

to speak against the state-church and its applications. Williams was tried in 1634 and after no change in mind appeared, was to be deported to England. Prior to this he fled to what is now Rhode Island where he purchased land from the Indians and launched a colony. In 1639 he affiliated briefly with Baptists who had come to Rhode Island and joined the effort of John Clarke (founder of a community at Newport) to get a fully legalized charter for the community. This was granted in 1663 and part of the contract was for full religious liberty. Consequently Quakers soon swelled the territory and became the most influential part of the population. It was ironic but those who fought most to have the community soon lost control of it...but did not lose the religious freedoms for which they had founded the settlement. Williams debated Quakers and eventually became a "free-thinker". But the community of Williams and Clarke was the first place of any sort of committed religious independence. The work for which Williams is justly famous is **THE BLOODY TENANT OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.**" It was answered and reasserted again and again..ad nauseam.

Jews were also welcomed in Newport (Rhode Island in general) and were there by 1660, largely Spanish or Portuguese Jews. The first synagogue of record was dedicated in 1763 although the colonial Jews had been settled there well before this time.

It may be said that without nearly as much grief as one might expect, Rhode Island became a haven for oppressed religious and civil minorities including new settlement groups such as those of Anne Hutchinson, et al.

Admittedly this is a pretty sketchy treatment of the matter but you will get used to that after awhile. We can learn both negative and positive lessons from the New England movements and have plenty of material to apply with regard to the effectiveness of the outreach of the Gospel and the demise of orthodoxy.

(3) The Middle Colonies

Broadly speaking we define this group as Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. As there is considerable diversity in these we will treat them one at a time in broadly arranged paragraphs.

(a) New York (originally New Amsterdam)

The charter for the colony was given in 1621 and by 1623 the Dutch West India Company had occupied the broad territory around the mouth of the Hudson. The claims had been founded by the voyages of Henry Hudson. The Dutch, controlling a sea empire much out of proportion to the small territory of the Netherlands, had been arguing for a colony for many years.