

OVERVIEW OF SOURCES ON NEW NETHERLAND

The Dutch presence in North America covered the period from 1609 to 1664. The colony of New Netherland was founded in 1624. The Republic of the United Provinces officially surrendered this possession in 1667 at the Peace of Breda.

There is very little information in the Nationaal Archief on the Dutch colonization period, mainly because of the large-scale destruction of the archives of the Old West India Company in 1821. In the Netherlands, Amsterdam's Municipal Records Office has far more information on New Netherland than the Nationaal Archief.¹ Far more sources from this period, relatively speaking, have been preserved in the United States, in particular in the New York State Archives and the New York State Library in Albany. A large proportion of these documents have been published in the series *The Records of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674* (NATIONAL ARCHIEF library number 59 F 2) and *New York Historical Manuscripts Dutch* vols. 1–4, (*60 B 26), vols. 5–7 (172 A 38/39/40). The latter series is continued in *New Netherland Documents* vol. 17, (*178 A 13). Other published sources are: Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York, 1902. "Passengers to New Netherland, 1654-1664", pp. 1-37, and A.J.F. van Laer, Documents relating to New Netherland 1624-1626 in the E. Huntington Library (196 D 21).

In the mid-19th century J. Brodhead researched all the European sources relating to New York for the State of New York and published them in his *Documents relative to the Colonial History of New York procured in Holland, England and France* vols. 1-2, (57 H 23). The first two volumes give an almost complete overview of all the documents extant in the Netherlands, except those of the West India Company. As this overview records and translates all the documents, it provides the best access to the archive documents in the archives of the States General, the States of Holland and the Council of State.²

For the record here is a list of the main sources in the archives and collections:

Archives

Archive of the Old West India Company (inventory 1.05.01.01)

The Resolutions and registers of outgoing documents of the Heren XIX, the Amsterdam Chamber and the Zeeland Chamber sometimes contain information on New Netherland, but the Resolutions are far from complete. Some are held in other collections.

Heren XIX

- Resolutions: 1623-1624 (inv. no.1), 1645 December-1646 May 4 (inv. no. 2*), 1647-1648; 1653-1654 (with indexes, inv. no. 3), 1651-1654 (with Appendices, inv. no. 5); 1656-1659 (with earlier documents 1650-1655, = *Archive of States General*, 1.01.07, 12564.42), 1660-1665 (with Appendices, inv. no. 6)
- Copy books of outgoing letters 1629-1657 (inv. nos. 8-10)

Kamer Amsterdam (Amsterdam Chamber)

- Resolutions 1635-1636 (inv. nos. 14-16)

Kamer Zeeland (Zeeland Chamber)

- Resolutions 1626-1646 May 31 (inv. nos. 20-26), 1650-1652 March (= *Acquisitions Collection*, inventory 1.11.01.01, inv. no. 992), 1658-1669 July 4 (inv. nos. 20-30)

Archive of the States General (inventories 1.01.03–1.01.07)

The States General granted the WIC (West India Company) a patent and part-funded war operations and expeditions.

Lias WIC (WIC- file) inventory 1.01.03

period: 1623-1673 (inv. nos.. 5751-5768)

Correspondence, stored serially and chronologically, between the West India Company and the States General or incoming documents to the States General on matters relating to the West India Company. The file can be accessed via the Resolutions of the States General (= date of incoming letter dealt with).

¹ Amsterdam had purchased some of the Dutch part of New Sweden from the WIC in 1657 and founded its own colony there, called New Amstel.

² Broadhead incorrectly refers to the Algemeen Rijksarchief as the 'Royal Archives'.

Loketkast WIC (*WIC pigeonholes) *inventory 1.01.07*

"Dossiers" collected by case.

- 12564.25 Rapporten over de toestand in Nieuw-Nederland en procedures tegen Cornelis Melijn, patroon op het Staten-Eiland (Reports on the situation in New Netherland and proceedings against Cornelis Melijn, patroon of Staten Island), 1649-1650. With earlier documents 1642-1648
- 12564.30A Nieuw-Nederland, in het bijzonder de positie van patronen en bevolking, 1649-1650 (New Netherland, in particular the position of patroons and population, 1649-1650)
- 12564.36 Klachten over Stuyvesant en de limietscheiding met de Engelsen, 1650-1652 (Complaints about Stuyvesant and the border drawn up with the British, 1650-1652)
- 12564.46 Nieuw-Nederland. Verzoek van de Spaanse ambassadeur om recht voor Juan Gaillard Ferrera, wonende te Sint Lucas de Barramedo ter zaken van het hem ontnemen van een aantal negerslaven, 1658 (The New Netherlands. Request by the Spanish ambassador for justice for Juan Gaillard Ferrera of St Lucas de Barramedo concerning the removal from him of a number of negro slaves, 1658). With earlier documents 1652-1657
- 12564.48 Extracten uit de notulen van de heren XIX, gedeeltelijk samen met gedeputeerden van de Staten-Generaal over Nieuw-Nederland, 1660 augustus 17 september 25 (Extracts from the minutes of Heren XIX, partly together with members of the States General concerning New Netherland, 1660 August 17 September 25)
- 12564.49 Remonstrantie van de WIC over de geschillen tussen de WIC en de Engelsen over de grensscheiding in Nieuw-Nederland, 1660 (Plea by the WIC concerning the disputes between the WIC and the British on the border in New Netherland, 1660). With earlier documents 1614-1659
- 12564.57 Beschuldigingen tegen en de verdediging van Pieter Stuyvesant, gewezen directeur van Nieuw-Nederland, in zake zijn gedrag bij het verlies van Nieuw-Nederland, 1665-1667 (Accusations against, and the defence of, Peter Stuyvesant, ex-director of New Netherland, concerning his conduct in the loss of New Netherland, 1665-1667). With earlier documents 1661-1664

Secrete kast Engeland (Secret chest Britain), *inventory 1.01.08*

- 12576.76 Deductie betreffende de limietscheiding in Nieuw-Nederland, 1660 (Decision concerning the border in New Netherland, 1660)
- 12582.9 Letter from the Amsterdam Chamber re the Swedes from New Netherland, 24 January 1656. With Appendices and earlier documents.

Secret chest "Treaties and ratifications" (1.01.08)

- 12589.127 Peace treaty signed at Breda between the States General and the King of England, 1667 July 31
- 12589.128 Act of ratification by the King of England of the Peace of Breda
- 12589.129 Ditto, of the individual Articles
- 12589.131 Act of ratification by the King of England of the provisions of Article 3 of the Peace of Breda, returning the territories that Britain and the Republic had conquered from each other since 20 May 1667, 1667 August 8
- 12582.14 Return of colonies Britain-Netherlands, 1667

Map collections

Collection of Leupe's Foreign Maps (inventory 4.VEL)

inv. nos. 519-521, 619, 680, 1380, 1387, 1391-1397 and 1403

Collection of Leupe's Foreign Maps, supplement (inventory 4.VELH)

inv. nos. 10, 255, 262 and 571

Most of the maps can be viewed on microfiche (in black & white) in the self-service Reading Room.

Archives elsewhere

Amsterdam Municipal Records Office

Resolutions of the City Councils
Archive of the Amsterdam Classis
Photocopies of documents from Albany

Literature

There is a large quantity of literature on New Netherland. Here is a – limited – selection.

Asher, G.M. *A Bibliographical and Historical Essay on the Dutch Books and Pamphlets Relating to New Netherland*. Amsterdam 1854-1867.

Brodhead, John Romeyn. *History of the State of New York*, 2 vols. New York 1853-1871 (vol. 1)

Flick, Alexander C., ed. *History of the State of New York*, 10 vols. New York 1933-1937 (vol. 1)

Gehring, Charles T., *A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland*

O'Callaghan, E.B. *History of New Netherland*, 2nd ed. 2 vols. New York 1855

Rink, Oliver A., *Holland on the Hudson, a economic and social history of Dutch New York*, Ithaca (NY) 1986 (168 F 14)

Websites

www.nnp.org (site of the New Netherland Project, with an extensive bibliography and other information)