

afterward attempted to ascend the river, the chain remained in position, supported by a floating framework of wood, until the fall of 1783, when it was removed.¹

General Washington, writing to the president of congress, from Fishkill, on Saturday, October 3, 1778, disclosed the purpose of his having his head-quarters there, saying :

“The enemy in the Jerseys having received a reinforcement, and made some forward movements, I ordered Major-General Putnam across the river for the immediate security of West Point, and moved a division of troops to this place,



HEAD-QUARTERS OF BARON DE STEUBEN, AT SWARTWOUTVILLE.

to be nearer that post. I have since come here myself, and propose to remain till the views of the enemy on the Jerseys are decided.”

The head-quarters of the commander-in-chief was then at the hospitable home of Captain John Brinckerhoff, a low stone building, erected in 1738, on the east side of the road leading from the village of Fishkill to Hopewell, and now about midway, on the same highway, between Brinckerhoffville and Swartwoutville.

Tradition relates that the distinguished Prussian-American general, Baron Frederick William Augustus de Steuben, had once his head-quarters at the neighboring homestead of Colonel Jacobus Swartwout, standing immediately south of his later residence at Swartwoutville,² which was occupied in the fourth

¹ *Vide*: An outline history of Orange County, N. Y. By Samuel Eager. 1846-7, pp. 566, 567.

² To be sold By the Subscriber, and possession given the ensuing Spring, His farm, laying between Gen. Swartwout and Colonel Griffin's, now occupied by Mr. Isaac Stonehouse; situated in a genteel and