Krol arrives in Fort Orange to take up the position of ziekentrooster or comforter of the sick. He would only continue in the position for two years.

The West India Company briefly captures Salvador da Bahia May 10, 1624

The WIC takes the city of Salvador. The Company would surrender the city to a Spanish-Portuguese force on April 30, 1625.

The Dutch East India Company establishes Fort Zeelandia in Taiwan 1624

The Dutch establish Fort Zeelandia so they can engage in trade with China. They would lose the fort and the island to Koxinga in 1661

First recorded auction of WIC goods coming from New Netherland December 1624

The Company auctions furs from New Netherland in Amsterdam

Johannes de Laet publishes *Nieuwe Wereldt ofte Beschrijvinighe van West-Indien, uit veelerhande Schriften ende Aen-teekeningen van verschedyen Natien* 1625

De Laet, a West India Company director, produces an early description of New Netherland as well as other parts of the Americas, relying on earlier travel accounts and other documents.

Publication of *De Jure Belli et Pacis* 6 Sep 1625

The publication of *De Jure Belli et Pacis*, by Dutch statesman and jurist Hugo Grotius, lays the foundation for the science of international law.

Prince Frederik Hendrik becomes stadholder upon death of Prince Maurits 1625

Prince Frederik Hendrik, the youngest child of Willem the Silent, becomes stadholder upon the death of Prince Maurits.

Willem Verhulst arrives as director of New Netherland 1625

Willem Verhulst arrives as director of New Netherland.

Kiliaen van Rensselaer becomes a West India Company director 1625

Van Rensselaer, who would found a patroonship in New Netherland, takes a leadership role in the WIC.

Arrival of the “Animal Fleet” 1625

The ships *Schaep*, *Koe*, and *Swarte Paert*, which were retrofitted and provisioned specifically to carry farm animals to New Netherland arrive with their cargo.

Daniel van Crieckenbeeck killed by Mohawks 1626

Daniel van Crieckenbeeck, commander at Fort Orange, and three WIC soldiers killed while supporting a Mahican war party against the Mohawks.

Peter Minuit replaces Verhulst as director 1626

Peter Minuit replaces Verhulst as director, purchases Manhattan Island; moves settlers from Fort Orange, Connecticut, and Delaware to Manhattan.

Founding of Berbice and Tobago 1627

Abraham van Pere receives permission from the WIC to start Berbice, and Jan Marsen and Jan de Moor found Tobago

Isaac de Rasieres reports on a visit to New England 1628

De Rasieres explains English government to the WIC director Samuel Blommaert. He may have told the English about the value of wampum on this visit.

Piet Heyn captures Spanish silver fleet for the WIC 1628

Piet Heyn, a Dutch naval officer, captures Spanish silver fleet for the Dutch West India Company.

First Africans arrive in New Netherland

August 1628

The ship *Bruin Visch* brings approximately two dozen enslaved people captured from a Portuguese ship off the coast of Trinidad.

First Minister Arrives in New Netherland

1628

Jonas Michaelius arrives and establishes a Calvinist consistory in New Amsterdam.

Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions 1629

The Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions, establishing the patroonship plan of colonization and laying the ground rules and expectations of the patroons and inhabitants, ratified by the Dutch West India Company.

Compiled by Charles Gehring, NNRC and Deborah Hamer, NNI 10-2021