

Woods Hole Historical Museum Archives
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Swift Family Collection
1618 - 1964

15 boxes

SWIFT FAMILY COLLECTION SCOPE AND HISTORY

From the original Register: (no date)

Scope Note:

“The papers in this collection cover the period ca. 1852-1959 and consist of personal papers of Ezekiel Eldred Swift, Jr. (1827-1909), carpenter; his son Edward Ellsworth Swift (1861-1964), cabinet-maker, carpenter and boat builder; and business records of the firm of E.E. Swift & Son, active as contractors and builders in Woods Hole from 1875-1900. Included also are biographical, genealogical and miscellaneous materials relating to other members of the Swift family: Frances E.; Helon, brother of Edward; Lucy T.; May (sister of Edward?); Thomas L.; William; and founders of the packing firm of Swift & Co.

“Edward E. Swift built two Woods Hole spritsail boats before the turn of the century. The researcher is referred to the Woods Hole Spritsail Collection for correspondence and plans of these boats.”

SCOPE – 2015 Register

NOTE: For the re-working and re-housing of this collection in 2015, in Box 1 the arrangement of the original folders and groups has been changed. Genealogy, which was put at the rear of the box, has been moved to the first group of folders. This subject is usually the initial subject in a family history collection.

The day books originally in Box 1 have been shifted to Box 1A, where they can be protected and housed on their own. Day Book of 1876-1878 is fragile and the cover is shedding leather.

The original register implies that the collection has only to do with the Woods Hole branch of the Swift family but there are very important papers which relate to the Falmouth branch of the family, the branch which built the Bar Neck Wharf and its whaling ships from 1828 to the 1850s. They were wealthy investors and ship owners, not builders and carpenters.

There is also material on Swift & Company (meat packers) founded by Sagamore resident Gustavus Swift. The relationship to the Falmouth and Woods Hole Swifts is unknown.

SWIFT FAMILY COLLECTION

BOX 1

Genealogy:

- 1-1. Swift family genealogy report, Descendents of William Swift (Family Tree Maker), 1618 – 1993 – to date
 - 1-1a. Typewritten list. Family of Ezekiel Eldred Swift, Jr.
 - 1-1b. Typewritten list. Family of Reuben Swift.
 - 1-1c. Material from Sam Cahoon Collection on Swift genealogy.
- 1-2. Booklets. Library of Cape Cod History and Genealogy. William Swift and Descendents to the 6th Generation by Eben Swift, 1923. 2 copies.

Ezekiel Eldred Swift, Jr.(1827-1909):

- 1-3. Miscellaneous bills rendered to and written from Ezekiel E. Swift, 1852-1895
- 1-4. Tax Bills rendered to Ezekiel E. Swift and Estate of Ezekiel E. Swift, 1860-1912.
- 1-5. Receipts of Ezekiel E. Swift for Marine Lodge dues, 1888-1904.
- 1-6. Receipts of Ezekiel E. Swift for Post Office box rentals, 1888-1904, n.d.
- 1-7. Receipts for contributions to the Church of the Messiah, 1897-1903.
- 1-8. Funeral and obituary of Ezekiel E. Swift, 1909.
 - a. Bill from Wm. C. Davis & Co. for funeral expenses for Ezekiel E. Swift, 1909.
 - b. Newsclipping. Obituary of Ezekiel E. Swift, 1909 (poor xerox copy).
- 1-9. Bills rendered to the Estate of Ezekiel E. Swift, 1909-1912.
- 1-10. Miscellaneous receipts and ephemera.

Edward Ellsworth Swift (“Eddie”) (1861-1964):

- 1-11. Autograph book, c. 1878-1886
- 1-12. Tax Bills rendered to Edward E. Swift, c. 1883-1911.
- 1-13. Correspondence to Swift & Co. and Edward E. Swift, 1887-1955 and n.d. including envelopes.
- 1-14. Certificate of confirmation, Edward Ellsworth Swift, 1888.
- 1-15. Bills rendered to and from Edward E. Swift, 1895-1959.
- 1-16. Receipts for contributions to the Church of the Messiah, 1897-1904, from Jotham Howes
- 1-17. Receipt from Woods Hole Village Cemetery, 1909
- 1-18. Notice for Edward E. Swift to serve as a traverse juror, Barnstable Superior Court, 1919.
- 1-19. Bills written from Edward E. Swift to the Woods Hole Public Library, 1925-1938
- 1-20. Cash book of Edward E. Swift, 1926-1935.
- 1-21. Bill and Letter from Edward E. Swift to Professor Bert Little, 1943. *Written to “Bob” Little.*
- 1-22. Photograph. Color print of photo of Edward E. Swift seated in chair, 1943.
- 1-23. Miscellaneous ephemera, membership cards, war ration books (1942), 19th century - 1942.
- 1-24. Newsclipping. Clipping featuring Falmouth, including Eddie Swift, *Boston Herald*, July 29, 1946.

- 1-25. Photograph. Edward E. Swift at typewriter, b/w print, n.d.
- 1-26. Newsclipping. Obituary article, Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 12, 1964.
- 1-27. Biographical and miscellaneous material on Eddie Swift.
 - a. Caption written for WHHC exhibition, n.d.
 - b. Jennifer S. Gaines manuscript draft article on Edward E. Swift and Swift house, 1995.

Children of Ezekiel E. Swift, Jr.

- 1-28. Autograph book, Helon Ward Swift and Mary Swift (?), 1883. *No Mary listed in genealogy, only sisters Love Francis, Hannah Boyden and Eliza.*
- 1-29. Newsclipping. Obituary for Helon Ward Swift, after October 9, 1914.

Swift Family (Falmouth branches)

- 1-30. Petition. Petition of Elijah Swift and others, to the County Commissioners to take land and make a passable road from Falmouth to Woods Hole (approximately to 3 Water Street), 1833.
- 1-31. Photograph. Sepia-tone print in oval format of Lucy T. Swift, with dress-style of 1840s, cap and eye-glasses. Pink paper holder with blue decoration.
Lucy Thompson Grew was born in 1828 and died in 1908; she was the spouse of Ezekiel Eldred Swift, Jr. Although she is dressed in an old-fashioned dress style (1840s), this may have been taken at a late date when she was no longer young.
- 1-32. Bill of sale of 1/32 share of Ship *Commodore Morris* from Thomas Lawrence Swift to Oliver Cromwell Swift, 1859.
- 1-33. Booklets (attached at top with ribbon). "Rhymes of Falmouth" by Mrs. Frances E. Swift, 1894. Two copies, one with red ribbon, one with green ribbon.
- 1-34. History of Swift & Company (meat packers)
 - a. Excerpt from on-line company history
Newsclippings (n.d., original folder marked 1937, 1949)
 - b. George H. Swift To Retire
 - c. Centennial Recalls Cape Origin of Swift & Co.
 - d. Louis F. Swift, 75, Native of Cape Cod, Dies In Chicago.
 - e. Swift Packing Heir Killed in Car Crash.

Obsolete Register

**BOX 1A
DAY BOOKS OF Ezekiel. E. SWIFT & CO.**

1A-1. Day Book 1876 – 1878
Cover extremely fragile!

1A-2. Day Book 1883-1884, 1887, 1888, 1891-1898