

ancient estate of the Kouwenhovens in Holland, near Utrecht. He was always proud of his Dutch origin, and of his lineal connection with a people of such sturdy vigor, intelligence and courage, that they not only "wrested their territory from the sea," but in spite of the terrible oppression and persecution of two of the cruelest and most bigoted tyrants of history, Charles V, and Philip II, wrested their independence from despots, and established the Republic of the United Netherlands. These thrifty and enterprising people at the close of the 16th century had attained "the commercial leadership of the world." Motley says of them, that "in every branch of human industry these republicans took the lead." And he declares that the chief source of their wealth and power was the ocean, on which they had at this time three thousand ships, and one hundred thousand sailors.

It was natural that such a people should seize upon the golden opportunities which the New World opened to them, to enlarge their dominions and increase their wealth. To the New Netherland, established about the mouth of the Hudson River, where the Dutch traders had for some years been doing a thriving business with the Indians in furs, came these stout-hearted, energetic burghers in considerable numbers. In 1626, they purchased Manhattan Island, the site of the New World metropolis. Hither came Jacob Wolfertsen van Couwenhoven, in 1632, whose name appears in 1647 as one of the board of nine men, selected by the colony to be a check upon the high-handed proceedings of the imperious governor, Peter Stuyvesant. He appears again in 1649, as one of the three delegates sent to Holland to bear a remonstrance to the states general against the methods of that haughty and irascible ruler. He was doubtless the first of the name on these shores, and Dr. Conover was of the eighth generation in lineal descent from him. By natural and gradual transitions the name has been transformed from Kouenhoven, which still clings to the ancient estate in Holland, to Conover.

It was Dr. Conover's good fortune to visit the home of his ancestors in Holland but a few weeks before his death. His