

fort, constructed at that time near *Spuiten Duivil Kill*, for the defence of the city of New York.

The voluntary contribution, at Fort Schuyler, on August 3, 1777, by Captain Abraham Swartwout, who, as a lieutenant of volunteers, had served, in 1762, in the successful campaign of the English forces in Cuba, of his valuable blue cloth cloak to form the field of the first United States flag that was made conformable to the style of the national standard established, on June 14, 1777, by the American Congress, is an historical fact inseparable from the genesis of the star-constellated banner of "the Land of the Brave." The testimony of an order of the Pennsylvania Navy-Board, written on May 29, 1777, to pay Elizabeth Ross "fourteen pounds twelve shillings and two pence for making ships' colours, etc.," in no way substantiates the claim that she fabricated a United States flag "prior to the Declaration of Independence," nor does it verify in any manner the assertion that the American Congress "issued an order on the treasury" to pay her a similar sum for making a flag or flags of the design set forth in the resolution of June 14, 1777.

The bold statesmanship of General Jacobus Swartwout, one of the original law-makers of the state of New York, who for eighteen successive years served six as an assemblyman and twelve as a senator, added no little lustre to his prompt and early service in the war of the Revolution.

The arena of party politics in the state of New York, at the beginning of the current century, presented scenes and characters peculiar to that time. The eager gatherings of the different leaders' forces, their violent onsets at the polls, and the loudness of their voicings of victory were as remarkable as the characteristics of the spirited men who outlined the plans of the successive campaigns, named the candidates, and marshalled the electors. The illustrious prestige of the federalists and the vivid vigor of the republican-democrats gave more than ordinary distinction to the two antagonizing parties. Hamilton's early discovery of the growing popularity of Aaron Burr made him the more ambitious to lessen it, which consequently stimulated the zeal of the young democrats to increase it. The factionary alliances of the Livingstons, the Clintons, and the Schuylers not infrequently changed the preponderance of public favor from the candidates of the one party to those of the other. The strong individuality of John Swartwout made him a distinguished favorite of his party, and, inasmuch as his frankness and integrity invalidated many of the unjust animadversions of his opponents, he was thrice elected to a seat in the state legislature. The duel which he so resolutely fought with DeWitt Clinton was evidently to him the only honorable means by which he could disprove the intemperate and unfounded expressions of his reckless and self-opinioned traducer.

The clandestine and perilous methods adopted by General James Wilkinson