

commissioned, on March 3, 1780, a brigadier-general and placed in command of the brigade of militia of Dutchess County, comprising the following regiments: first (Rhinebeck and North-east precincts) regiment, Colonel Morris Graham, commandant from March 18, 1778; second (Rombout Precinct), Colonel Abraham Brinckerhoff, from June 25, 1778; third (Pawling Precinct), Colonel John Field, from June 22, 1778; fourth (Poughkeepsie Precinct), Colonel John Freer, from March 4, 1780; fifth (Beekman Precinct), Colonel James Vandenburgh, from March 10, 1778; sixth (Charlotte Precinct), Colonel Roswell Hopkins, from March 20, 1778; seventh (Fredericksburgh Precinct), Colonel Henry Luddington, from May 28, 1778.¹

In the second week of June, 1780, "an alarm at Fishkill" led to the calling out of the second (Rombout Precinct) regiment, which was on duty there from June 7 to June 12. Serving at that time with Captain John Schutt's company were Lieutenant William Swartwout, and his brother, Ensign Jacobus Swartwout, and their brothers, Thomas, a corporal, and Samuel, a private; and also Cornelius Swartwout, who, in 1779, had been a sergeant in Colonel Albert Pawling's regiment of levies. In the same regiment, and in Captain Nicholas Brower's company, Jacobus, son of Rudolphus and Gerrardina Swartwout, served at that time as an ensign.

On the twenty-seventh day of the same month, the fifth (Beekman Precinct) regiment was also in active service, and on duty with it was Captain Isaac van Wyck's company, of which Jacobus (Jabez), son of Samuel and Phebe Pudney Swartwout, was second lieutenant, and in which his brother John was a private. On duty also with the regiment was Captain Thomas Storm's company, in which Derick Swartwout was a corporal.²

The British statesman, Lord George Germaine, writing to Sir Henry Clinton, thus disclosed his belief that not a few American generals and chief participants in the revolutionary struggle were open to corruption: "Next to the destruction of Washington's army, the gaining over of officers of influence and reputation among the troops would be the speediest means of subduing the rebellion and restoring the tranquillity of America. Your commission authorizes you to avail yourself of such opportunities, and there can be no doubt that the expenses will be cheerfully submitted to."

Major-General Benedict Arnold, who, on August 3, 1780, had been intrusted with the command of "West Point and its dependencies, in which all were included from Fishkill to King's Ferry," was shortly afterward discovered as having been engaged in secret correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton.

¹ Documentary history relating to the State of New York. vol. xv. State archives. vol. i., pp. 278-284.

² *Vide*: Certificates of the Treasurer of the State of New York, Nos. 44621, 44622, 44623, 44669, 44664, 17476, 17505; vol. ix., pp. 69, 70; vol. iv., pp. 41, 42.