

THE SWIFT FAMILY AND THE CIVIL WAR

BY STAN WHITE AND MIKE ROTH

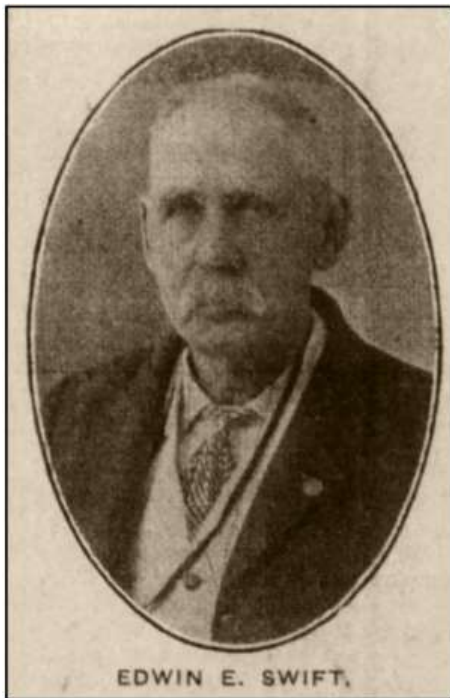
Joseph (1786-1872) and Matilda (Ewing) (1802-1882) Swift had five children, Daniel D., Edwin E., Armenia, Mary Eliza, and Lindley R. They lived in the house immediately to the northeast of our Society's archive warehouse and were related to the later Swifts of the Robert Fulton Birthplace, Joseph being the son of Captain Joseph Swift and brother to John, who sired the Joseph who later lived at the Birthplace.

From the book, *Fulton House*, by Mike Roth and Stanley T. White, you may have learned the following about one of the sons:

Daniel D. Swift (Dr. Daniel D. Swift) was born November 15, 1829 and died December 17, 1907. He served as a surgeon in the Civil War. He enlisted August 15, 1862 and was with Company S, 126th Infantry Regiment as an assistant surgeon. He mustered out on May 20, 1863 and then enlisted on June 30, 1864 as assistant surgeon for Company S, 6th Cavalry Regiment Pennsylvania. He was promoted to full surgeon on March 21, 1865. He served with Company S, 2nd Pro. Cavalry Regiment Pennsylvania until August 7, 1865.

Daniel married Emma C. Clark (1836 - June 22, 1913) in 1862 and they owned a house on Clendenin Road, near Fulton House, where he practiced until circa 1875. They then moved to and he practiced in Philadelphia, where he later died. They had a daughter named Lucy Swift and another named Mary Swift Patterson.

Mike Roth found the following article very recently and we thought it would be fun to share with you, as the Society has recently hosted the Civil War Living History Encampment.



**Intelligencer Journal, Saturday, February 27, 1909
FOUGHT FOR 36 YEARS ON SEAS AND PLAINS
THE SPLENDID RECORD MADE BY EDWIN E.
SWIFT, OF QUARRYVILLE.**

**Served During the Civil War in the Navy, Participating
in Great Battles—For Fifteen Years Saw Active Service
Against Indians From Alaska to Mexico.**

Living quietly in Quarryville after having spent nearly one-half of his 78 years in the services of his country is Edwin E. Swift, a veteran of the navy and army.

His first service was on board a famous ship of its day, the frigate *St. Louis*, which left Philadelphia in 1862, under sealed orders and which took an active part in the pursuit of the famous rebel vessels, the *Alabama* and *Florida*. On this cruise he spent three years, returning to Boston in 1865. Afterwards he served onboard the *Canandaigua* and on the *Bainsville*. On all the vessels he saw active service and participated in two of the greatest naval fights.

After the expiration of his term of service in the navy he enlisted in the regular army in the cavalry, serving in it until the close of the Civil War, when he was sent to the West, where he was first sergeant of Troop A, 6th U. S. C. His colonel was James Oaks, the celebrated Indian fighter, and who is now living retired in Washington, a major general.

While in the West, which was for over 15 years, he saw active service all the time, and was stationed at points from Alaska to Mexico.

After the close of the Indian wars he was in the quartermaster's department for quite a while, where he had charge of the purchase and distribution of horses and mules for the army.

His experience in the Western army was mixed with a number of hardships and much suffering. During the time they were on the Mexican border, fever broke out among the men and they died by the hundreds, and while on the northern boundaries they suffered from cold and on the deserts they perished for want of water.

His diary shows that while in the Western army he took part in 20 real fights and almost as many skirmishes, and while in the Civil War in four of the warmest battles.

His service in the army and navy covers a period of 36 years, and being a much more than ordinarily intelligent man, his reminiscences are interesting, as not only had he been all over this country, but visited many foreign ports during his naval service. While he is 78 years old, he by no means seems so. He walks and is erect as a man of 50.

Mr. Swift is a member of one of the oldest families of this county. It was his great-grandfather, Joseph Swift, a retired sea captain, who at sheriff sale bought the birthplace of Robert Fulton in or about 1755 (*correction: 1772*), and this property is still in the Swift name. He is very prominent as a member of the G. A. R., attends all its meetings and is frequently called on for an address and is always able to respond.