

* * * * Johannes Buys, 9; Jacobus Swartwout, 12; * * * * Henderick [Ter] Boss, 5; * * * * widow of Roger Brett, deceased, 50; * * * * Johannes Ter Boss, 32."

Captain Jacobus Swartwout, having been elected to serve as supervisor of the south ward in 1722-24, was again chosen to fill that office on April 5, 1727.¹

The seat of the first and largest community of settlers in Dutchess County was established about the beginning of the eighteenth century at the mouth of the Fall Kill, flowing into the Hudson River. The site of the village having been early designated by a name meaning "safe harbor," of which Poughkeepsie is a corrupted form, the place thereafter retained that peculiar appellation. Two decades later the hamlet of Fishkill, five miles east of the Hudson River, was bearing the name of the stream flowing by it. In 1729, mention was made of the two settlements in a published description of the county. "The only villages in it are Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, though they scarcely deserve the name."

The first religious society in the village of Poughkeepsie was organized in 1716, by the Reverend Petrus Vas, the fifth pastor in charge of the Reformed Dutch Church in Kingston, who, in the same year, formed another in the village of Fishkill. The two congregations were served until 1731, by different ministers of the Reformed Dutch Church, who visited the two places to conduct divine worship, and preached on appointed days. The first pastor having charge of the two congregations was the Reverend Cornelius van Schie, who came, in 1631, from Holland, in answer to a united call made by them to secure the services of a minister of the Reformed Dutch Church. One of the fifteen signatures subscribed to the agreement, written in Dutch, to send the call, is that of Jacobus Swartwout.²

The Poughkeepsie congregation erected its first house of worship, it is said, in 1723, on the north side of Main Street, nearly opposite the site of the present court-house. There were thirty-eight pews on the ground floor and eighteen in the gallery, which afforded sittings for three hundred and eighty-six people.

Among the contributors to the salary of the pastor of the congregation in 1744 were Barnardus Swartwout and his three sons, Rudolphus, Abraham, and Johannes. Abraham was elected a deacon of the church in 1752, and Johannes an elder in 1755.

¹ Book of old miscellaneous records in office of the clerk of Dutchess County, p. 27.

² The signatures as written are: Piter Du Boys, Leonardus van Clecs, Abraham Brinkerhoff, Abraham Buys, Johannes van Kleeck, Abraham Brinkerhoff, Elias van Benschouten, Johannes Coerten van Voorhees, Mynhardt van de Bogart, Hendrick Phyllyps, Pieter van Kleeck, Hans de Lange, Henry van der Burgh, Jacobus Swartwout, Hendrick Pells.