

To the Editors:

I am the great grandson of Henry D. Swift, who was mentioned in “The Civil War Seems Remote to Falmouth” by Mary Sicchio, published in the Summer 2012 issue of *Spritsail*. I would like to bring two errors in this article to the author’s attention:

(1) The middle name of Henry D. Swift is Daniel, not David. This can be checked by visiting the grave marker in the cemetery behind the Quaker Meeting House in West Falmouth.

(2) The article mentions a pardon by Abraham Lincoln. The family for a long time believed the pardon was from the president, but later we found a letter of pardon from the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton.

A number of years ago, our family had turned over to the Falmouth Historical Society a number of papers containing correspondence and documents from three generations of West Falmouth Swifts: Abial, Daniel, and Henry Daniel. I believe that letter from Stanton should be in that collection.

Sincerely,
Daniel W. Swift

Mary Sicchio, Archivist (recently retired) at the Falmouth Historical Society, replied:

Henry Daniel Swift is correct. In the remarkable Swift Papers there is also a Special Order from the War Department, Nov. 20, 1863, signed by the Assistant Adjutant General E. D. Townsend. On the form is stated “By order of the Secretary of War.” I remember a discussion on whether this was a pardon or an honorable discharge.