

The Fishkill congregation erected its first house of worship in that village in 1731. It was a stone building with small apertures in the walls through which firearms might be thrust and fired on any attack of the place by Indians or other foes. It was covered with a hip-roof, above the apex of which was a small tower in which a bell was hung and rung to summon the people to the meetings held in the plainly-built edifice. The small panes of glass affording light to the interior were held in place by narrow strips of lead, attached to the window-frames. Captain Jacobus Swartwout, who had been admitted to membership in the church on June 17, 1732, was the holder of nine sittings: "five places in pew No. 11; one for himself, and one for his wife Gieltje, and one for his daughter Jacomintje, and one for Catrina, and one for his son Tomas, and four places, above in the gallery, in pew No. 4; one for his son Cornelis, and one for Rudolphus, and one for Samuel, and one for Jacobus." On the death of the father, his sitting in the pew on the ground-floor was transferred to his son Cornelis."¹

The satisfactory manner in which Captain Jacobus Swartwout had discharged the duties of the office of supervisor caused the freeholders of the south ward of Dutchess County to elect him, on April 7, 1730, to serve with Johannes Ter Bos as an assessor in that district. Governor George Clinton, recognizing his integrity and ability, appointed him, in 1743, a justice of the peace, which office constituted him and James Duncan, a contemporary justice of the peace, assistants to the judge of the Court of Common Pleas, sitting in Dutchess County.

In 1745, Justice Jacobus Swartwout gained considerable distinction for the able manner in which he, as judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County, had conducted the trial of Daniel Hunt, found guilty of the charge of passing ten counterfeit twenty-shilling bills of Rhode Island money. At the termination of the trial, he wrote as follows to his Excellency, the Honorable George Clinton, governor of the province of New York:

"Poghkeepsing, May 5^e 24th, 1745.

"May it Please your Excellency:

"Agreeable to your Excellency's order,
I send enclosed all the proceedings had before me relating to the counterfeit money passed in this county or elsewhere to my knowledge, and if anything

¹ "Jacobus Swartwout het 5 Plaetssen in die bank No. 11; een tot heim, en een tot syn vrou Gieltje, en een voor syn Dochter Jacomintje, en een voor Catrina, en een voor syn Soon Tomas, en 4 Plaetssen omhoog op die galderij, in die bank No. 4; een voor syn Soon Cornelijs, en een voor Rudolvis, en een voor Samuel, en een voor Jacobus. Die Plaets van Jacobus overgedragen op syn Soon Cornelis."