

beck. His cousin Jacobus, the second son of Antoni Swartwout, was also distinguished for intrepidity and military ability. He, in 1738, was captain of the fourth company of foot-militia in the Orange County regiment commanded by Colonel Vincent Mathews. The strong influence he wielded over the warriors of the Wolf and the Turkey tribes of Cohecton Indians led shortly thereafter to his promotion to the majorship of the regiment.¹

Evidences of an intended descent by the French Indians upon the western borders during the winter of 1745-46, caused Governor George Clinton, on December 11, 1745, to lay before the provincial council several letters which he had received from the frontiers relating to their defence and the apparent designs of the enemy. In the consideration of the important information contained in these communications, the provincial authorities did not fail to recognize Major Swartwout's valuable services at Maghaghkemeck, and as a consequence passed the following resolution: "That Major Swartwout should be commended for his diligence, and be admonished to have the militia in readiness at all events and to give the governor early advice of the designs of the enemy."²

The Cohecton Indians having in the fall of 1745 withdrawn themselves from Orange County to their hunting-houses west of it, Colonel Thomas De Kay, Major Jacobus Swartwout, and Ensign Coleman, in company with Adam Wisner, an interpreter, and two Indians, visited them there, on December 21, that year, in order to learn why they had removed themselves from the county where they usually traded and hunted. Their sole reason, which they frankly told, was that, having seen the settlers going about armed, they became suspicious that some harm was intended them, and had therefore betaken themselves to their hunting-houses. Colonel De Kay at once allayed their fears by informing them that Governor Clinton, apprehending a sudden descent upon the frontiers by the French and their savage allies, had ordered the settlers to go armed in order to protect themselves should the enemy come unexpectedly upon them. As an assurance of their fidelity, the pleased Indians promised to send, if the weather permitted, a delegation of their chiefs to Goshen to renew their former covenants of friendship and brotherhood. On January 3, 1746, this engagement was kept by them, on which day, a sachem in company with twelve or more warriors of the two tribes made their appearance in Goshen, bringing with them a belt of wampum. Having, in the presence of a number of prominent settlers, chained themselves about an hour to Colonel

¹Second annual report of the State Historian of the state of New York. Hugh Hastings, State Historian. 1897, pp. 435, 558, 559, 574, 610.

²Abstract of the evidence in the books of the Lords of Trade relating to New York; New York entries. B. N., p. 174.