

THE SWIFT FAMILY

Historical Notes

compiled by the late

KATHARINE WHITIN SWIFT

and

published in loving memory

by her husband

ELIJAH KENT SWIFT

W H I T I N S V I L L E , M A S S A C H U S E T T S

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SWIFT

(1) William Swyft came from England to America probably in the Great Boston immigration of 1630-31. Savage says he probably came from Bocking, County Essex, or vicinity, but all Bocking Parish records were burned about the time of the Restoration. He may have descended from Robert Swyft and his wife Ann, whose tomb is in Rotherham Parish Church in Rotherham. Ann died in 1539 and Robert in 1561. William was a proprietor in Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1634 and had been there for several years. He drew various proprietors lots in Watertown but sold his property in 1637 and removed to Sandwich, where he bought the largest farm in town. In 1642 he served in Lieutenant John Blackmer's Company. He died before January, 1643 as his Inventory was shown at Court there and amounted to £72 11s. On March 7, 1643 "Letters of Administration are graunted to Joane Swyft of Sandwich to administer upon her husbandes estate and to pay the debts as farr as the estate will amount unto, by equal proporcons, and is bound to the Gov. and Assistantes to do it, & Daniell Wing with her." Joan survived her husband 20 years and died in Sandwich, November 26, 1663. Her will is in the Plymouth Colony Records, and the Inventory amounted to £105 6s.

(2) William Swift was born in England before 1627. He accompanied his father to America and stayed with him until he settled in Sandwich in the spring of 1637. He married Ruth ————— and lived at Sandwich until his death in January, 1705/06. In the Sandwich Town Records he is mentioned in 1643 as able to bear arms; in 1653, with his Mother "Jhona" and 17 others, he united in a call to the pastor, Mr. Leveridge; on March 1, 1654, with three others, he engaged to build a mill; on May 29, 1655, he engaged with others to build a place for publick meetings and to contribute 15 shillings to it. There is a record of his land boundaries in 1658 and more land was granted him in 1660. He was constable in 1660 and 1668, "Rater" in 1664 and 1667, and selectman from 1673 to 1676, and in 1678, 1680 and 1681. He is recorded among 52 freemen of Sandwich in 1675. At a Town Meeting June 21, 1678, he was chosen Deputy to the General Court, and in 1679 he was made surveyor. He served on many Town Committees in regard to the settlement of boundaries and the payment of accounts, and represented Sandwich several times at meetings at Yarmouth and Barnstable.

(3) William Swift was born August 28, 1654 and was a carpenter by trade. He married Elizabeth Thomson, who was born in 1654. She was the daughter of Lieutenant John Thomson, who married Mary, daughter of Francis Cooke of the *Mayflower*. William Swift is mentioned in the Sandwich records as voting for town officers. He was a Grand Jurymen in 1680 and on August 18, 1681 the Town voted to pay him £1 for his services on the Jury for eight days. In