

0. WHEN PEOPLE were CARGO - Story Preface

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10. WHEN PEOPLE were CARGO



This lithograph, by John Childs, depicts "Cinque Addressing his Compatriots." It is online via the U.S. National Archives, courtesy of the Chicago Historical Society.

There is another part of the *Amistad* story ... a troubling part ... when people were considered "cargo" and "slaves" were listed as inventory. This is the rest of the *Amistad* story.

- When Lt. Thomas Gedney discovered *La Amistad* on the shore of Long Island, he was commander of the navy brig *U.S. Peter G. Washington*. At the time, the law allowed naval officers such as Gedney to claim salvage rights when they found vessels such as *Amistad*.
- Gedney and his fellow officers did file a [salvage claim](#) on August 29, 1839. Gedney gave a written statement (his "[libel](#)") to the court, detailing what he'd found. He estimated the entire detailed salvage claim to be worth \$40,000. He valued the "slaves" [at \\$25,000](#).
- Roger Sherman Baldwin, and others, responded to Lt. Gedney's claim as "proctor" for the *Amistad* captives. This link takes you to page one of the proctor's January 7, 1840 [answer](#) to Gedney's salvage claim.
- By the time the *Amistad* captives went home, most could write their own names. This link displays their [actual signatures](#).

Other "odds and ends" of history, about the *Amistad* Incident, help us to end this story:

- To learn more about the scope of the *Amistad* project, and to study all kinds of related materials, check out Mystic Seaport's wonderful [Amistad](#) site.
- John Quincy Adams worried about keeping his temper in check during the argument to the Supreme Court. Here is his December 12, 1840 [diary entry](#).
- Supreme Court Justice Story wrote the opinion that gave the *Amistad* captives their freedom. Here is [Justice Story](#) in later years.
- This link is to the official White House [portrait](#) and biography of President Martin Van Buren.
- Romare Bearden created a wonderful [20th century collage](#) of Sengbe and the *Amistad* uprising. This link

directs you to that picture.

- The National Archives and Records Administration has created a site, with [teaching materials](#), on the *Amistad* incident.
- The Library of Congress also has a [web site](#) on the *Amistad* mutiny.

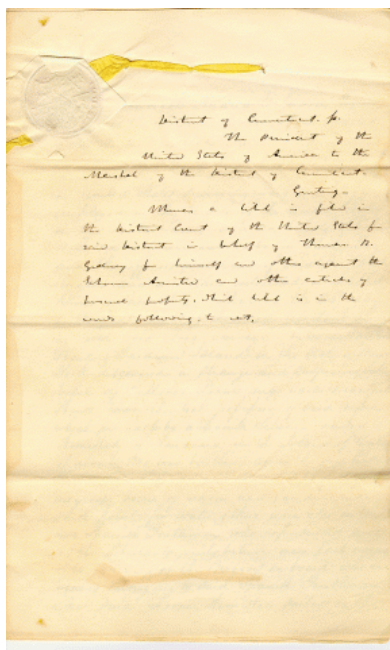
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHEN-PEOPLE-were-CARGO-Amistad-Incident>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHEN-PEOPLE-were-CARGO-Amistad-Incident>

Media Stream

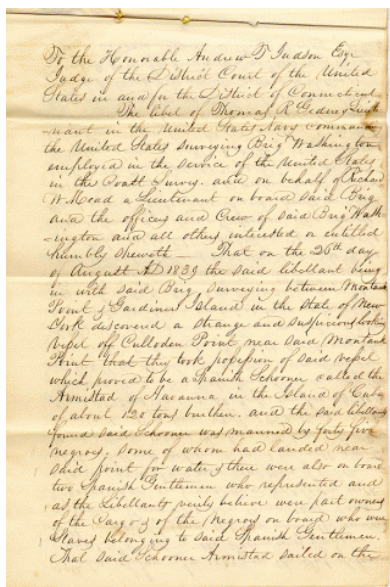


Salvage Claim - Amistad and Cargo

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Salvage-Claim-Amistad-and-Cargo>

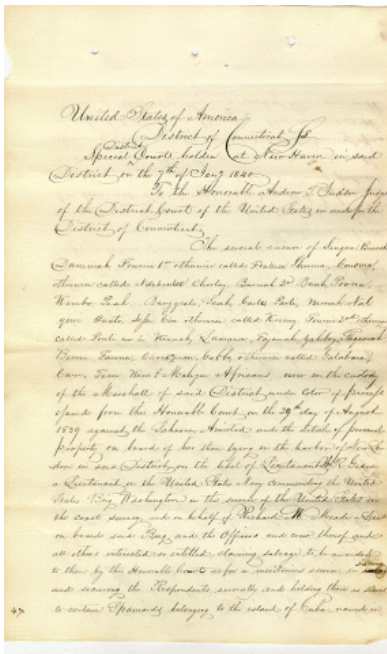


Gedney's Libel Statement

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

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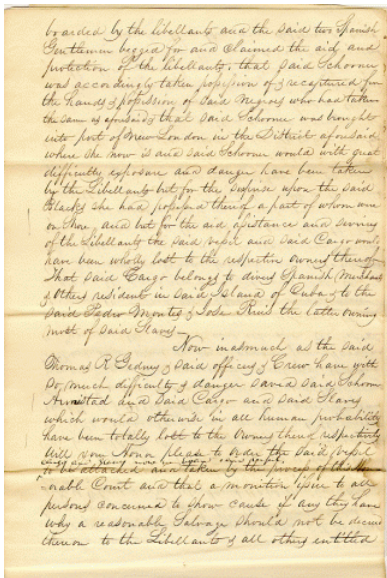


Gedney's Claim - Proctor's Original Answer

Image of first page of Proctor's Answer, in the *Amistad* salvage / property rights case, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gedney-s-Claim-Proctor-s-Original-Answer>

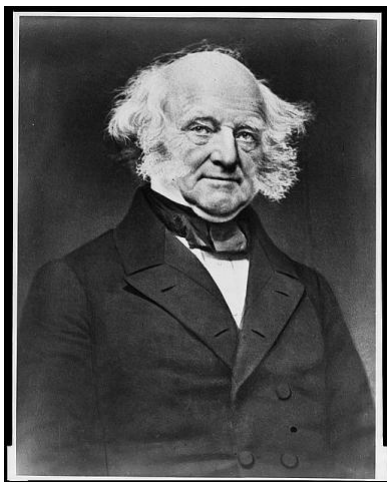


Gedney's Statement - Page 2

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gedney-s-Statement-Page-2>



Justice Story

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romare-Bearden-Modern-Sengbe-Painting>

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