

Summary of an Affidavit Concerning a Slave-Trading Voyage to New Netherland, 1663-1664

Source: "English Translations of Notarial Documents in the Gemeente Archief of Amsterdam Pertaining to America," Collections of Historic Hudson Valley, Rockefeller Archive Center, Pocantico Hills, NY.

Date: 23 March 1666

<p>Sworn before Amsterdam Notary Henrick Outgers</p> <p>Symon Cornelisz, Gijlde, skipper of the ship the <i>Gideon</i> and Gerrit Remmersz, mate on the same ship, declare at the request of the directors of the West Indian Company that they were chartered by the West India Company on November 15, 1663.</p>	<p>notary: a person who prepares legal documents.</p> <p>skipper: the master or captain of a vessel.</p> <p>chartered: provided with a contract to use a ship for a voyage.</p>
<p>They were sent to Angola in order to transport from there slaves to Cayenne, Curaçao and New Netherland. In the same month of November of the year 1663 they sailed to the Casteel el Mina (Sao Jorge da Mina) on the coast of Africa and at the order to the director-general Johan Valckenburgh, to Angola. At Loango they delivered their cargo to the customs house officer Samuel Smit and took 421 slaves on board their ship.</p>	<p>cargo: goods carried by a ship.</p> <p>customs house: a government office, usually located at a port, where taxes are collected and ships are cleared for entry.</p>
<p>They arrived in Curaçao with 348 slaves, that is to say with 312 5/6 slaves in a deliverable state. From there they departed with 300 slaves to New Netherland. In August 1664, they arrived there with 290 slaves. The fiscal Nicasius de Sille, the secretary Cornelis van Ruven, and also Peter Alrighs, chief-merchant in the colony of the city of Amsterdam on the Delaware River came on board their ship.</p>	<p>deliverable state: merchandise that is in good condition and fulfills contract requirements.</p>
<p>They divided the slaves into four groups of 72 slaves. Three groups came to the servants of the company, one part to Alrighs. They drew lots for the remaining two slaves who came to the company. The group of Alrighs existed in 54 deliverable and 18</p>	<p>draw lots: the choosing or throwing of objects such as stones or pebbles to make a</p>

physical wreck slaves. The slaves of Alrights were carried off separately and brought to a house in Manhattan. The sailors declare to have been present at the drawing of lots.

decision by chance.

physical wreck slaves: slaves who were in poor condition due to illness or injury.

Read the document carefully. Circle any unfamiliar words or phrases that do not already appear in the glossary. After completing the document, re-write those words in the column labeled “Unfamiliar words or phrases.” Using context clues, determine what you think the circled terms mean and place a possible definition in the second column.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Unfamiliar words or phrases:	2. What I think it means:	3. Definition:

