

form of his scalped wife within doors and lay the bloody corpse upon a bed, he and his weeping children were conducted by their captors from the house; he going first with his wrists bound together behind his back with strong thongs of deerskin, and the sobbing children following him in front of the urging savages.

It is said that the Indians would not have violated their pledge to him had not a certain settler named Benjamin Springer met them, who wishing to gratify his enmity toward Anthony Swartwout, persuaded them to kill him. Therefore, as is related, the Indians tied him to a tree, tomahawked him, and left his body to the birds and beasts of prey. His two children were taken to the Indian town, Shawnee, now Plymouth, on the Susquehanna River, on the opposite side of that stream, and five miles below the site of the city of Wilkesbarre, in Pennsylvania.

It is further related that Benjamin Springer was arrested and confined in the jail of Essex County. Judge Allinson, commenting on the "act for the trial of Benjamin Springer," passed by the General Assembly of the province of New Jersey, October 22, 1757, authorizing his trial to take place in Morris County, "it being apprehended that the incursions of the Indians and the commotions thereby occasioned rendered it difficult if not dangerous to hold a Court of Oyer and Terminer" in Essex County, remarks: "On the positive testimony of Swartwout's son, and the contradictions in the prisoner's own story, after a full and fair hearing, at which an eminent counsellor charitably attended in his behalf, he was convicted to the satisfaction of most or all present, and was executed in Morris. He declared himself innocent of the crime, and, on the return of Thomas Hunt and the negro, who had been taken [prisoners] a few miles distant [from Anthony Swartwout's house] by the same party of Indians that captivated Swartwout's family (with which party, it was proved at the trial, Springer was, and that he killed Swartwout), it appearing by the declarations that they did not see Springer until they got to the Indian town, some [were] inclined to believe he might not have been guilty. Thus, the question seemed obscured. It is, however, agreed that his trial was deliberate and impartial, and many still think his life was forfeited to the laws of his country."¹

The pond, on the banks of which Anthony Swartwout was killed, in time acquired the name of Swartwood Lake, and, in 1852, the village of New Paterson, near it, and also in the township of Stillwater, in Sussex County, New Jersey, was given the name of Swartwood, in order to facilitate the

¹ History of Sussex and Warren counties, New Jersey. By James T. Snell, pp. 617, 618, 38. Acts of the General Assembly of the province of New Jersey from April 17, 1702, to January 14, 1776. By Samuel Allinson. Burlington, 1776, pp. 214-215.