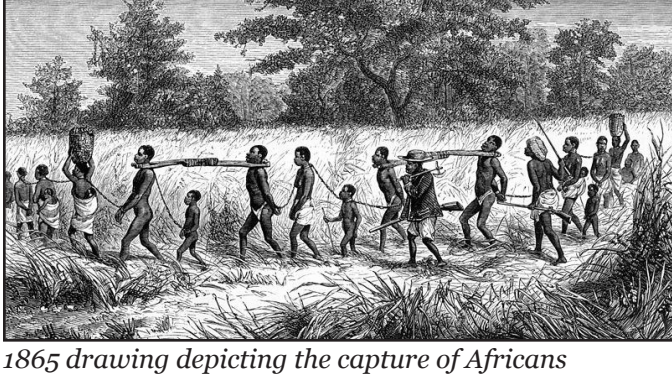


The Amistad: A Detailed Timeline

1839



1865 drawing depicting the capture of Africans



1815 map of Cuba



Oil painting of Pieh (1840)



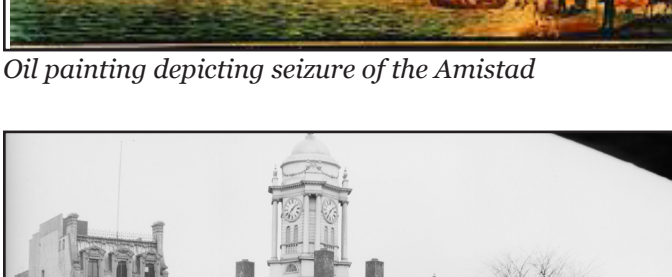
Engraving of the Amistad revolt (1840)



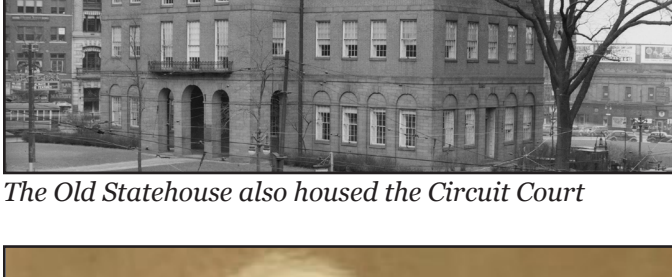
Sail from the reconstructed Amistad (Max Bosio)



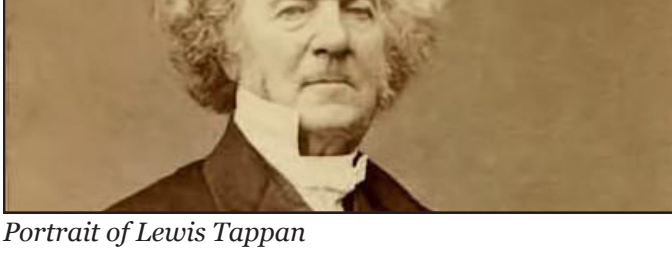
Oil painting depicting seizure of the Amistad



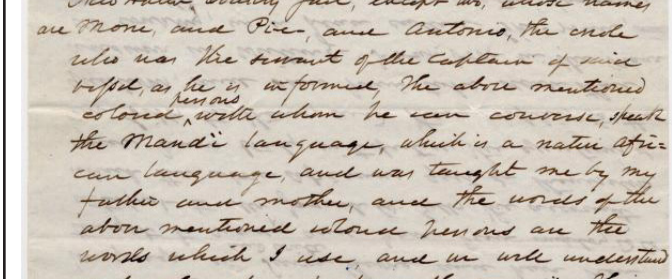
The Old Statehouse also housed the Circuit Court



Portrait of Lewis Tappan



James Covey's deposition for the Amistad captives



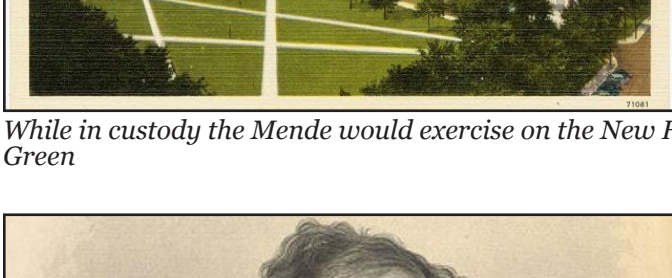
Connecticut's Old Statehouse



While in custody the Mende would exercise on the New Haven Green

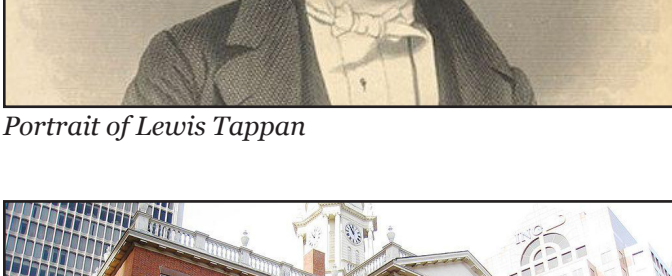


Portrait of Lewis Tappan



Connecticut's Old Statehouse

1840



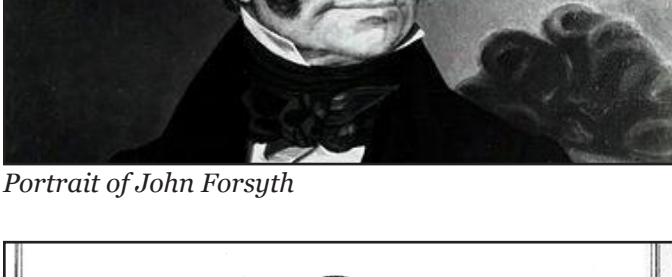
Portrait of John Forsyth



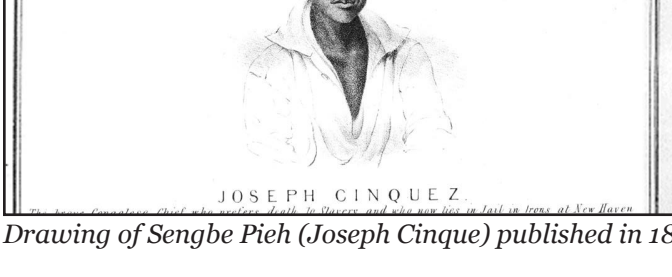
House of Representatives in session (1905)



Portrait of Roger Baldwin

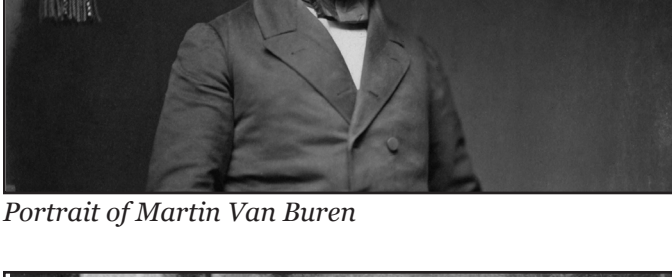


Portrait of Justice Story (1844)



Bible and accompanying letter from the Mende

1842



1803 depiction of Sierra Leone

January

Sengbe Pieh (Cinque) is kidnapped and sold into slavery.

Early April

Portuguese ship *Tecora* is loaded with enslaved Africans off Lomboko.

Late June

Jose Ruiz buys 49 adult male Africans for \$450 each. Pedro Montes buy four children, three of them girls.

June 22-26

Montes and Ruiz obtain passports to transport "ladinos" (Africans born in the New World) to Puerto Principe, Cuba.

June 28

Ruiz, Montes, and the 53 captive Africans board *La Amistad*.

July 1

Pieh (also known as Cinque) and Grabeau free and arm themselves, then the others.

July 2

The captive Africans, led by Pieh, revolt around 4:00am.

Late August

Amistad has several encounters with pilot boats off New York, leading to rumors of pirates.

August 25

The *Amistad* anchors off Long Island and a shore party lands to get provisions.

August 26

Lt. Richard W. Mead of the USS *Washington* seizes the *Amistad* and escorts it to New London in the morning. Claims a salvage award.

August 27

Amistad reaches New London, CT. At an inquiry with U.S. Federal District Judge Andrew T. Judson aboard the *Washington*, Ruiz and Montes demand as property the 39 surviving adult African males, the four children, and the Creole cook Antonio. Judson decides to put the matter to a grand jury at U.S. Circuit Court in Hartford in September. The African captives are taken to jail in New Haven, CT.

September 4

New York abolitionists announce the formation of the "Amistad Committee" to raise funds for the legal counsel and to support the Africans while jailed. Lewis Tappan, Rev. Joshua Leavitt and Rev. Simeon Jocelyn take the lead.

September 6

Spanish minister in Washington formally demands that the Africans be returned to Cuba to stand trial for mutiny and murder.

September 9

Yale professor Josiah Gibbs finds Mende speakers on the docks of New York - James Covey and Charles Pratt - and takes them to New Haven to interview the Africans. New York abolitionists Lewis Tappan, Joshua Leavitt, and Rev. Simeon Jocelyn from the Amistad Committee to raise funds for the defense of the Amistad captives.

September 19

First trial begins in the U.S. Circuit Court at Hartford, Judge Thompson presiding.

September 23

Though he expresses doubt as to the legality of the Africans' enslavement, Judge Thompson denies their motion for writ of habeas corpus, keeping them in custody in the New Haven jail.

October 17

Tappan has several of the Africans bring civil suit against Ruiz and Montes for assault and battery and false imprisonment. The Spaniards are arrested in New York City.

October 22

Hearings begin in the New York Court of Common Pleas, Judge Inglis presiding. Within a week, the court frees Montes, and reduces Ruiz's bail. Montes flees to Cuba. Ruiz eventually makes bail and flees as well.

November 19

The second trial opens at the federal district court in Hartford, Judge Judson presiding. Abolitionists try to get the case dismissed on grounds the "salvage" should have been taken to New York. They then introduce evidence demonstrating that the Africans were not legally enslaved. The court postpones the hearing until January and moves it to New Haven.

January 2

Secretary of State John Forsyth orders the Navy to prepare to transport the Africans to Cuba as soon as the district court ruling is reached, before an appeal can be lodged. The Navy dispatches the USS *Grampus* to wait in New Haven harbor.

January 7

District court proceedings resume in New Haven. U.S. District Attorney for Connecticut William S. Holabird announces that the Spanish government has merged the claims of Ruiz and Montes with those of the U.S. Various witnesses testify that the blacks are Africans, Mendes, bozales (not native to the country).

January 8

Cinque testifies, describing his capture, enslavement, middle passage, sale in Havana, revolt and encounter with Green. Grabeau and Fuliwa also testify.

January 13

Judge Judson affirms the jurisdiction of the district court, and dismisses Green's salvage claim. The court awards salvage to Gedney and the two Spaniards. The court also rules that the Africans were not legally enslaved. On the question of murder and piracy, the court holds that only a Spanish court can rule, but since Spanish law would have effect only if the Africans were bozales - and they were not - there was no point in returning them to Cuba. The court places the captives in the charge of the U.S. President, to be returned to Africa. President Van Buren orders the U.S. District Attorney to appeal the District Court ruling to the U.S. Circuit Court in April. The Spaniards also appeal.

April 29

Trial opens at the Circuit Court at New Haven, Judge Thompson presiding. Thompson eventually affirms the decision of the District Court, setting the stage for a show down at the U.S. Supreme Court.

December 10

In the U.S. House of Representatives, John Quincy Adams accuses the Van Buren administration of falsifying documents in the case. A committee is appointed to investigate the affair.

January 4

The House of Representatives adopts Adams' committee report, but does not censure the administration.

February 22

The U.S. Supreme Court begins hearing the Amistad case.

February 23

Baldwin, who agreed to open for Adams, concludes his arguments.

February 24

Adams begins presenting his argument.

March 9

Justice Story delivers the decision of the Court, affirming the Africans' freedom.

November 19

John Quincy Adams receives a Bible sent to him by Pieh and the other Mende involved in the Amistad case. The Bible is now among over 14,000 volumes in the Stone Library at Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Massachusetts.

November 27

Thirty five survivors depart New York for Africa aboard the barque *Gentleman*, accompanied by two black Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilson, and three whites, Rev. and Mrs. William Raymond and Rev. James Steele, to minister the "Mendi Mission."

January

The Mende reach Sierra Leone.