



**ARENT VAN CURLER & THE FLATTS**  
**History, Archaeology & Art Illuminate a Life on the Hudson**

**DOCUMENTS**

**Letter from Jeremias van Rensselaer to Oloff Stevensz van Cortlandt, on sale of the Flatts,  
November 9, 1673**

[148] Sr OLOFF STEVENSZ VAN CORTLANDT

DEAR FATHER, SALUTE! Herewith, by Henrick vande Water, I am sending to you a case with beavers, marked as in the margin, containing 450 whole beavers. I would ask you to be kind enough to keep these in your custody until some time there is an opportunity to ship them. They are the proceeds of the sale of the farm called de Vlackte.<sup>1</sup> I am also sending herewith to Juffrouw Ebbingh a pack of 45 whole beavers, which is about what is coming to her for her one~tenth interest in said sale.

The news brought here from the Maquas country by the papist, Bruas, is that 7 ships have arrived in Canada and that the eighth is expected; that in England there is freedom of religion and that the Duke of York is entirely on the side of the Catholics; that the Turck has made great progress in Poland and Transylvania and in some other places, yes, that they must yearly pay him a tribute of one hundred and fifty thousand rixdollars; that Hungary has revolted against the emperor and that the empress has died; and that Maestricht, after a siege of eleven days, was taken by the French on the first of July. He says also that freedom of conscience would be the end of the war. What he said of Amsterdam we could not well understand, except here and there a word, but the letter has been sent to our governor, van Kollve,<sup>2</sup> and you will be able to understand the contents better there, as here we have no one who can read and understand French

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thoroughly.

Ending herewith, I commend you and mother and the entire family, after greetings, to the protection of the Lord and remain ...

This 9th of November 1673, in Water Vliet

By Henrick vande Water

ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> In the accounts of the colony, under the year 1672, occurs the following entry: "By Philip Schuyler for the farm de Vlackte sold to him with the house, barn, seeded grain and household effects belonging to Sr Rykard van Renselaer, for 700 beavers and fl.1600 Holland money, amounting together to fl.8000."

<sup>2</sup> Captain Anthony Colve.

*Source: Correspondence of Jeremias van Rensselaer, 1651 - 1674*