

1659. Charter of the Ship Eyckenboom

Source: E. Donnan (1932/1969). Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America. NY: Octagon, v. III, 417-420.

In the Name of the Lord, Amen. In the year of the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 1659, the 25th of January, before me Henrick Schaeff, admitted by the Court of Holland a notary public residing in Amsterdam, and the undersigned witnesses, in their own persons came and appeared Messieurs Edward Man and Abraham Wilmerdoncx, directors of the Incorporated West India Company at the chamber here in Amsterdam hereunto authorized by the board of their associates, as charterers on the one part, and skipper Jan Jansen Eyckenboom of Hoorn, master under God, of his ship named the Eyckettboom, long I XX, .wide XXV and one half, hold XI and one half, over it five and one half and six feet, with a half deck and forecastle on either side, and the aforesaid parties declared and do hereby declare to have made and concluded together a certain Contract for a charter of said ship, in the form and manner herein after described,

To wit: That the aforesaid skipper shall be bound immediately to deliver his aforesaid Ship here in the city fitted but, tight, well caulked, and provided, with good and sufficient anchors, cordage, tackle, sails, running and standing rigging and all other necessities and appurtenances thereunto belonging, and the same to mount with ten good pieces of cannon, with the requisite powdr and shot and other ammunition in proportion, but the necessary consumption of powder and shot aforesaid shall be made good by the company, which shall also put on board said ship in addition to the ten pieces aforesaid as many other guns as they please and conveniently place, and shall provide and pay the expence of the powder and shot therefor, on condition that in the necessary consumption thereof, the aforesaid skipper shall bear the contingent of his ship aforesaid; that further, said company shall man said ship with such and so many hands and provide them with such stores as said company will please and think proper. Which being done on the one side and the other, the aforesaid ship shall on the part of said company, be laden with a full and suitable cargo, or to such extent as said company shall think proper; being laden with all such goods, wares, and merchandizes as they will determine, the aforesaid ship shall, with the first fair wind and weather that God will grant, be dispatched and sail from this country direct to the coast of Africa and run along said coast from above downward, or from Cape Verd down, and touch, trade, lie and remain at all trading posts and ports, according to the pleasure of said company and their commissary, unto the Castle St. George d'el Mina, where they shall receive or find orders from the company's director general and council or shall be furnished with them on sailing hence; And sail towards the Bight of Guinea and touch and trade at all other places lying therein according to the order which shall be given him by the director general or here; from thence proceed further to the islands of Curacao, Bonaire, and Aruba in the West Indies, and also to New Netherland, and all round every where else the company, or its ministers, shall determine and order, and likewise at all said quarters and places trade and traffic goods, wares and merchandizes and also take in people, load and unload at the pleasure of the aforesaid company or its ministers; And to that end sail to and from, run hither and thither, anchor, lie, load and unload at said coasts, quarters and places as often and as frequently and so long as the service of the company such shall demand; Furthermore return and come thence to this city Amsterdam or the destined port of discharge, and on her safe return and arrival, there discharge and deliver to the aforesaid company her laden return cargo and goods. Which done, there shall be paid to him the skipper for the contracted freight, every month, the sum of eight hundred guilders of XX stivers each, on condition that the company is bound for the term of six successive months or longer, to be calculated according to the length of time, all current months according to the almanac, to run and commence when the ship shall, in the prosecution of the voyage reach the sea outside the last bouy of the Texel, and to expire when she shall arrive and cast anchor before this city of Amsterdam or her destined port of discharge, payable xiii days at three weeks after the aforesaid discharge here, besides average and pilotage according to the custom of the sea. and over and above also hat money for the above named skipper at the company's, discretion. And said skipper, with and besides the, company's crew, shall also make the voyage with the aforesaid ship in order to look to said ship, her appurtenances, etc., making use of the company's stores, but the monthly pay or wages not being at its charge; And he shall be, over and above, subject to the orders and instructions,

articles and other rules of the company during the voyage, no more nor less than if he had been sworn to observe the same, they being taken as inserted herein, and especially also in regard to particular or private forbidden trading, in shipping or conveyance of particular or private goods, merchandizes or wares, on pain according to the aforesaid articles, orders and instructions of the said company. The abovementioned directors, parties hereunto, pledging for the payment of the aforesaid contracted monthly or freight moneys, average and pilotage, their private persons and property, and the aforesaid skipper, specially also his person, ship, appurtenances and contracted freight moneys, and generally all his other property, real and personal, present and to come without any exception, submitting the same to the court of Holland and all laws and judges, all aboveboard. Done at Amsterdam in the presence of Cryn van Seventer and Marten Hegervelt, free citizens [poorters] here, witnesses hereunto Invited.