

So they talked about the possibility - would it be possible for us to move clear across the ocean over to America, and that there we could carry on our religious life in accordance with our understanding of the Bible. This was a tremendous venture. We cannot realize today how much of a venture it was. It took more than two months to make the ~~xxxxxx~~ crossing. It was an expensive thing. When you would get over there, how would you live? You did not know the country. You did not know the situation. How would you be able to carry on a life over there? Then the very matter of getting there was a very dangerous thing. About fifty years before this, a group of French Huguenots had ~~xxxxxxx~~ come to Florida, and had established their homes in St. Augustine, and then they ~~xx~~ had been attacked by a Spanish army, every single one of them killed and a sign put up, "We have killed these people not because they are French, but because they are Protestants." They knew about that. They knew that in 1597, about twenty years before, a man named Francis Johnson, a pastor, and three others, had obtained royal permission to ~~x~~ emigrate to an island in the region of Canada, and had joined a ship, having permission from the English government, and started across, but the ship was shipwrecked ~~xxxx~~ off the coast of Newfoundland. They were captured by French and pillaged. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Eventually they got back to Europe and went to Amsterdam and Francis Johnson, the survivor, was the pastor of the ~~xxxx~~ church of Protestant refugees in Amsterdam, and they could hear from his own lips what he had gone through. What chance would they have of getting over here, of making the trip, and of surviving? When they really decided they must go, it was about 1619 to 1620, and in 1618, Francis Blackwell of ~~xx~~ the Amsterdam church led a party desiring to migrate to Virginia. There were 180 ~~xxx~~ people in a vessel that was far too small. They objected seriously to the arrangements when they found what they were,