

When in 1641 the slave Jan Premero was murdered, eight slaves, including Giant Manuel, made a group confession to the murder. They drew lots to decide which of the eight would be hanged and Giant Manuel was left with the short straw. The gallows was prepared. A double noose was placed around Manuel's neck. He climbed the steps and the hangman pushed him off the edge. Both nooses broke, Manuel fell safely to the ground. The crowd called for mercy: this had to be a sign from God. Manuel was set free.

In 1644 Manuel de Gerrit de Reus was granted about 12 acres of land.

New York, New Amsterdam by Martine Gosselink

## Primary Sources

*Primary Source A – Van Laer court transcription, p. 99*

"wishing... to do justice, as we do hereby, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and secular ordinances, we have,... condemned the delinquents to draw lots which of them shall be hanged until death ensue. And after we had called upon God to designate the culprit by lot, finally, through the providence of God, the lot fell upon Manuel of Gerrit de Reus"

*Primary Source B - Van Laer court transcription, p. 100*

"having around his neck two good ropes, both of which broke, whereupon the inhabitants and bystanders called for mercy and very earnestly solicited the same."