

Many of Brock Township's oldest families can be traced to Germany

Ancestors of Brock Township's pioneer families once called the Palatinate home, writes historian Larry Doble

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William of Orange, Protestant King, won the victory at the Battle of the Boyne.
 - Larry Doble/Photo



Queen Anne, daughter of William of Orange, invited the Palatines to England. - Larry Doble/Photo

Over 200 years ago, many of the ancestors of the Brock Township pioneer families lived in Germany in an area called the Palatinate.

They were Protestant in religion, and the area was often invaded by the armies of King Louis XIV of France. Whenever armies retreated from the Palatinate they burned and destroyed the potential resources of any advancing armies.

After a series of wars and terrible winters, more than 10,000 of these Protestants travelled up the Rhine River in about 1709 to land in England at the invitation of Anne, the Protestant Queen of Great Britain. Initially there was a huge tent city near London, England. The Palatine families had come across the English Channel on the empty supply ships of any advancing armies.

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Channel on the empty supply ships of the Duke of Marborough after he won a great English victory at the Battle of Blenheim over the French army.