

# Amistad Who's Who

## The Africans

### Sengbe (Cinque)

A 26-year old Mende rice farmer and leader of the Amistad revolt.

### Galibaru (Grabo)

A Mende rice farmer and second in command of the Amistad captives. Speaks several African languages.

### Shule

The oldest captive and fourth in command while on board *La Amistad*.

### Fuliwa

Born in the Mende town of Mano. Taken prisoner when soldiers surrounded and raided his town. Fuliwa filed charges against Ruiz and Montez.

### Shuma

A middle-aged Mende man taken as a prisoner of war and then sold into slavery. Spoke over the grave of Tua, a captive who died in jail: "Now Tua is dead. God takes Tua. We are left behind. No one can die but once."

### Kinna

Born in Mende country. Considered a "good scholar" while in New Haven.

### Kale

An 8-year old Mende boy stolen from a street in his home town.

### Teme

A young Mende girl who lived with her mother, brother, and sister until a group of men broke into their house, took them prisoner, and sold them to different slavers.

### Kagne

A young Mende girl taken as payment for a debt her father owed.

### Margru

A young Mende girl also given as payment for a debt owed by her father. Later studied at Oberlin College.

## The Other Captives

Burna

Kimbo

Konnoma (Nazhuauulu)

Burna

Bartu (Gbatu)

Gnakwoi

Kwong (Kagnwani)

Pie

Fuliwulu (Furie), Pie's Son

Pungwuni

Sessi

Yaboi

Fabanna

Tsukama

Berri

Foni

Ba

Moru

Ndamma

Bau

Kale

Bagua

Sa

Ngahoni

Fakinna

Faginna

The six captives who died while in New Haven:

Fa

Tua

Weluwa

Kaba

Kapeli

Yammoni



## Amistad Who's Who (continued)

### Slave Traders and Owners

#### Pedro Blanco

A Spaniard and a rich slave trader, operating out of Lombok, the notorious West African slave trading port.

#### Jose Ruiz

A Spaniard living in Cuba who purchased captives from the *Tecora* for Cuban sugar plantations.

#### Pedro Montez

A Spaniard, also living in Cuba, who purchased four children from the *Tecora* captives.

### Crew of *La Amistad*

#### Captain Ferrer

Owner and captain of *La Amistad*. Killed by Sengbe and other captives during the revolt.

#### Celestino

Cook on board. Also killed during the revolt

#### Antonio

Cabin boy and slave. Wounded during the revolt.

Two other sailors who escaped during the revolt.

### The Abolitionists & Defense Team

#### Lewis Tappan

New York abolitionist and successful merchant who helped Simeon Jocelyn and Joshua Leavitt form the Amistad Committee.

#### Roger Sherman Baldwin

Abolitionist lawyer from New Haven who defended the Amistad captives throughout the trials.

#### Josiah Willard Gibbs

Yale University professor, linguist, and abolitionist who resolved the language barrier between the captives and Americans.

#### James Covey (Kaweli)

A 20 year-old Mende man, former slave, and sailor for British navy warship the *Buzzard*. Served as interpreter for the Amistad captives.

#### John Quincy Adams

Former president of the United States and ardent anti-slavery advocate. Argued the Amistad case before the Supreme Court.

### Others

#### Captain T. R. Gedney

Captain of the U.S.S. Washington, the Navy brig that towed *La Amistad* into New Haven. Claimed salvage rights on the ship and the Africans on board.

#### Judge Andrew Judson

A pro-slavery judge who initially decided in favor of Ruiz and Montez. Later ruled that the Africans had been transported illegally.

#### Martin Van Buren

Eighth U.S. President. Served one term from 1836-1840. First president born in the U.S.

#### John Forsyth

Secretary of State under Van Buren, former minister to Spain and slaveholder from Georgia

#### Justice Joseph Story

Supreme Court justice who wrote the Court's decision in the Amistad case.