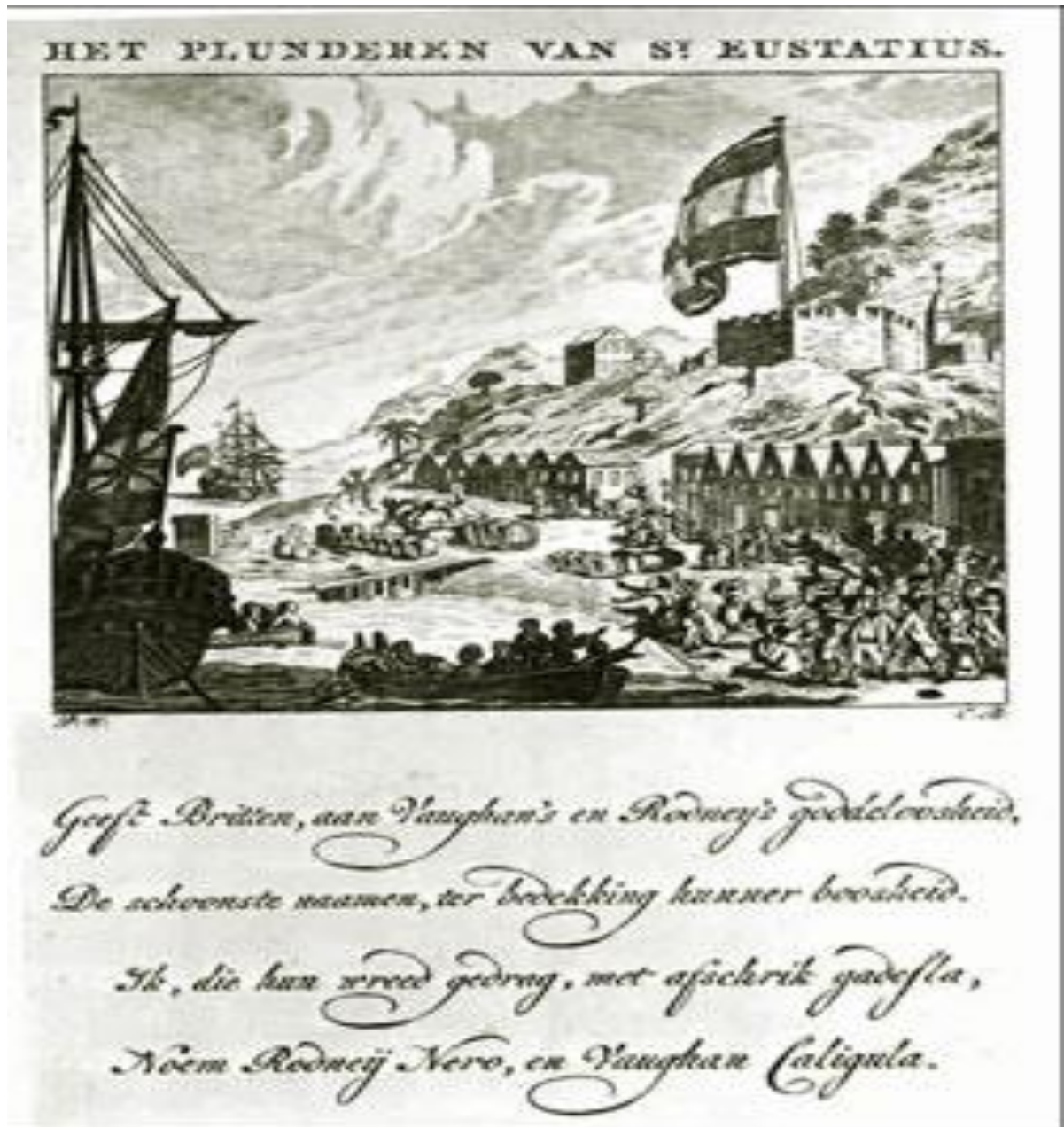


THE MOORES OF ST. EUSTATIUS



The Plundering of St. Eustatius. This contemporary Dutch drawing shows the seizure of St. Eustatius by Britain in 1781 during the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War. An enormous Dutch Republic flag is still flying over the Oranje Fort as British sailors ferry the arrested merchants of St. Eustatius to ships to be transported into exile. In the text the artist compares Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan to the Roman Emperors Nero and Caligula. So far, the “Mr. Moore” who confronted Admiral Rodney with the islanders’ protests has not been identified.

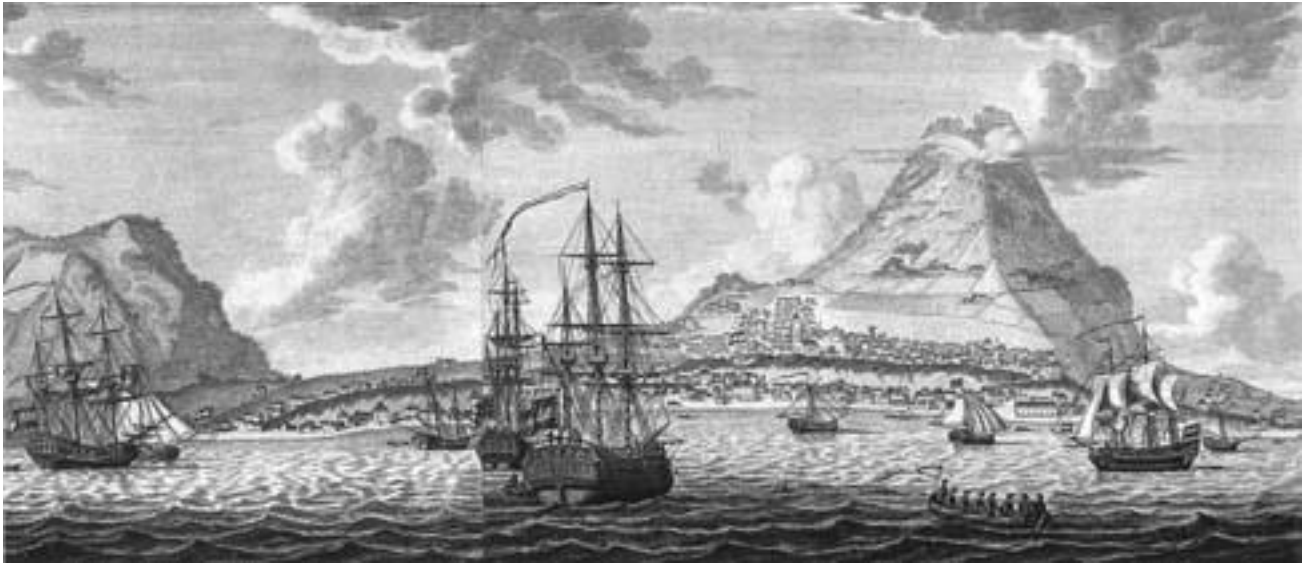
Chapter 3.12 The Moores of St. Eustatius.

A family tree showing what little I have unearthed about the Moore family is shown in Ch.3.12a Appendix A (Moore). William John Moore was born in Dumfries(shire) in 1726 and was a merchant in Barbados and St. Eustatius¹. His wife, Patricia Lilley, was born in Barbados in 1737, the daughter of James Lilley and Ann Martin, and they married on St. Eustatius on 3 November 1754. He became an elder of the (English) Evangelical Church on St. Eustatius in 1766 and died in 1788. A Thomas Moore appears in the island's records; I believe he was not related and have accordingly left him out of the family tree. There are indications that William Moore had Irish connections as several references can be found online to the "Irish-Dutch" children of William Moore (1759-1837) in connection with the island of St. Eustatius.

If the contentions of Agnes M. B. Semple, her sister Elinor Semple and their cousin Adriana A. Semple are true that their great-grandfather, William Moore, was a descendant of a younger son of the earl of Drogheda, then William John Moore could have been that younger son. Other than confirming that the surname of the earls of Drogheda is indeed Moore, I have been unable to find any evidence for the Semple cousins' claim, which suggests that either the claim is dubious or the relationship somewhat more remote. I have concluded that, while Willam Moore was probably Scots-Irish and that he married into a prominent Anglo-Dutch family, the relationship to the earls of Drogheda remains open to doubt. However, the belief that they were descendants of the earls of Drogheda was not just Semple family folklore, it is also part of the family folklore among descendants of Peter Moore (Adriana Moore's brother) now living in Australia, is indicated on the Heyliger family website², and can also be found in documents by J. N. MacInroy³ in the Dutch National Archives. This subject is covered in more detail in Chapter 3.14 on William and Adriana Moore.

I have not been able to establish when the Moores arrived in the West Indies. I have, however, found some old German records from the port of Bremen⁴ which indicate that a Dutch ship, the *De Jonge Josias*, docked in Bremen in 1755 on a voyage from Amsterdam to St. Eustatius and Berbice. Among the crew are listed "*William Moore Kfm.*" and "*Francis Moore Kfm.*". The same book refers to William Moore as an inhabitant of Statia (St. Eustatius) from 1769 to 1794, and suggests that Francis Moore may have actually been a man named "*Francis Morgen*". These conclusions are drawn using my very shaky German; I believe that the William Moore referred to is William John Moore, William Moore's father, on his way, or returning, to the West Indies.

In 1775, after the outbreak of the American War of Independence, the British authorities felt that something should be done about the Dutch free port status of St. Eustatius, from where arms smuggling was gaining the island a reputation as "*the big department store of the American revolution*"⁵. Diplomatic pressure was applied to the Dutch authorities to remove Abraham Heyliger (Chapter 2.10) from his position as governor of the island. The Dutch West India Company duly obliged, appointing Abraham's cousin Johannes de Graaff (Chapter 3.20) as the new governor. On 16th November 1776, four months after the Declaration of Independence, the *Andrew Doria*, a rebel American warship, paid a visit to Oranjestad, the main town and port of St. Eustatius and was greeted by an 11-gun salute from the cannons of the Oranje Fort. This salute, given on the orders of Governor de Graaff, was the world's first diplomatic recognition of the United States of America and was to have very serious diplomatic repercussions. This event, the "First Salute", is described fully in Chapter 3.20.



St. Eustatius in the 17th Century. This old drawing gives a stylised view of St. Eustatius with sailing ships in Oranjestad roads. In the background is Oranjestad town and the Oranje Fort with the volcano called The Quill on the right and Signal Hill on the left.

The circumstances leading up to the British invasion of 1781 is also covered in some detail in Chapter 3.20. However, during the British occupation of February to November 1781 Admiral Rodney's forces prepared a comprehensive census of the island. The documents are known as the Rodney List and may be seen in the National Archives in Kew (ref: CO 318/8); they are in three parts :-

- Part 1. List of Burghers and Burgheresses of St. Eustatius at 20 February 1781.
- Part 2. List of those received as Burghers or Burgheresses between 5 August 1780 and 29 January 1781.
- Part 3. List certifying times of residence of those listed, dated 23 February 1781.

Appearing in Part 1 of the Rodney List, as burghers (i.e. householders), are William John Moore and Thomas Moore, as well as twelve members of the Heyliger family. No information is given regarding William John Moore other than his possession of three male slaves, while the only information shown for Thomas Moore is his status as a burgher, but even this little bit of information suggests that William John Moore's slaves were too few to work a plantation and would have been domestic servants, i.e. William John Moore was probably a merchant. On the Dutch West India Company's 1775 map of St. Eustatius (Ch.3.10) listing all the plantations on the island with the names of their owners, there is no mention of the name Moore. We know that William Moore bought the Plantation No. 17 (Raapzaatsdaal) in 1789, and it is reasonable to assume that this was the first, if not the only, plantation acquired by the Moore family. There is a note in the Rodney List to the effect that the information regarding William John Moore was provided by William Moore Jr. As William Moore Jr. is not listed as a burgher, it seems likely that he and Adriana Heyliger were living in the house of his father, William John Moore, who was duly listed as head of the household.

References.

- ¹ Een Hooglandse familie met West-Indische connecties. J. N. MacInroy of Lude. Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, The Hague, Netherlands. Jaarboek 1973, p. 73
- ² Heyliger family website: www.heyligerfamily.org
- ³ See reference (1) above, pp. 58-77.
- ⁴ Bremer Kaufleute in den Freihafen der Karibik. Karl H. Schwebel. pp. 134, 446
- ⁵ The Fall of the Dutch Republic. Hendrik Willem van Loon (1913). Elibron Classics 2006, p.215..