

### **1687. Petition Of The Royal African Company To The Court Of Admiralty**

Source: E. Donnan (1932/1969). *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America*. NY: Octagon, v. III, 436-437.

The Royal African Company was founded in 1664. It was granted monopoly control over the slave trade between Africa and British New World colonies. However New Netherlands merchants, even after the colony was taken over by the British, continued to trade independently with Africa. Source: Hodges, G. (1999). *Root & Branch, African Americans in New York & East Jersey, 1613-1863*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 38-40.

To the hono'ble John Palmer Esq. Judge of his ma'ties Court of admiralty.

Shereweth and Informeth to your hon'r the Royall African Company of England, That Whereas his late Ma'tie Charles the second for the supporting and manageing of a trade very beneficiall to his ma'ties Kingdome of England and his ma'ties Forreigne plantations upon the Coasts of Guinney, Bueny, Angola and other parts and places In Africa From the port of Sally in Barbary inclusive to the Cape de bona Esperanza inclusive By his Letters pattents under the great seale of England beareing date the 27th day of Sept'r In the four and twentieth yeare of his Reigne did Incorporate diverse of his Loveing Subjects by the name of the Royall African Company of England And did thereby grant unto the said Company the whole Intire and only trade Into and From Africa aforesaid and the Islands and places near adjoineing to the Coasts of Africa and Comprehended within the Limitts aforesaid with prohibition to all other his ma'ties subjects to trade there. And Whereas the Kings ma'tie our Sovereigne Lord that now Is with the advice of his privy Councill by his proclamation beareing date att Whitehall the first day of Aprill 1685 In the first yeare of his Reigne did publish and declare his Royall will and pleasure to be and did thereby strictly prohibite and forbid all and Every of his ma'ties Subjects whatsoever (Except the said Royall African Company of England and their Successors and such as should be Employed and lycensed by them) att any time or times thereafter to Saill or Navigate any ship or ships vessell or vessells or Exercise any trade to or from any of the parts or Coasts of Africa from Sally to Cape de bona Esperanza or any of the Islands near adjoineing thereunto as afd [aforesaid]; or from thence to Carry any negro Servts Gold Elephants teeth or any other goods and merchandizes of the product or manufacture of the said places upon paine of his ma'ties high displeasure and the forfeiture and Loss of the said negroes Gold Elephants teeth and all other goods and merchandizes and the ships and vessells which should bee taken Or found tradeing in any place or places upon the Costs of Africa af'd within the limitts abovesaid. And did thereby also strictly Requyre ,and command all his Gov'rs Deputy Gov'rs admiralls vice admiralls Generalls Judges of his Courts of admiralty commanders of his Fortts and Castles Capt's of his Royall Ships etc. and all other his officers and min'rs Civill and military by sea or Land in Every of his said American Dominions and plantations to take effectual Care that noe person or persons whatsoever within their respective limitts or Jurisdictions Except the said Company and their Successors and such as should bee Employed and lycensed by them, should send or navigate any ships or vessells or Exercise any trade from any of his said dominions or plantacions to any parte of the said Coasts of Africa within the Limitts aforesaid or from thence to Import any negroe Servants Gold Elephants teeth or other goods of the product of these parts Into any of his dominions or plantations of America as by the said proclamacion Relacion being thereunto had may now fully and att Large appeare. Notwithstanding which One Robert Allison not being of the said Royall African Company nor Employed nor lycensed by them, not being ignorant of the premisses butt his ma'ties said, Letters pattents and the will and pleasure of our said Lord the King with the advice of his privy Councill af'd so published and declared In manner Above Expressed not mindeing nor Regardeing on or about the 20th day of [blank] in the 3d yeare of his now ma'ties Reigne did Import into this his ma'ties Dominion and plantation of Newyorke four negroe Servts 2127 (two thousand one hundred and seven and twenty) pound of Elephants teeth and 107 (one hundred and seven) pounds weight of Bees wax Beeing the product and manufacture of the parts and places in Africa within the Lirnitts comprehended in his ma'ties Letters pattents af'd In contempt of his ma'ties Letters pattents his ma'ties proclamation af'd and the laws and Customes in that beha;fe made had and used, Whereupon the said Royall African Compnay af'd pray the consideration of this Court and that the said negroes Elephants teeth and bees wax may be

adjudged to bee forfeited According to the tenure and Effect of his ma'ties Letters pattents his ma'ties  
said proclamacion and the Laws and Customes in that behalfe had made and used aforesaid.