

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

OF

The Colden Family

IN

AMERICA.

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WITH ADDITIONS.

THE COLDEN FAMILY

IN

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The founder of the Colden family in New York, Lieutenant Governor CADWALLADER COLDEN, was the son of Rev. Alexander Colden, Minister of Dunse, in the Merse Berwickshire, Scotland. All his ancestors to a remote degree were Scotch, but he was born in Ireland, his mother being on a temporary visit there, February 7th, 1687, O. S. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh by his parents with a view to be settled in the Church of Scotland, but after completing his studies there in 1705, his inclinations were adverse to this, and he applied himself to the study of physic. The expense of his education having so far exhausted the limited means of his father, as to render it impossible for him to aid him, in commencing his career as a physician in England or Scotland, young Colden determined to emigrate to America. Another motive he had in coming here was, his mother had a widowed sister in Philadelphia, who had acquired some estate there, and was childless; this fact led him to decide upon making Philadelphia his future home, where he arrived in 1710, took up his abode with his aunt, and commenced the practice of his profession.

In 1715 he returned to Great Britain, where he became acquainted with Dr. Edmund Halley, and other "men of learning at London, in the mathematics," to which his taste chiefly inclined him. In pursuance of the main object, probably, of his visit to his native land, he left London for Scotland, where, on the 11th of November, 1715, at Kelso, he married Alice Christy, the daughter of a clergyman of that place. The next year he returned to Philadelphia with his wife, and resumed the practice of medicine. In 1718 he visited New York, "without thought," he says, "of changing my residence," but calling upon the Governor of the place (Robert Hunter), "as was usual for strangers to do," was received more kindly than he expected, and though he staid but three days in the town, was specially invited several times to the Governor's house. About two weeks after his return to Philadelphia, he received a letter from Gov. Hunter, inviting him to come to New York with his family, accompanied with the offer of an office of profit, which he

