

The Founding of New York

With the English in control, New Netherland became the New York Colony and New Amsterdam became New York City. The English allowed the Dutch people living there to keep their property and freedom of religion. They were also given more say in the government.

In August 1673, after a brief war, the Dutch recaptured New York. But when the two countries signed a peace treaty the following year, the British regained control of the colony.



After the English took control of New Netherland, the Dutch were able to continue living there and keep their customs.



After he was removed from power, King James II (lower right in blue coat) fled to France.



Governing New York

New York's residents always wanted more say in the government. In 1683 the Duke of York gave them more freedom to govern themselves. Among other things they were given the right to impose taxes and create laws. They also elected 17 representatives to New York's first General Assembly. The representatives wrote the Charter of Liberties and Privileges, which granted freedom of religion to New York's Christian residents. It also gave all male landowners the right to vote.

Changes in Power

When King Charles II died in February 1685, his brother James, the Duke of York, became king. King James II soon took away the liberties he'd given the colonists. He shut down the New York Assembly and made the colony part of the government of New England. This made the colonists very unhappy. King James wasn't popular in England either. When a rebellion broke out in England in 1688, he was forced from power.