

commander-in-chief of "all the continental forces, raised or to be raised for the defence of American liberty." Two days later, Artemas Ward of Massachusetts was chosen first major-general, Charles Lee of Virginia, second major-general, and Horatio Gates, also of Virginia, adjutant-general, having the rank of brigadier-general. On June 19, Philip Schuyler of New York was appointed third major-general, and Israel Putnam of Connecticut, fourth major-general.

Six days after his appointment, General Washington departed from Philadelphia for Cambridge and, on July 3, took command there of the continental army.

The pledge, or general association, which the New York provincial congress had urged the people of the different countries to sign and maintain, was tendered to the inhabitants of Rombout Precinct in the following form :

"Persuaded that the salvation of the rights and liberties of America depends, under God, on the firm union of its inhabitants in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety ; and convinced of the necessity of preventing the anarchy and confusion which attend a dissolution of the powers of government ; we, the freemen, freeholders, and inhabitants of Rombout's Precinct, being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the [British] Ministry to raise a revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scene now acting in the Massachusetts-Bay, do, in the most solemn manner resolve, never to become slaves, and do associate under all the ties of religion, honour, and love to our country, to adopt and to endeavour to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the continental congress, or resolved upon by our provincial congress, for the purpose of preserving our constitution and opposing the execution of the several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British parliament until a reconciliation between Great Britain and America, on constitutional principles (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained ; and that we will in all things follow the advice of our general committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of peace, good order, and the safety of individuals and private property."

The first meeting of the committee of observation of Rombout Precinct was held on Thursday, July 13, 1775, at the public house known as the "*Rendezvous*," of which Captain Jacob Griffin was the popular landlord. Standing on the west side of the road leading from the village of Fishkill to Hopewell, a quarter of a mile north of the junction of the New Hackensack road and that highway, the noted wayside-inn was in open view from the residence of Captain Jacobus Swartwout, on the east side of the New Hackensack road.¹

¹ Captain Jacobus Swartwout's first purchase of land, at Swartwoutville, was a farm of 192 acres, now owned by Edward Lane. Later he bought the farm owned by David Barkin, and certain meadow-land belonging to William B. Alger, both parcels embracing about 280 acres.