

It is no less important to mention here that Tomys Swartwout was one of the nineteen courageous representatives of the settlers of New Netherland, who, in convention, in the city-hall, in New Amsterdam, on December 11, 1653, dared to remonstrate against a continuance of the maladministration of the affairs of the province by the arrogant directorate of the West-India Company, and to claim for the taxed colonists a right of voice in the government of it. The aggressive action of this first *landdag* of the oppressed inhabitants of New Netherland, although contemptuously ignored and regarded by the despotic guild of avaricious merchants as meriting severe punishment, so that other colonists might be deterred from "deliberating on affairs of state," had, nevertheless, in the fulness of time, a glorious consummation in the declaration of independence of the thirteen united American colonies.

As a strenuous upholder of the rights of the colonists, Rocloff Swartwout was as fearless as his father in the utterance of his political convictions. When the choice of delegates to the provincial convention, held in New York city, in 1690, was about to be made, he boldly advised that "it ought to be a free election for all classes." By birth and education the equal of most, if not all, of those who pompously "deemed themselves favorites of royalty" and politically isolated from "the common people," he was not troubled by any apprehensions of losing prestige and preferment in becoming a partisan of Jacob Leisler, whose military experience, wealth, and excellence of character commended him to the Committee of Safety which deputed him "to exercise and use the power and authority of a commander-in-chief" of the province "until such time as orders should come from their most sacred majesties, William and Mary, king and queen of England." The iniquitous and precipitate execution of Leisler and his son-in-law, brought about by a few ambitious and revengeful men, was an event strikingly horrifying and pitiful.

The participation of Lieutenant Abraham Swartwout in the siege of Havana and in the storming of Morro Castle and other Cuban strongholds, by the English, in the summer of 1762, gives prominence to the fact that the valor of the members of the Swartwout Family in America, in the colonial period, was not only notable in engagements with the French and their allies at places near the homes of the vigilant frontier settlers, but also along the distant borders of Canada and the more remote island in the West Indies.

The patriotism of the family was also brilliantly exhibited in the war of the Revolution by the services of twenty-nine of its members; one having the rank of brigadier-general, three that of captain, three of lieutenant, and four of ensign, two of whom were institution-members of the Society of the Cincinnati.

The appellation Swartwout designated, in September, 1776, a temporary