

of his second marriage. The father and his three eldest sons: Jacobus, twenty-five years of age; Philip, seventeen, and Gerardus, fifteen, subscribed their names to the pledge of association, at Mamakating, Ulster County, in June, 1775. The sons, as has been said, were among the discomfited defenders of Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton.

The dreaded Mohawk chief, Thayendanegea, or Joseph Brandt, leading a force of nearly one hundred Indians and Tories, made, on October 13, 1778, a sudden descent into the Neversink valley, and left a horrifying trail of death and ashes



RESIDENCE OF BENJAMIN SWARTWOUT, AT HUGUENOT, N. Y.

where, near the great elm, Justice Philip Swartwout, and his two sons, Philip and Gerardus, were killed by the Indians, on October 13, 1778. The present brick building stands on the site of the house of Justice Philip Swartwout.

across its fruitful farms. At the first intimation of his presence there, the farmers of the Peenpack neighborhood hastened with their families to the nearest forts. The closeness of Fort Gumaer to the farm of Justice Philip Swartwout permitted his wife, daughter, and youngest son to reach it speedily and safely under the armed escort of the father and his four other sons.

Imagining that they might have time to return home and convey to the fort certain articles of clothing, bedding, and food, needed by them while defending it, Justice Swartwout and his three sons, Jacobus, Philip, and Gerardus, ran back to the farm. On the way thither they were espied by a number of savages, who had guardedly approached the homestead. Seeing no evidences of the lurking Indians, they passed from the house into the back yard, each carrying