The Coldens, Wow!

In this week's issue of the Citizen Herald you will find a story we have attempted to tell about the Cadwallader Colden family. But, even with the benefit of history books, and those who are particularly interested in the Coldens, this is an incomplete story.

I say this because research gives me the impression that no one will ever be able to tell the whole story of this significant family in our early history.

There are things I encountered when I began the business of digging into the Colden story. First of all, when they lived in the old house on what is now Route 17X, it was not Orange, but Ulster County... the family had land holdings that covered, as nearly as we can determine, close to ten thousand acres of land that embraced the townships of New Windsor, Newburgh and Montgomery. Try to track down what exactly took place some 200 years ago when few records were kept! After scratching my head and after reading reams of historical material - I decided to toss the whole business in the air, go with what I might guess had taken place those many years ago and tell my people, as best I could, the story of the Coldens.

My good friend, Fred Lewis of Rock Tavern says, way back when, a place called Orange-town was the county seat in Orange County and that was somewhere in what is now Rockland County. He sparked me for mis-berth-sometimes when I talked in Trails last week about the early years when Orange County was mostly Ulster County, and, oh for Pete's sake! At this point I am ready to say 'History, go take a walk into eternity, where it belongs in the first place, and in the second place I am about ready to knock it off.'

Actually, I have always enjoyed a trek into history, but this one really bugged me, because when there is a need to report what is factual, and those facts keep eluding you... Pfft!

Ok, now let's get off the subject of history, at least for this week. But I promise you I have not abandoned it.

maple tree. He must certainly have had a headache when his daily chore was completed - but when the sun rose the next day he was back in business.

What annoys me is that after all of this ambitious effort he was evicted by the规格 who simply moved in and took over the flocks. Now they have produced loud, noisy little ones, much to our annoyance. But it is nature in action - like it or not, these things happen in birdland. That's the way it is, that's the way it must be.

Old friends turn up now and then - one did last week - Vince Connolly of "The Evening News" staff. In our book, he's the greatest. As is inevitable, we got into a discussion of his service at Tulagi in the British Solomon Islands. He represented the Red Cross on this tiny little island located 27 miles east of Guadalcanal.

While there this ace photographer made a picture, a nurse attending a wounded soldier that was to become a Red Cross national poster.

While there was no actual fighting on the small island at that time, there was much to remind those who served that there was a major war in progress.

But of this Island, Vince Connolly has memories that provoke these words: "I plan to draw my social security there some day." He has always said that some day he will return to Tulagi.

Says Vince, "It is an Island that leaves one with the impression that there can be peace on earth - there - where one can just sit and enjoy it."

Incidentally, our friend, Vince, won first prize in the professional class for a photograph he submitted for exhibition at last year's Orange County Fair. It was the picture of a beggarman gazing at a huge Crucifix - a picture he made at Noumea, New Caledonia, during World War Two, an area near Australia, in the South Pacific.

Quite a guy, is Vince Connolly.

Those of you who have been enjoying the stories being written by Frank Mentz of Walkill

SCENES OF an era long past, a chapter in Orange and Ulster County history, home of the Coldens, the Cadwallader Coldens, father and son. nearby. But it was his son Cadwallader, Jr., who raised a large family while he lived in this picturesque home. It is sad, but true, that a
A Neglected Page In Local History
The Cadwallader Coldens
Once Lived Here - There
Are Monuments To Prove It

Cadwallader Colden of Colden-
ham, "One tragedy or another
claimed his life, most of his
children, and several of his
many grand children, before
our Cadwallader died at the age
of eighty-eight. As he died in
1776, many of the founda-
tions of the world he had
lived in were under assault.
He said his children had come
to terms with that world and
learned how to prosper within
it at the same time that they
preserved their own individual-
ity, and values, which were not
always the most popular.

"None of the children was
able to equal Cadwallader Colden's breadth of accomplishment
or inheritance of energy, but each
reflected - a little indifferently
- something of his interests,
and each gave evidence of the
benefits of the warm and well-
ordered home they had shared
at Coldemam." In those few
recorded words, much of the
story of the Colden family and its
ship to the Walkill and Hudson
Valleys is told. They were printed
in the July 1961 edition of the
New York Historical Society
Quarterly.

Today the Coldens left their
mark throughout this area - no
soul will ever contest. There
Patriot Formed

MAYBROOK - Police chief
Allen Abrahams said this week
a police patrol had been organ-
ized and would cover the streets
of the village at least twonights
a week.

The request for the patrol was
made at the last village board
meeting by Trustee Arthur Mal-
ley. In making his request Mr.
Malley called attention to the
fact $6,400, earmarked for li-
ence protection, was in the cur-
rent budget.

Boy Returns

PINE BUSH - Sixteen-year-
old Steven Scott, who had been
missing from his home in Ken-
neal Avenue, Pine Bush, re-
turned to his home May 29.
Middletown State Police said,

space to the Colsten story. Have
patience, the stories written by our
Mr. Muntz will be back on the
scene next week. He is taking a trip
to his beloved Canada - and he'll
be keeping in touch. In a word-
there is more to come from Mr.
Muntz - much more.

he acquired property by grant
from King George 3rd. It is
not known exactly how much
the Colsten family owned some seven thou-
sand acres in what is now New
Windsor, Newburgh and Mont-
gomery townships. Mr. Colsten
settled in what is now Orange
County, either in the home pic-
tured at the above left, or one
home was in the hands of
caretakers. They often held
parties - but children were not
allowed. So the children were
sent to school when funds were
able. The finger pointed to
the marble statue - undoubtedly
a bust of some well-known per-
son - probably an English
statesman who had been pre-
served for posterity, but this
meant little to the children who
were told it was a ghost. In
their minds it was, and still
remains what they were told
it was - a ghost. But they
know now it was an all too
ghostly story.

In the year 1960, Mr. and
Mrs. Cory purchased 71 acres
of land that portion of the
original 200 acres owned by
the Coldens in this area. This
acreage is located to the north-
and the year of the Coldens.
It is used by the Corys as
graze land for their cattle.

For many years, the house
and the land stood idle because
of the legal entanglement cre-
ted as the result of the number
of heirs - Colden heirs - and
there were many.

Quoting from the New York
Historical Society Quarterly,
this is the story told to us:
"Of the Colden girls, it is
difficult to put together as good
a picture as remains of the
boys. Three out of the four
married and lived full lives
but lives of public anonymity
such as has been the destiny
of mothers and wives in most
ages. Catharine, alone, was
submerged or exalted by mar-
rriage for she died a spinster
at the age of thirty-one. Caty
was known in the family for
her "wild, giddy humour," but she
wrote little and not much re-
mains of her character or per-
sonality.

"The two older girls left
behind a substantial record of
themselves in their correspond-
ence. Yet, as in the case of
their mother, much of their in-
dividuality has faded into an
identity with their husbands and
families. Elizabeth made, not
only a 'good' marriage - but it
was a somewhat daring one when
she joined the powerful DeLancey
family through Peter, son of
Stephen DeLancey, Cadwad-
der Colsten and the elder De-
Lancey had often been at logger-
heads in politics so that this
match bore some of the aspects
of a possible alliance. Colsten
regarded it hopefully, but the
family long viewed Peter some-
what negatively. Peter quickly
became a political force him-
self, sitting many years in the
New York Assembly for West-
chester County.

"Betsy," according to his
history, "kept the ties bright with her
family even though the union
did not really unite all elements
of each family - indeed, it never
does.

500
last July...

Today
1000
Electrically
Heated
Homes!

It took almost four years to reach
this area. Now, only ten
users has more than doubled!
People who live in new homes
electric heat is best for all.

If you'd like complete
information call Central Hudson or send us
with our right away.
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