

top of the upper mast, which influenced Major Swartwout to diminish the height of the staff to eighty feet.

The flag now daily seen floating from the prominent staff standing south of the stately monolith marking the tomb of Major-General John E. Wool, and in sight of the finely-sculptured sarcophagus enshrining the remains of Major-General George H. Thomas, "the Rock of Chickamauga," is one of the most conspicuous objects on the elevated foreground of Oakwood Cemetery. The patriotic impulse originating in the mind of Major Swartwout the thought of the appropriateness of planting there a widely-visible staff from which the national flag should continually float in view of the liberty-loving people who annually garland the graves of the unforgotten soldiers and sailors in that hallowed precinct of the dead, is remarkably suggestive of the generosity prompting Captain Abraham Swartwout—Major Swartwout's ancestral kinsman—to give, at Fort Stanwix, in 1777, his military mantle to form the blue field of the first flag of the United States on which were constellated thirteen white stars emblematic of the union of the thirteen colonies.

The line of Major William Merrill Swartwout's descent from Rolet and Catryna Swartwout, of Groningen, Holland, may be presented thus :

- I. Rolet and Catryna Swartwout, married about 1600.
- II. Tomys and Hendrickjen Otsen Swartwout, married June 3, 1631.
- III. Roeloff and Eva Bratt de Hooges Swartwout, married August 13, 1657.
- IV. Thomas and Elisabeth Gordinier Swartwout, married about 1682.
- V. Jacobus and Gieletjen Nieuwkerk Swartwout, married October 5, 1714.
- VI. Cornelis and Elisabeth Ter Bos Swartwout, married June 19, 1746.
- VII. Cornelius and Sarah Bedell Swartwout, married March 23, 1774.
- VIII. Henry and Sarah Merrill Swartwout, married December 5, 1802.
- IX. Henry and Maria Amelia Ketelhuyn Swartwout, married November 7, 1833.
- X. William Merrill Swartwout.

Sketches relating to other members of the Swartwout, Swartwolt, and Schwarzwald families in Holland, Germany, and America will be found in the Addenda, and in the "Swartwout Lineage," following "The Ketelhuyn Chronicles."