

During the month of September, 1814, Brigadier-General Robert Swartwout was stationed with his brigade of 2,150 men on Staten Island. On the discharge of the brigade, in December following, Governor Tompkins in his general orders of the thirteenth of that month specialized his knowledge of its excellent reputation by saying: "The commander-in-chief presents to the general and his staff his cordial thanks for their zeal, intelligence, and useful services during the period of his command."

By general orders of the fifteenth of September, that year, the battalion under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith of Orange County, and the one under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Woodward of the same county, were formed into one regiment, and the battalions commanded respectively by Lieutenant-Colonels Bevier and Conners of Richmond County were also formed into one; the two regiments and a detachment of horse artillery from the Richmond County troop were thereupon formed into a brigade commanded by Brigadier-General John Swarwout.¹

On Saturday evening, the eleventh of February, 1815, the following intelligence was sent from the city of New York by special express on horseback to Governor Tompkins at Albany:

"The British sloop-of-war *Favorite*, James A. Maude, commander, arrived in New York this evening under flag of truce, and Mr. Henry Carroll, one of the secretaries to our ministers at Ghent, and Mr. A. St. J. Baker, secretary to the British legation to the United States. Mr. Carroll has the treaty of peace, concluded and signed by the British Commissioners at Ghent, on the twenty-fourth of December, and the latter, with the same, ratified by the Prince Regent, and which, when approved by the president and the United States senate, will be effectual, and is to be immediately communicated by Mr. Baker to the British fleet and armies."

The treaty was laid before the senate on the afternoon of the fifteenth of that month. It was ratified by that body in secret session, and returned on Friday, the seventeenth, to the president of the United States for his signature.

The Hamilton Society was the first organization in the city of New York to celebrate the treaty of peace, which was enthusiastically honored with suitable exercises at Washington Hall, on the evening of the twenty-first of February. James W. Gerard, a young attorney, who, as a member of the Iron Grays, had served in the defence of the city, delivered an eloquent oration before the large assembly of the society.

¹ On March 29, 1803, he was appointed second major in the regiment of artillery of the city and county of New York; on April 2, 1804, first major in Lt.-Col. Peter Curtenius's regiment; on March 27, 1805, lieutenant-colonel of the second regiment, first brigade, under Brigadier-General Jacob Morton.