

liberty, and that thenceforth we respectively will break off all dealings with him or her.”¹

The first of the inhabitants of the province of New York to comply with this request, it seems, were those of the city of New York, who, on November 18, 1774, appointed sixty of the citizens to be a committee of observation. Elsewhere in the province, committees of observation were also elected to act in conformity with the enjoinder of the general congress.

On May 29, 1775, the New York provincial congress, in convention in the city of New York, “Resolved that it be recommended, and it is hereby accordingly recommended, to all the counties in this colony (which have not already done it), to appoint county-committees and also sub-committees for their respective townships, precincts, and districts without delay in order to carry into execution the resolutions of the continental and this provincial congress.

“And that it is also recommended to every inhabitant of this colony who has hitherto neglected to subscribe the general association, to do it with all convenient speed. And for these purposes that the committees in the respective counties, in which committees have been formed, do tender the said association to every inhabitant within the several districts in each county. And that such persons in these counties or districts, who have not appointed committees as shall be appointed by the members of this congress representing such counties and districts respectively, do make such tender as aforesaid in such counties and districts respectively, and that the said committees and persons respectively do return the said association and the names of those who shall neglect or refuse to sign the same to this congress by the fifteenth day of July next, or sooner if possible.”²

In the town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, the following named persons composed its committee of observation: Dirck G. Brinckerhoff, chairman; Captain Jacobus Swartwout, deputy chairman; John H. Sleight, clerk; Jacobus de Graff, Captain Isaac Hageman, Elias van Bunschoten, Captain Joseph Horton, Thomas Storm, Colonel Abraham D. Brinckerhoff, John Myers, John S. Brinckerhoff, John A. Brinckerhoff, Richard van Wyck, Henry Godwin, John Langdon, William van Wyck, Captain Jacob Griffin, Matthew van Bunschoten, Captain Isaac Ter Boss, Henry Schenck, Henry Rosecrans, junior, Doctor Theodorus van Wyck.³

Among the first steps taken by the general congress to organize the American continental army was the appointment, on June 15, 1775 (two days before the battle of Bunker Hill), of “George Washington, esq.,” general and

¹ Journals of the American congress, vol. i., p. 25.

² Minutes of the provincial congress, vol. i., p. 97.

³ Historical sketch of the town of Fishkill, from its first settlement. By T. van Wyck Brinckerhoff, pp. 75, 76. 1866.