

When the committee of observation of Rombout Precinct held its second meeting, on Saturday afternoon, July 29th, at Captain Jacob Griffin's inn, the persons who had been appointed to tender the association to the inhabitants and freeholders of the precinct returned the association papers to the committee, which, having taken into consideration that a number of persons had not signed them by reason of not having an opportunity, occasioned by the shortness of time in which they were to be returned to the committee, and that there were others who were still unconvinced of their duty to sign them, ordered that the chairman of the committee should write a letter to the president of the provincial congress, at New York, to acquaint him with the causes for the delay in returning the papers, and to request permission to retain them until the fifteenth day of August. On that day the committee again met at the inn, and having made "a true copy of the names of those persons who signed and who refused signing the association," the chairman was "ordered to transmit the same to the provincial congress with the utmost dispatch, and keep the original in his hand for the inspection of the committee." Among those who signed were Captain Jacobus Swartwout, deputy chairman of the committee, and his two brothers, Dalf (Rudolphus) and Samuel; the two sons of Samuel, Jacobus and Johannes; the two sons of Captain Jacobus's deceased brother, Thomas, Jacobus (James) and William; and the two sons of his deceased brother, Captain Cornelius Swartwout, Jacobus (C.) and Cornelius, all of whom were residents of Rombout Precinct.<sup>1</sup>

The members of the Poughkeepsie branch of the Swartwout family were no less patriotic and prompt in signing the pledge of association tendered the inhabitants of that part of Dutchess County. Among the names subscribed to it there, in June and July, 1775, are found those of Johannes Swartwout, who was then entering the sixtieth year of his age; that of his nephew, Barnardus, the son of his deceased brother, Rudolphus; that of his nephew, Lieutenant Abraham, the son of his deceased brother, Abraham, and those of his three sons, Barnardus, Minnard (Myndert) and John.<sup>2</sup>

Among the inhabitants of Orange County who signed the pledge of association in June, at Goshen, was Anthony Swartwood [Swartwout], of the district of Blooming Grove; and among those in Mamacating [Maghaghkemeck] Precinct, Ulster County, were Justice Philip Swartwout and his three sons, Jacobus, Philip, and Gerardus.<sup>3</sup>

The people of the colony of New York evidently first placed themselves in a hostile attitude toward Great Britain, when, on May 31, 1775, the pro-

<sup>1</sup> Historical sketch of the town of Fishkill. By T. van Wyck Brinckerhoff, pp. 76-78.

<sup>2</sup> History of Putnam County, New York. By William J. Blake, pp. 103, 104, 106, 107, 108. (84).

<sup>3</sup> American archives. Fourth series, vol. iii., pp. 601, 602. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 586.