

The Palatines – Extended Profile

Beginning in 1618 and lasting more than a hundred years, there were wars in the little states of Germany. Armies from Spain, England, France, Holland, and Switzerland fought the Germans and each other. They set the fields on fire so the people did not have any food. The armies burned homes and killed anyone who was in them. It was so bad that sometimes there were wolves in the city streets.

A group called the Palatines decided to leave. First they went to Holland and then they went to England. No one wanted them. Finally, in 1710, the Queen of England gave them money to sail to New York. The Palatines hoped that the new colonies in North America would be safe.

It was a long and hard trip for the Palatines. 2,800 people left England. 400 died on the trip. The Queen had promised them money and land when they got to New York. Most people did not get everything she had promised.

But they worked hard and built farms and homes. Many moved to other colonies in Carolina and Virginia.