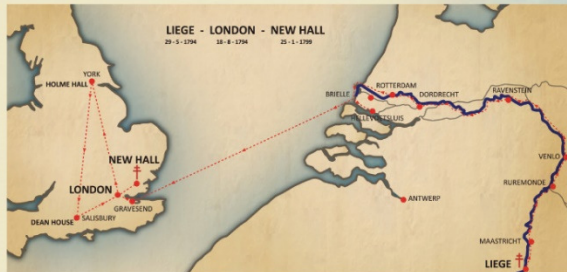


1794 Migration

Just as religious intolerance in England gave birth to the Community in Liège back in 1642 so it forced the Community to make their way back over the Channel when revolutionary fervour swept through France and the Low Countries at the end of the 18th Century.

In February 1790 the revolutionary National Assembly of France, fearful that the Church held too much power, dissolved all religious convents and monasteries in an attempt to suppress monastic vows and Religious Orders.



1. May 1794 - leaving Liège by coal boat. "Confusion and distress ... all crying bitterly".
2. Maestricht: full of singing birds.
3. Ruremonde: fleas.
4. Rotterdam: public curiosity, decision to change out of habits.
5. Rotterdam: Nun overboard while transporting effects to ship. Rescued by captain.
6. Ship stuck on sands. trying to leave Briel.
7. 15th August: put off religious habits.
8. Fire on the ship.
9. Collision between ships.
10. London: Separation of the Community in 2 houses. Burlington Street & Dover Street.
11. Reunification of the Community at Bruton Street: Community suffering from great expense, lack of air and exercise.
12. Death of M.Teresa Dennett "We were all of us much hurt not to be able to bury her ... in her religious habit."
13. Move to Holme Hall - mistaken for French soldiers dressed as women.
14. April '95: School had to be sent home.
15. Sept. '96: Decision to rent Dean House - large and in proper situation for a school.
16. Nov. '96: Community move to Dean House.
17. 1797: Community put on habits at desire of Bishop Walmsley.
18. 1797: Oct. - oath of allegiance in order to open a school.
19. Mr.McEvoy offered to buy the Community a house.
20. Friends wanted the Community to buy Clarence House.
21. Community informed of New Hall.
22. 5th Nov.'98: Rev.Mother proposed to the Chapter the purchase of New Hall.
23. 25th Jan.'99: First four nuns arrive at New Hall.
24. 3rd March '99: the whole Community "safe arrived at New Hall".
25. First Mass in completed Chapel at New Hall on the Assumption 1799.

By early 1794, Robespierre's terror was spreading to the Low Countries and, much against the wishes of the people of Liège, the Community decided to flee.

The original idea was to move only twenty miles away to Maastricht but by early July it was obvious that the Community wasn't safe there either. So on 8th July 1794, 75 people began an arduous and dangerous 14

day journey by coal boat through the waterways of the Low Countries to Rotterdam. Here a sea captain by the name of Semmes offered passage to London for 130 guineas in a ship called "Smallbridge". She sailed from Rotterdam with its exhausted but courageous cargo on the 29th July. Nineteen days later they landed at Gravesend.



Gravesend in the 18th Century



NUMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TRAVELLING FROM LIEGE
 Landed at Greenwich 18th August 1794
 49 x Nuns - 2 x Priests
 18 x Boarders - Servants - Pensioners
 Luggage consisting of 800 packages!

