

The terrifying deeds of the enemy's Indian allies filled Albany with refugees. The people living in the vicinity of the burned settlement, and at points on the unprotected frontier, left their homes and passed the winter in the city. Although warned to be vigilant and armed, many of the farmers living along the frontier began in the spring of 1746 the cultivation of their fields, hoping that they might escape molestation. But early that year the French Indians were on the war-path. What happened then at Schaghticoke is thus described in a letter to Lieutenant-Governor Clinton, by the commissioners of Indian affairs, at Albany, in a letter dated there, on April 23, 1746.

"We have just now received an account that the French Indians have begun their barbarous method of scalping, having yesterday murdered one Harme van Vechten, [son of Dirk van Vechten, one of the first settlers,] a principal farmer of Schaahkook, as he was at work near his own house. A few people, who were together in a little fort near by, heard two musket shots but did not think it an enemy. His negro boy, who was at some distance plowing on his land, heard two Indian shouts. He unyoked his horses from the plow, came home immediately, and found his master dead. He was shot betwixt his shoulders with a ball which came out at his breast. He had two stabs on each side of the breast, two cuts on his forehead with a hatchet, and his scalp taken off. They had sprinkled his blood on the gable end of his house. This is what we have long dreaded, but, as it is now begun, we expect that all our people, (who were now venturing out again to their settlements,) will return to town."¹

For the purpose of protecting the farmers at Schaghticoke, who in the following year returned there again to till their farms, Lieutenant-Governor Clinton, in March, 1747, stationed at that point two companies of soldiers.

The expedition, which the English crown sent in 1762 to Cuba to reduce Havana, a possession of Spain, then an active ally of France, included, as has already been related in "the Swartwout Chronicles," the Second New York Regiment, commanded by Colonel George Brewerton, in which Abraham Swartwout was lieutenant. John de Garmo, who, on October 27, 1750, had married Anna, the eldest daughter of Joachim and Eva Vrooman Ketelhuyn, was a captain in the same regiment. His son, Matthew de Garmo, during the war of the Revolution served as a captain in the Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County militia, of which John Knickerbacker and Peter Yates were successively colonels.

¹ English manuscripts, vol. lxxv., p. 33.