

Guide to the New Amsterdam Records, 1647-1862 (bulk 1647-1675)

0040

Processed by Rachel Lintz

Descriptive Summary

Title: New Amsterdam Records

Dates: 1647-1862

Bulk Dates: 1647-1675

Abstract: This collection contains the municipal records of the government of New Amsterdam during the seventeenth century, as well as manuscript translations made of the documents made during the nineteenth century. The materials include ordinances, court minutes, contracts, minutes of the orphan court, administrative minutes, records of the notary public, and manuscript translations.

Languages: The collection is in Dutch and English.

Quantity: 7.5 linear feet

Identification: 0040

Repository: New York City Municipal Archives

Location: 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York 10007

Historical Note

Commissioned by the Dutch East India Company, Henry Hudson led the first expedition to what is now New York City in 1609. In 1614, the area between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers was designated the colony of New Netherlands. The States General of the Netherlands created the Dutch West India Company about ten years later, establishing a monopoly on Dutch trade over a vast domain from West Africa to Newfoundland. The first colonists in New Netherlands arrived in 1624 at Fort Orange (near Albany); in 1626 a few other colonists moved to Manhattan Island. Because of its harbor and strategic location, Manhattan soon became the main settlement of the colony.

Initially, the colony was governed by “directors general,” appointed by the West India Company. In 1652, after years of colonists growing discontent under the successive governors’ oppressive policies, Director-General Petrus Stuyvesant was instructed to form a municipal government modeled on those in the Netherlands. Five “schepens” (aldermen), a “schout” (sheriff), and two “burgomasters” (mayors) were appointed.

From its earliest years, the colony was notable for its diverse population. The official religious denomination of the colony was the Calvinism of the Reformed church, but the Dutch West India Company urged tolerance toward non-Calvinists to encourage trade and immigration. Among the religious groups in New Amsterdam were Lutherans, Quakers, Anabaptists, Catholics and Jews. The colony attracted immigrants from Germany, England, Scandinavia, and France, as well as African slaves.

Dutch conflict with England over boundaries and trade led Charles II of England to grant the colony to his brother James, Duke of York, in March 1664. New Amsterdam

was surrendered to the English on September 8, 1664. It was renamed New York City. In 1663, the colony was briefly reclaimed by the Dutch, but the Treaty of Westminster returned it to English control in 1674.

Scope and Content Note

The volumes include the administrative records of the Dutch municipal legislators, the Burgomasters and Schepens, as well as ordinances of the Director-General. Information found in the records ranges from court cases to the bans of matrimony, to powers of attorney, indentures of apprentices, debts and mortgages, and deeds and conveyances of real estate. Also included are the registers of Notary Publics Salomon LaChaire and Walewyn van der Veen and records of the Orphan Master's Court.

The New Amsterdam records are in the Dutch language as spoken and written in the middle of the seventeenth century. The records from the English colonial period (starting from 1664) are written in a combination of old Dutch and English.

Between 1848-1862, New York State Archivist Edmund B. O'Callaghan created handwritten manuscript translations for the Dutch records. Some of the O'Callaghan translations were edited and published in Berthold Fernow's seven-volume *Records of New Amsterdam* in 1897. They were reprinted in 1976 in collaboration between the Genealogical Publishing Company and the Holland Society of New York. Additional translations by O'Callaghan were published in Fernow's *Minutes of the Orphanmasters of New Amsterdam* in 1902 and 1907.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged into two series. Series I is comprised of the original Dutch records. Records in this series are arranged into subseries by record type, and then chronologically. Series II contains the manuscript translations, arranged chronologically.

Series I: Original Dutch Records of New Amsterdam, 1647-1675

Subseries 1: Ordinances of New Amsterdam, 1647-1661

Subseries 2: Minutes of the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens of New Amsterdam, 1653-1674

Subseries 3: Legal Documents, 1653-1675 (Powers of Attorney, Acknowledgements, Indentures of Apprenticeship, Inventories, Deeds, Conveyances, Mortgages)

Subseries 4: Minutes of the Orphanmaster's Court of New Amsterdam, 1655-1666

Subseries 5: Administrative Minutes of the Burgomasters of New Amsterdam, 1657-1664

Subseries 6: Records of the Notary Public, 1661-1664 (Registers of the Notary Publics Salomon LaChaire and Walewyn van der Veen)

Series II: Manuscript Translations, 1848-1862, undated

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research use; however, the original items are restricted due to fragility. Use digital surrogates available via the repository's website.

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:
Identification of item, date (if known); New Amsterdam Records; 0040; box number; folder number; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, NY.

Acquisition Information

Donated in 1985 by the Office of the City Clerk, New York City.

Processing Information

In the 1990s, the Municipal Archives Conservation Lab treated the materials. The records were cleaned, leaf-cast, and placed in custom-made drop-spine boxes. Leather bindings created in the 1930s were removed and replaced with new preservation covers.

Access Points

Names

O'Callaghan, E. B.
Stuyvesant, Peter

Places

New Amsterdam (N.Y.)
New Netherland
New York (N.Y.)

Subjects

Colonialism--history--United States
Dutch West India Company
Fur trade
Municipal government
Municipal government--New York (State)--New York

Container List

Series I: Municipal Records of New Amsterdam, 1647 – 1675

Subseries 1: Ordinances of New Amsterdam, 1647 – 1661

Box Label	Title	Date
Original Dutch Records, Vol. 1	Ordinances	May 31, 1647 - Oct. 21, 1661

Subseries 2: Minutes of the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens of New Amsterdam, 1653 – 1674

Box Label	Title	Date
Court Minutes, Vol. 1	Court Minutes, Vol. 1	Feb. 2, 1653 - Aug. 28, 1656
Court Minutes, Vol. 2	Court Minutes, Vol. 2	Sept. 4, 1656 - June 8, 1660
Court Minutes, Vol. 3	Court Minutes, Vol. 3	June 15, 1660 - Aug. 29, 1662
Court Minutes, Vol. 4	Court Minutes, Vol. 4	Sept. 5, 1662 - June 27, 1665
Court Minutes, Vol. 5	Court Minutes, Vol. 5	June 27, 1665 - Oct. 13, 1670
Court Minutes, Vol. 6	Court Minutes, Vol. 6	Oct. 13, 1670 - Nov. 10, 1674

Subseries 3: Legal Documents, 1653 – 1675

Box Label	Title	Date
Burgomasters & Schepens, Vol. 1	Burgomasters & Schepens, Vol. 1: Powers of Attorney, Acknowledgements, Indentures of Apprenticeship, Inventories, Deeds, Conveyances	Mar. 1653 - Nov. 1655 or Dec. 11, 1658
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 2	Burgomasters & Schepens, Vol. 2: Mortgages	Dec. 18, 1654 - Feb. 14, 1660
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 3	Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 3: Deeds and conveyances	1658-1660
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 7	Burgomasters & Schepens, Vol. 7: Debts and mortgages	Mar. 6, 1660 - Apr. 15, 1665
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 4	Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 4: Deeds and conveyances	Apr. 16, 1661 - Mar. 10, 1663
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 5	Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 5: Deeds and conveyances	Mar. 10, 1663 - June 10, 1665
Deeds, Bonds, etc. of New Orange	Deeds, bonds, mortgages	Nov. 12, 1665 - Apr. 22, 1675

Subseries 4: Minutes of the Orphanmaster's Court of New Amsterdam, 1655 – 1666

Box Label	Title	Date
Original Records of Burgomasters and Orphanmasters, Surrogates	Orphan Court Minutes	Oct. 18, 1655 - Apr. 2, 1666

Subseries 5: Administrative Minutes of the Burgomasters of New Amsterdam, 1657 – 1664

Box Label	Title	Date
Administrative Minutes, Vol. 1	Administrative Minutes, Vol. 1	Mar. 8, 1657 - Jan. 28, 1661
Administrative Minutes, Vol. 2	Administrative Minutes, Vol. 2	Feb. 11, 1661 - May 20, 1664

Subseries 6: Records of the Notary Public, 1661 – 1664

Box Label	Title	Date
Minutes of the Notary Public Solomon LaChaire, Jan-May 1661	Register of the Notary Public Salomon LaChaire	Jan. 20, 1661 - May 23, 1661
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 8	Register of the Notary Public Salomon LaChaire	Aug-Sept. 1661
Minutes of the Notary Public Salomon LaChaire, 1661-1662	Register of the Notary Public Salomon LaChaire	Nov. 8, 1661-Oct. 10, 1662
Burgomasters & Schepens, No. 6	Register of the Notary Public Walewyn van der Veen	May 20, 1662 - June 1664

Series II: Manuscript Translations, 1848-1862, undated

Box Label	Title	Date
Translation: Government Grants (Original missing), 1642-1649	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Government Grants, 1642-1649"	Undated
Translation of Original Dutch Records & Ordinances of New Amsterdam 1647-1661, Vol. I p. 1-264. 1647-1654.	Unbound manuscript pages titled "Ordinances of New Amsterdam, 1647-1661. Translated by E.B. O'Callaghan."	Undated
Translation of Original Dutch Records & Ordinances of New Amsterdam 1647-1661, Vol. I p. 1-264. 1647-1654.	Bound manuscript, spine broken away. Title page reads: "Translation of Dutch Records 1647-1654"	Undated
Translation Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 2, Sept. 1654 – Jan. 1657	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 2 from Sept. 1654 to Jan. 1657"	[1848]
Translation Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 3, 1661 – 1663	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Records of Burgomasters & Schepens, Vol. 3, From 1657-1661"	[1850s]
Translation Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 4, 1659-1662	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 4, 1659-1662"	[1850s]
Translation Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 5, Sept. 1662- June 1665	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 5 From Sept. 1662 to June 1665"	[1850s]
Translation Mayor and Aldermen (Burgomasters and Schepens 6), June 1665 to Oct. 1672	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Mayor & Aldermen from June 1665 – Oct. 1672 Vol"	[1850s]
Translation Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 7, 1673 – 1674	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: "Records of Burgomasters & Schepens Vol. 7 1673-1674"	[1850s]
Minutes of the Orphan Court	Bound manuscript, titled on	1858

New Amsterdam, 1655-1668”	spine: “Minutes of the Orphan Court New Amsterdam, from 1655-1668”	
Translation, Powers of Attorney, Acknowledgments, Indentures of Apprenticeship, Inventories, & Deeds, Etc., 1651-1656	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Powers of Attorney, Acknowledgments, Indentures of Apprenticeship, Inventories, Deeds, &c., 1651-1656”	1860
Translation, Deeds & Conveyances of Real Estate in the City of New Amsterdam, 1654-1658	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Deeds & Conveyances of Real Estate in the City of New Amsterdam, 1654-1658”	1860
Translation, Mortgages of Lots and Pieces of Land in the City of New Amsterdam, 1654-1660	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Mortgages of Lots and Pieces of Land in the City of New Amsterdam, 1654-1660”	1860
Mortgages of Lots & Tracts of Land in the City of N.Y. & New Orange, 1664-1675	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Mortgages of Lots & Tracts of Land in the City of New York and New Orange, 1664-1675”	1862
Translation, Deeds & Conveyances of Real Estate in the City of New Amsterdam, 1659-1664	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Deeds and Conveyances of Real Estate in the City of New Amsterdam, 1659-1664”	1862
Translation, Register of Solomon LaChaire, Notary Public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Register of Solomon LaChaire, Notary Public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664”	1862
Translation, Register of Walewin van der Veen, Notary Public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664	Bound manuscript, titled on spine: “Register of Walewin van der Veen, Notary Public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664”	1862