

vincial congress, holding its sessions in the Exchange, in the city of New York,

“Resolved, that it be recommended to the inhabitants of this colony in general, immediately to furnish themselves with necessary arms and ammunition, to use all diligence to perfect themselves in the military art, and, if necessary, to form themselves into companies for that purpose, until the further order of this congress.

“Ordered, that this resolve be printed in the newspapers, and that five hundred copies hereof be printed in handbills. * * * *

“Resolved, that in compliance with the resolution of the continental congress of the twenty-fifth instant, this congress will use all possible diligence in embodying men according to the said resolution.”

For the furtherance of this intention, fourteen members of the New York provincial convention were then appointed “a committee to report an arrangement of the troops to be embodied for the defence of the colony.”

Meanwhile, on June 28, warrants were issued through the military committee designating the officers of four infantry companies to be enlisted in Dutchess County. The New York provincial congress, on July 8, appointed Captain Jacobus Swartwout muster-master of the four companies of troops to be raised there “in defence of American liberty.”¹

Later, in compliance with the resolution of the provincial congress, four regiments of infantry and one company of artillery, known as those of the New York continental line, were organized, and, on August 4, were given the following rank by the military committee :

The regiment raised in the city of New York was made the first or senior regiment, having for its field officers: Alexander McDougall, colonel; Rudolphus Ritzema, lieutenant-colonel, and Herman Zedwitz, major.

That of Albany County, the second regiment, having for its field officers: Goose van Schaick, colonel; Peter Yates, lieutenant-colonel, and Peter Gansevoort, junior, major.

That of Ulster County, the third regiment, having for its field officers: James Clinton, colonel; Cornelius D. Wynkoop, lieutenant-colonel, and Henry Livingston, junior, major.

That of Dutchess County, the fourth regiment, having for its field officers: James Holmes, colonel; Philip van Cortlandt, lieutenant-colonel, and Barnabas Tuthill, major.

Of the artillery company raised in the city of New York, John Lamb was captain.²

¹ Minutes of the provincial congress, vol. i., pp. 116, 117, 414.

² Military committee, vol. 25, p. 119.