

d. The Scandinavians

Virtually all committed Lutherans at the beginning but in later decades many of the non-conforming Swedes, Norwegians, et al will come to the colonies for economic and religious reasons.

e. The French

Mostly the Huguenots, expelled after 1685 and in need of other homelands. They carried Calvinistic ideals and made sparse settlements in the new world.

And of course, there are many others but this is a tabulation of the chief parties. You also know from life that there were some deists, atheists, agnostics and various types of other non-Christians among them.

f. The Lands of Settlement

At this point we stop to look at the religious life and forms in the colonies. Virtually every colonizing effort had a form of religious entreaty at its base. Students interested in the documentation of this will find much of the data in Gausted: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF RELIGION IN AMERICA.

(1) The Virginia settlement

Following the charter of the London Company the Virginia colony was established at Jamestown (about 40 miles up the James River) in 1607. Herkluyt, the geographer and missionary was named rector of the community and James Hunt was the chaplain. (Forgive us for not mentioning earlier accounts that did not succeed...such as Walter Raleigh's earlier attempt that resulted in the famous "Lost Colony". A new charter came in 1609 and Lord de la Ware was the presiding governmental official until 1618. I cannot speak of all the difficulties the company endured but it did grow although it did not fulfill its religious aspirations. It is interesting that when John Rolfe married Pocohontas he noted one of the reasons for so doing was her conversion...he planned to convert her to the Christian faith.

In 1522 as the colony grew, the lack of suitable clergy became a problem and with the end of the Virginia company in 1624 t his problem greatly increased. What established clergyman would leave the settled condition of England for the insecurity of the colonies?

Between 1648 and 1660 VIrginia did not fare well politically due to the Commonwealth period. But with the return of the monarch in 1660 her preferred status was renewed and by 1671 there were 48