



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

Pictured here in the card that was sent on 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 parcel of land deeded to 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 brau in Stapleton. Demyan, who died in 1999, was known as a restaurateur, an artist whose paintings captured the beauty and spirit of Staten Island sights, and a premier Staten Island actor. 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 serious way and makes New York a richer, more intriguing place." The authors visited Jack Demyan, who died in 1999, as a result of diabetes. He said he was looking forward to his

ionary store at the far right. (Collection of Arleen Braun.)



in 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. (Collection of John Rhody.)



The truck seen here is participating in one of the Fourth of July Parades. Travis was formerly located there. (Collection of Arleen Braun.)



public library in Tottenville was the first branch of the New York Public Library to open on Long Island. The Carnegie Foundation had made funds available to communities interested in public libraries, and Tottenville residents successfully applied for these funds. The Staten Island Resource Manual reports that there had been a public library in Tottenville previously on Hudson Avenue that was formed by the Tottenville Association. The Tottenville Branch followed by Port Richmond Branch in 1905, and the Stapleton and St. George Branches in 1906. The buildings' architectural designs were of the well-known firm of Carrere and Hastings, who also designed the main branch of the New York Public Library and St. George Borough Library (Collection of the Bedell/Pizzo Funeral Home.)

P
P



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

Tom Siracusa maintained his homegrown vegetable
 after giving some tomatoes to a neighbor, the ne
 tomatoes were great on their BLT sandwiches, but
 variations. "First," he said, "they should be added to
 rosciutto, Genoa salami, and provolone, all in las
 salami in Great Kills. While enjoying this repast
 the Wig, you have a CD playing in the background.
 'Gimme Mio,' and Jimmy Roselli doing his rendition of
 There is no better fate for a home grown Italian tom

