

is is a gathering at the Conference (or Billopp) House at the foot of Hylan Boulevard in ttenville. Built in 1699 as part of the Bentley Manor tract, the Conference House was the e of a meeting during the Revolutionary War in order to reach a peaceful resolution of the ferences between England and the colonies. The gentleman with the goatee is Cornelius G. lff, who was instrumental in efforts to have the Billopp House taken over by the city. Next to n is Staten Island historian and naturalist William T. Davis. Also pictured are Rev. Henry D. st, Chester Cole, Lynn McCraken, Charles W. Leng, and George J. Houtani.

Pictured here in the card that was sent the occasion of his death in 1950. Cornelius G. Kolff was active in Staten Island civic affairs for more than 50 years. He referred to himself as Staten Island's most obedient servant. He was involved in real estate development, most notably Lighthouse Hill, and lived in the Meissner mansion. A ferry is named in Kolff's honor. (Collection of A. Richard Boera.)



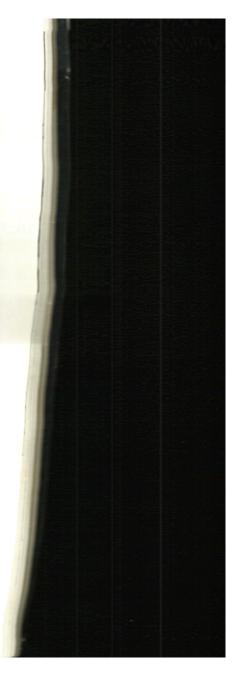
Most bathers appear to be well covered in the about 1900. (Collection of the SIHS.)



The Conference (or Billopp) House appears here in a color postcard. The beautiful fieldstone manor house was built in 1699 by Christopher Billopp on a 932-acre parcet of land deeded as him by the Crown. During the Revolution the house was owned by Billopp's great-grandson, a Tory colonel also named Christopher Billopp. On September 11, 1776, the Billopp House was the meeting place for peace talks among Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Edward Rutledge, and Lord Richard Howe. The porch seen in this postcard has been removed. The house is located on a 226-acre park and is open to the public during certain times. (Collection of Randall Gabrielan.)



Demyan poses with the 1962 U.S. International Life Boat Champions in front of Demyan's rau in Stapleton. Demyan, who died in 1999, was known as a restaurateur, an artist whose ings captured the beauty and spirit of Staten Island sights, and a premier Staten Island acter." His friend, artist John Noble, affectionately called him "Grandpa Moses" and said, Demyan is a phenomenon of Staten Island. He is an artist in a most unusual and TiOIS Way and makes New York a richer, more intriguing place." The authors visited Jack





n Street, Tottenville, appears in this postcard dated July 26, 1937. To the right in the ground is the National Grocery Company Store, also known as Ralston's. Ralston's was a runner of the chain grocery store. The postcard was published by Weitzman's Photo Shop. llection of John Rhody.)

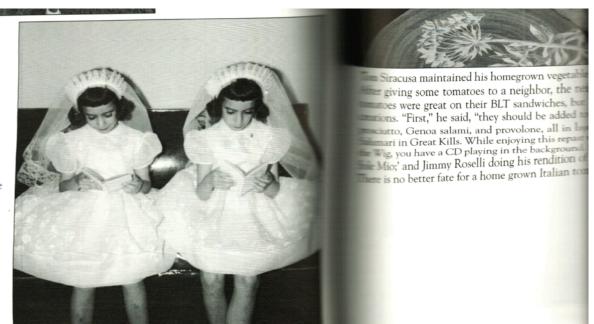


The truck seen here is participating in one Fourth of July Parade. Travis was formed located there. (Collection of Arleen Beautiful Parameters)



public library in Tottenville was the first branch of the New York Public Library to open on Island. The Carnegie Foundation had made funds available to communities interested in Island. The Carnegie Foundation had made funds available to communities interested in Islands. The Staten I Resource Manual reports that there had been a public library in Tottenville previously huson Avenue that was formed by the Tottenville Association. The Tottenville Branch Islands by Port Richmond Branch in 1905, and the Stapleton and St. George Branches in The buildings' architectural designs were of the well-known firm of Carrere and Hastings, a also designed the main branch of the New York Public Library and St. George Borough (Collection of the Bedell/Pizzo Funeral Home.)





e Siracusa twins, ora (left) and Denise ht), appeared he christening he of the movie Godfather. Many hes were filmed on en Island. The stening was filmed fount Loretto on an Boulevard in ice's Bay. (Courtesy a Siracusa.)