

BLACK LANDOWNERS IN MANHATTAN'S "LAND OF THE BLACKS," 1643-1664

During the 1640s, William Kieft, the director general of New Netherland, instituted a policy designed to protect New Amsterdam from the repeated incursions by Native Americans that had been plaguing the settlements. With the concurrence of the Council of New Amsterdam, Kieft freed slaves, particularly those slave men who had served as soldiers in the colony's defense, and then granted them and their families land north of the city with the understanding that their residences would create a buffer zone that would insu-

late the city from attack. Listed below are the grants issued between 1643 and 1664, when the Dutch were ousted from New Netherland and the policy ended. The "negroes land" or "land of the blacks"—legal terms used in later conveyances and descriptions of the property—was located about a mile from New Amsterdam, extending northward along the hilly and swamp-ridden region of Manhattan's rugged central wilderness and over 130 acres—100 square city blocks—of Manhattan. —Christopher Moore

LANDOWNER	ACREAGE	FARM GRANT RECEIVED
Catalina Anthony (widow of Jochem)	8	July 13, 1643
Domingo Anthony	12	July 13, 1643
Cleyn (Little) Manuel	10	ca. December 1643
Manuel Gerrit de Reus	12	ca. December 1643
Manuel Trumpeter	18	December 12, 1643
Marycke (widow of Lawrence)	6	December 12, 1643
Gracia D'Angola	10	December 15, 1644
Simon Congo	8	December 15, 1644
Jan Francisco	8	December 15, 1644
Pieter San Tomé	6	December 15, 1644
Manuel Groot (Big Manuel)	8	December 21, 1644
Cleyn (Little) Anthony	6	December 30, 1644
Paulo D'Angola	6	December 30, 1644
Anthony Portuguese	12	September 5, 1645

LANDOWNER	ACREAGE	FARM GRANT RECEIVED
Anna D'Angola (widow of Andries)	6	February 8, 1647
Francisco D'Angola	6	March 25, 1647
Anthony Congo	6	March 26, 1647
Bastiaen Negro	6	March 26, 1647
Jan Negro	6	March 26, 1647
Manuel the Spaniard	4	January 18, 1651
Mathias Anthony	2	December 1, 1655
Domingo Angola	4	December 2, 1658
Claes Negro	2	December 2, 1658
Assento Angola	2	December 2, 1658
Francisco Cartagena	2	December 2, 1658
Anthony of the Bowery	2	ca. 1658
Anthony the Blind Negro	2	ca. 1658
Manuel Sanders	4	ca. 1662