

MANY GERMANS SETTLED IN NEW YORK STATE

In the early part of the 18th century there were as high as thirty thousand Palatines in London at one time. What could England do for these poor unfortunates? At this time England was busying herself in the colonization of her American settlements, and here was a fine opportunity to find a home for a persecuted people. Consequently a shipload was sent to Carolina, another small shipment was made to Virginia; and in 1709, four thousand embarked for New York as a defense against the French and Indians, and to manufacture pitch and tar and other naval stores from the pine trees there. Their voyage was a stormy one, disease and physical wants decimated their number, and about one-fourth died before the journey up the Hudson was undertaken, where Queen Anne promised them a tract of land called Schoharie. But the governor of New York deceived them by settling them in a different locality and otherwise disregarding the terms of their contract. When this deception was perceived by them they became refractory and gave the governor endless trouble. The pitch and tar industry was an utter failure because the pine trees of that region were not of the right quality to make such an industry profitable, besides such an industry was entirely unsuitable for a colony of natural farmers. Finally they were permitted to follow the westward course of the Mohawk to the "Schoharie," as they called it. Even here the governor did not cease to visit them with all sorts of punishment and discomfitures chiefly because he was piqued on account of the failure of his anticipated lucrative tar industry.

[*"A Concise History of the Balthasers,"* by Francis W. Balthaser, 1924, Source #19]