

Finding Aid for the New Netherland Provincial Secretary Register of the Provincial Secretary series.

Finding Aid Publication Date: Mar 9th, 2017

Online Finding Aid Record:

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/view?docId=ead/findingaids/A0270.xml>

Overview of Records

Repository:

New York State Archives

Summary:

This series contains a vast array of legal documents in the Dutch language filed with the provincial secretary of New Netherland in conjunction with civil and criminal proceedings. Among other duties, the provincial secretary was responsible for recording and authenticating official documents for potential presentation in court. Included are records relating to the administration of real property, commerce, personal and family matters, and other civil and criminal affairs.

Creator:

New Netherland. Provincial Secretary.

Title:

New Netherland Provincial Secretary register of the Provincial Secretary

Inclusive Dates:

1642-1660

Series Number:

A0270

Items Online

This item is available in our Digital Collections

New York State Archives - <http://www.archives.nysed.gov>

Administrative History:

The provincial secretary of New Netherland was an employee of the Dutch West India Company. He was responsible for recording and authenticating official documents for potential presentation in court. Along with the director-general and other councilors, he was also a member of the Provincial Council, the colony's main governing body. The Provincial Council and director-general created and carried out laws relating to the operation of the colony. The council also served as a judicial panel, hearing all cases in which capital punishment could be invoked and reviewing decisions of lower courts on appeal, as well as serving as the local court for the New Amsterdam area.

Scope and Contact Note:

The register of the provincial secretary contains a vast array of legal documents that were filed with the secretary in conjunction with civil and criminal proceedings. Records relating to the administration of real property include deeds, leases, mortgages, indentures, patents, and surveys. Commercial records include contracts, inventories, agreements, accounts, bonds, returns, receipts, bills of sale, certificates, invoices, and charters. Records relating to personal and family matters include powers of attorney, wills, estate inventories, marriage contracts, adoptions, complaints, protests, and counter protests. Documentation of other civil and criminal matters appears in declarations, affidavits, reports, discharges, stipulations, appointments, assignments of claims, notices of appeal, minutes of interviews, mandamuses, manumissions, like bonds, and bequests.

The register of the provincial secretary originally constituted volumes 1-3 of the New York Historical Manuscripts in the New York State Library. Volume 1 was completely destroyed in the New York State Capitol fire of 1911; however, a partial transcription was not in the building and survived. Volumes 1 and 2 (1638-1647) were created during Willem Kieft's tenure as director-general of New Netherland. Volume 3 (1648-1660) documents a portion of his successor Petrus Stuyvesant's tenure (1647-1664). The original records are in the Dutch language.

Use of Records:

Access Restrictions:

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Alternate Formats Available:

Microfilm of the English translation by Van Laer (1 roll, 35mm film) is available for use onsite at the New York State Archives (produced by the New York State Library); however, the film is not

fully legible and may be incomplete.

Related Information:

Related Materials:

Series A1882, Dutch colonial land deeds, contains related records

Series A1880, Dutch patents and deeds, contains related records.

Other Finding Aids:

Abstracted and indexed in: E.B. O'Callaghan's

Translated in:

Access Terms:

Subjects:

- Civil procedure
- Crime
- Real property
- Law
- Dutch--New York (State)
- Dutch Colonial Records

Corporate Names:

- New Netherland. Provincial Secretary.
- New York State Archives
- New York (State). Dept. of State

Genres:

- Legal documents

Geographic Names:

- New Netherland
- New York (State)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- New York (State)

Functions:

- Monitoring
- Supervising

Detailed Description:

Contact repository for copy with container list information.