

The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

Introduction

The Dutch colonization of New Netherland (which included parts of present-day New York, Delaware, New Jersey and Connecticut) began in the 1620s. From the outset, New Netherland was a multiethnic, multireligious society: about half of the population was Dutch and the remainder included French, Germans, Scandinavians, and small numbers of Jews from Brazil. Settlers were attracted to the colony's promises of freedom of worship, local self-government, and free land that would remain tax-exempt for ten years.

Between 1652 and 1674, the Dutch and English fought three naval wars, battling for supremacy in shipping and trade. England's Charles II promised New Netherland to his brother, James, Duke of York. In May 1664 James dispatched Colonel Richard Nicolls [or Nichols] to seize the colony. Three hundred soldiers from four warships went ashore on Long Island in August and moved west to Brooklyn, enlisting support from the English towns on Long Island and distributing handbills ahead of the advancing troops offering fair treatment for those who surrendered.

Nicolls approached Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor of New Netherland, promising that in return for surrender the settlers would "peaceably enjoy whatsoever God's blessing and their own honest industry have furnished them with and all other privileges with his majesty's English subjects." Stuyvesant, who favored resistance, tried to convince New Amsterdam's merchants and leaders to keep news of Nicolls's lenient surrender terms secret. They balked, and Stuyvesant was forced to surrender the colony, though under terms that he, the merchants, and leaders agreed upon with Nicolls.

The "Articles, Whereupon the City and Fort Amsterdam and the Province of the New Netherlands Were Surrendered," were remarkably generous. The Dutch were allowed to stay on their land, religious freedom was upheld, and the pubs stayed open. These terms, coupled with New Netherland's multiculturalism, had a lasting impact on the character of New York City.

Questions for Discussion

Read the document introduction and transcript and apply your knowledge of American history in order to answer these questions.

1. From the internet or the library obtain a current map of the five boroughs of New York City. Locate place names (streets, communities, geographic sites) on the map that

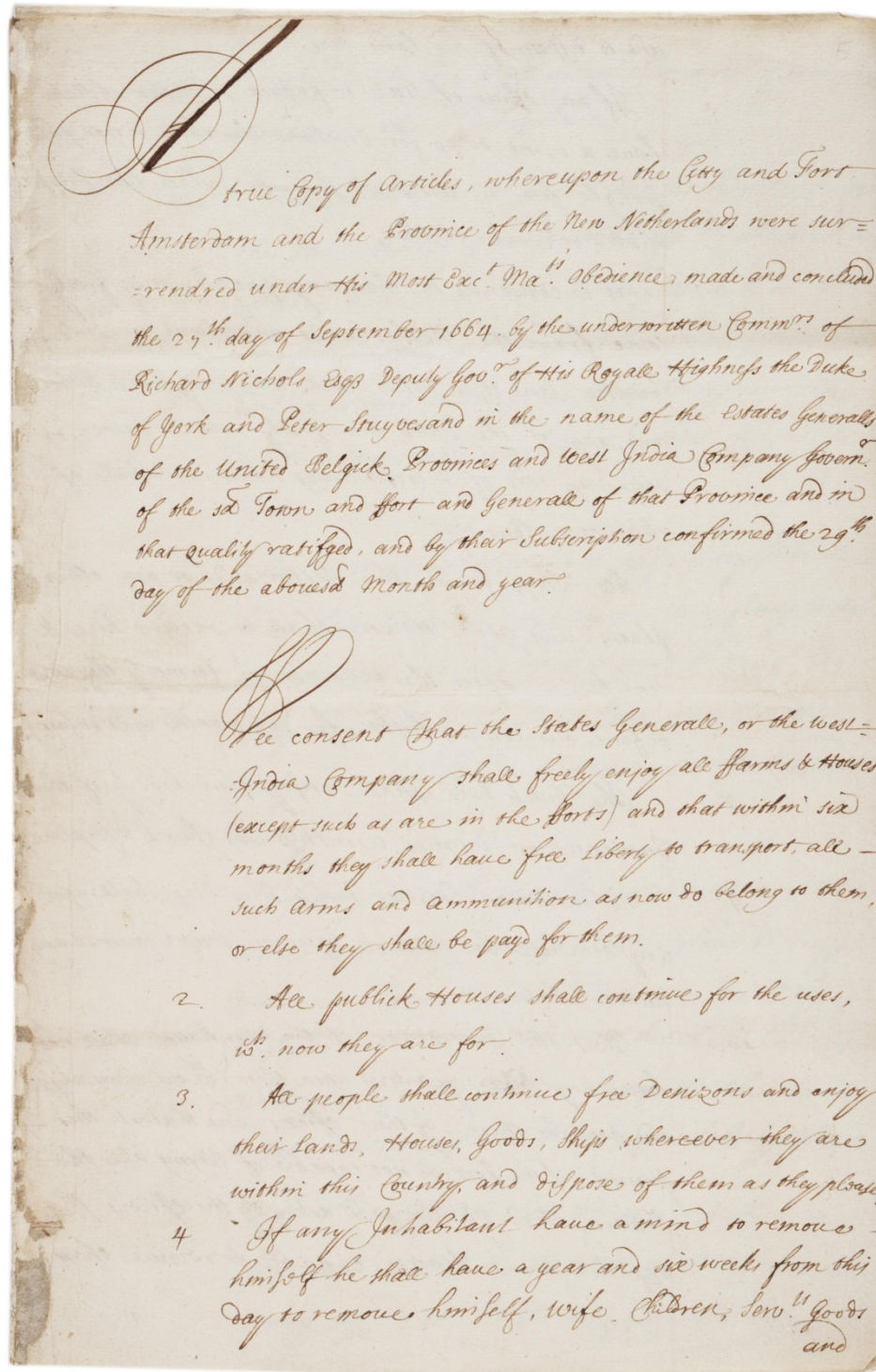
The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

indicate a connection to the Dutch presence 400 years ago.

2. Considering their long military and economic rivalry, how can you explain the generous terms of surrender offered to the Dutch by the English?
3. If you had been a resident of the Province of the New Netherlands, would you have left or stayed once the English took over? Explain your response.
4. Select and explain three items in the document which indicate the English intention NOT to upset the “status quo”. Why do you think these items were included?

The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

Image



True copy of articles, whereupon ... New Netherlands were surrendered, September 29, 1664. (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC00377)

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Transcript

True copy of articles, whereupon ... New Netherlands were surrendered, September 29, 1664. (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC00377)

True Copy of Articles, whereupon the City and Fort Amsterdam and the Province of the New Netherlands were surrendered under His Most Exc^t. Ma^t^s. Obedience, made and concluded the 27th. day of September 1664. by the underwritten Comm^{rs}. of Richard Nichols Esqr Deputy Gov.^r of His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Peter Stuyvesand in the name of the Estates Generalls of the United Belgick Provinces and West India Company Govern.^r of the sd Town and ffort and Generall of that Province and in that quality ratified, and by their subscription confirmed the 29.th day of the abovesd Month and year.

Wee consent that the States Generall, or the West India Company shall freely enjoy all ffarms & Houses (except such as are in the fforts) and that within six months they shall have free Liberty to transport, all such arms and ammunition as now do belong to them, or else they shall be payd for them.

2. All publick Houses shall continue for the uses, w^{ch}. now they are for.
3. All people shall continue free Denizons and enjoy their Lands, Houses, Goods, Ships, wherever they are within this Country, and dispose of them as they please.
4. If any Inhabitant have a mind to remove himself he shall have a year and six weeks from this day to remove himself, Wife, Children, Serv^{ts}. Goods and [2] and to dispose of his Land here.
5. If any officer of State of publick Minister of State have a mind to go for England they shall be transported fraught free in His Ma.^t^s ffriggatts, when those ffriggatts shall returne thither.
6. It is consented to, that any people may freely come from the Netherlands and plant in this Country; and that Dutch Vessells may freely come hither, and any of the Dutch may freely return home, or send any sort of Merchandises home in Vessells of their own Country.
7. All ships from the Netherlands or any other places, and goods therin, shall be received here & sent hence, after the manner, w^{ch}. formerly they were before our

The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

coming hither for six months next ensuing.

8. The Dutch here shall enjoy their Liberty of their Consciences in Divine Worship and Church Discipline.
9. No Dutchman here or Dutch Ship here shall upon any occasion be prest to serve in Warr against any Nation whatsoever.
10. That the Townesman of the Manhattoo shall not have any Soldiers quartered upon them wth.out being satisfied and payd for them, by their officers, and that at this present, if the ffort be not capable of lodging all the Soldiers, then the Burge Master by His officers shall appoint some House capable to re[*illegible*]e them. [3]
11. The Dutch here shall enjoy their own Customes concerning their Inheritances.
12. All publick writings and Records w^{ch}. Concerns the Inheritances of any people, or the Regulment of the Church or Poor or Orphans shall bee carefully kept by them in whose hands now they are, and such writings as particularly concern the states generall all may att any time be sent to them.
13. No Judgement that hath passed any Judicature here shall be called in question, but if any conceive that he hath not had Justice done him, if hee apply himself to the states Generall, the other party shall bee bound to answer for the supposed Injury.
14. If any Dutch living here shall att any time desire to travell or traffique into England or any place or Plantation in obedience to His Ma^{ty} of England, or with the Indians he shall have (upon his Request to the Gov^t.) a Certificate that he is a free Denizon of this Place, and Liberty to do so.
15. If itt do appear that there is a publick ingagement of Debt by the Town of Manhatons, and a way agreed on for the satisfying of g^t engagement. It [4] It is agreed that the same proposed shall go on and that the engagement shall bee satisfied.
16. All inferior Civill officers and Magistrates shall contrive as now they are (if they please) till the customary time of new Elections; and then new ones to be chosen by themselves Provided that such new [*struck: ones*] Magistrates shall take the Oath of Allegiance to His Ma^{ty} of England before they enter upon their office.
17. All Differences of Contracts and Bargains made before this day by any in this Country shall bee determined according to the manner of the Dutch.

The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

18. If it do appear that the west India Company of Amsterdam do really ow any Summs of mony to any persons here, itt is agreed that Recognition and other Duties payable by Ships going for the Motherlands, bee continued for six months longer.
19. The officers Military & Soldiers shall march out with their Armes, Drums Bating and Colours flying, and lighted matches; and if any of them will plant they shall have fifty acres of Land sett out for them; if any of them will serve any as Servants they shall continue with all safety and become free [Denisons] afterwards.
20. If at any time hereafter the King of Great Britaine and the States of the Motherlands do agree that this place and Country be redelivered into the [5] the hands of the said States whensoever His Ma^{ty} will send His Commands to redeliver itt, itt shall immediately be done.
21. That the Town of Manhatons shall choose Deputies and those Deputies shall have free [vogues] in all publick affairs as much as any other Deputies.
22. Those who have any propriety in any Houses in the ffort of [aurania] shall (if they please) slight the ffortifications there, and then enjoy all their houses as all people do where there is no ffort.
23. If there be any Soldiers that will go into Holland and if the Company of West India in Amsterdam, or any private psons here will transport them into Holland, then they shall have a sage Passport from Coll Richard Nicholls Deputy Govern^r. under His Royall Highness, and the other Comm.^{rs} to defend the ship that shall transport such Soldiers, and all the goods in them from any surprizall or Acts of Hostility to be done by any of His Ma.^{ty}s Ships or Subjects.

That the Cobby of the Kings grant to His Royall Highness, and the Cobby of His Royall Highness Commission to Coll Nicholls testified by two Comm.^{rs} now and M^r. Winthrop to be true Coppies shall be delivered to the Hon^{ble} M^r. Stuyvesant the present Govern^r. on Munday next by sight of the [6] the Clock in the morning at the old Milne and these Articles consented to, and signed by Coll Rich^d. Nicholls Dep^{ty} Govern^r. to His Royall Highness, and that within two hours after the ffort and Town called New Amsterdam upon the Isle of Manhatons, shall be delivered into the hand. of the sd Coll Richard Nicholls by the Service of such as shall be by him thereunto

The surrender of New Netherland, 1664

deputed by his hand and seal.

I give my consent to those

articles Richard Nicholls.

Rob^t. Carr.

George Cartwright

John Winthrop

Sam^l. Willis

Tho: Clarke

John Pricham

Johan d dechere

Nicholas barlett

Sam^l. Mogapolonsio

Cornelis Sternnych

Oloft Stopons Van Cortland

Jacquies Coussuan

[true copy]

[*docket*]

[Articles concerning]