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The Edict of Nantes, which granted toleration of the Protestant religion, was revoked by Louis XIV in 1685. This led to large scale emigration of Huguenots to the neighbouring countries and the Colonies. Many of them were attracted by the Dutch East India Company's offer of a free passage to Cape Town where they could begin a new life.

MOST COMMON SURNAME IN S. AFRICA

Jacobs fr. Botha Smith Williams
Van Wyk Van der Merwe Nel fr.
du Plessis Venter Pretorius Coetzee
Louw fr. Van Rensburg

