

## **New York City**

In 1646, Peter Stuyvesant became leader of New Netherland. At this time, there were lots of problems in the colony. He solved some but created others. He expanded the colony by taking over parts of what are now New Jersey and Delaware, including a small Swedish colony called New Sweden.

Many colonists began to complain about Stuyvesant. They wanted a stronger voice in government, but Stuyvesant disagreed. He became unpopular with many people. As New Netherland grew, England decided that the colony had become a threat, so England declared war on Holland. The king of England told his brother, the Duke of York, he could have the Dutch colony if he could take it over. In 1664, the Duke sent English warships to the harbor at New Amsterdam.

The English sent Stuyvesant a letter demanding he surrender New Amsterdam to them. He supposedly tore it up and refused to surrender. He tried to convince the Dutch to fight the English, but they refused.

When Stuyvesant announced he intended to open fire on the English warships waiting in the harbor, residents of New Amsterdam pleaded with him not to fire. Eventually New Amsterdam surrendered without a shot being fired and England took over New Netherland.

England split up New Netherland, giving it the names New Jersey and New York. New Jersey was further divided into East Jersey and West Jersey and would stay under the control of the colony of New York for many years. New Amsterdam itself was renamed New York City.