

Will: Cadwallader Colden

*Will of Cadwallader Colden, written 20 May 1775; proved 7 August 1779.
[paragraphs added for easier reading]*

I, Cadwallader Colden, esquire, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New York, do make and publish this my last will and Testament.

All my just debts to be paid by my executors. Whereas I have a right to 1/6 of the minerals and ores in a tract of 12,000 acres of land on the Mohawks river which I formerly held in common with Lewis Morris, James Alexander, and others; And likewise 1/6 of the ores and minerals in several tracts of land on the west side of the Catskill Mountains, which I held with **Vincent Matthews** and others; And I have reserved the minerals and ores in several tracts of land which I have sold. I leave all said rights to my grandson, Richard Nicolls Colden.

I leave to my son, David Colden, my negro slaves, horses, oxen and cattle, and all carts and wagons and implements of husbandry, and all household furniture and silver plate; Also all my manuscripts and printed books.

The bonds which are owing to me from my sons, Alexander and Cadwallader, are to be cancelled, and they are to make no claim to my estate.

All the rest of my personal estate I leave to my children, Cadwallader, David, Elizabeth De Lancey, and the children of my son Alexander, deceased, and the children of my daughter, Alice Willett, deceased.

And whereas I have conveyed to my son Cadwallader my lands at Coldenham, and to my son David my lands in Flushing, I leave all the rest of my lands to my sons, Cadwallader and David, and to my daughter, Elizabeth De Lancey, and the children of my son Alexander, and the children of my daughter, Alice Willett. My executors are to divide my estate as soon as possible.

Whereas I did convey 400 acres of land to my granddaughter, Alice Willett, by mistake, which ought to have been conveyed to her sister Anne, œ400 are to be taken from the share of Alice Willett and given to her sister Anne.

Lastly, my will is that my Body be interred in a private manner, with as little expense as with Common Decency may be. I make my sons, Cadwallader and David, and my daughter, Elizabeth De Lancey, executors. All written with my own hand.

May 20, 1775. Witnesses, Goldsbrow Banyar, Thomas Lawson, Robert Cornell.
Republished and declared as his will, August 7, 1776. Witnesses, Robert Doughty, Quaker,
Benjamin Underhill, Edmund Underhill. Proved, March 15, 1779.

[source] New York City Wills.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Cadwallader Colden in the database](#)