

THE
SWIFT FAMILY
OF
PHILADELPHIA

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The early settlers of the Middle colonies, unlike Virginia and her neighbors to the southward, or New England in the northeast, were not of a homogeneous stock, and the colonial immigration to Pennsylvania probably was more diversified than that of any other of the British North American colonies. The valley of the Delaware was occupied first by the Swedes, then by the Dutch, and finally by the English. All three of those nationalities contributed their quota to the make-up of the population of Pennsylvania. After the control of the Province had passed into English hands there was a large immigration into Pennsylvania of yet another race from the Palatinate in the valley of the Rhine, known locally as Pennsylvania Dutch. Even the so-called English element was much diversified in its make-up. Contingents of Scotch, Welsh and Scotch-Irish all settled in Pennsylvania. The pure English were largely Quakers in their religious belief, though there was a fair sprinkling of members of the Church of England, and a few Catholics, who left their country to seek new homes in the Commonwealth established here by William Penn.

Among the adherents of the English Church who set-

tled in Philadelphia in colonial days were two brothers, John Swift and Joseph Swift, and their sister, Mary Swift.¹

Their father, John Swift, brought them from Bristol, England, about 1737 or 1738, to place them in the care of their uncle, John White, a successful merchant of Philadelphia, and then returned to England. John White, an Englishman by birth, had formed a partnership with Abram Taylor, a fellow-countryman, as early as 1724.² In their commercial undertakings they were very successful, and John White, with a view of offering a better business opening to the children of his sister, invited them to Philadelphia.

John White in 1741 returned to his native land, leaving his nephews and nieces in the care of his partner. He established himself at first at Bristol and afterwards, when he had retired from business, at Croydon in Surrey. His portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller is still in the family.

¹ In preparing this article much valuable information was found in : "Letters and Papers relating chiefly to the Provincial History of Pennsylvania, with some notices of the Writers," by Thomas Balch, Philadelphia, 1855 : "Edward Shippen," by Elise Willing Balch in Charles P. Keith's "Provincial Councilors of Pennsylvania," Philadelphia, 1883 : and "Genealogy of the Kollock Family of Sussex County, Delaware, 1657-1897," by Edwin Jaquett Sellers, Philadelphia, 1897. See also THE PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, October, 1904, for an article on "The English Ancestors of the Shippen Family."

² In a deed, dated at Philadelphia the 27th day of July, 1741, John White of the City of Philadelphia Merchant of the first and Abram Taylor of the said City Merchant of the second part agreed "WHEREAS, a copartnership and Joint-trade was entered into by and between the said parties to these presents in the year of our Lord 1724 as Merchant Adventurers, which they, the said parties, have ever since until the date hereof carried on by the name and title of White and Taylor, * * * * And the said John White being minded shortly to remove out of the said Province into the part of Great Britain," &c., &c. John White for a consideration of £7000 sterling conveyed to Abram Taylor all his rights &c. to all lands goods &c. purchased with funds arising from the said copartnership. Recorder of Deeds, Philadelphia, "Book G 2" page 463.

On October 20, 1741, Abram Taylor wrote from Philadelphia to John White at Bristol in England: "Everything here is just as it used to be at this season of the year and the generality appear much the same as when you left us. But to one who has parted with an acquaintance, with whom he has had the strictest Intimacy, and the most sincere Friendship for so great a number of years, things appear with a very different face. Pray remember us all in the kindest manner to Jack Swift."¹

Again ten days later Taylor wrote to White: "Thank God we are at present, well, which I know will give you pleasure to hear, as I assure you, it would afford the greatest to me to have the same account from you and that your voyage has been agreeable to you."

The inventory of Mr. White's furniture when he was living at Croydon, in County Surrey, England, is of interest in showing the household belongings of an English merchant of the eighteenth century:

"One Pair of sauce boats for Mr. John Swift, thirty-four ounces; Twenty Neckcloths; Two half-pint Mugs; One Pint Do., Two small Waiters; One Large Waiter; One Pair Salts & Shovels; One Pepper box; One smoking Candlestick; One Pap boat; Twelve Table Spoons; One Narrow Spoon; One Punch Spoon; One Soup Spoon; One Punch Ladle; Three Bottle Ladles; One Coffee Pot; One Tea Canister; Eight Tea Spoons; One Strainer; One Pair Tea; One Silver Milk Pot; The weight of the above one hundred and thirty eight ounces. *The above for Mr. Joseph Swift.*

"Joseph Swift's Picture & Small Landscape & Six Prints and cuttings for Mr. Joseph Swift.

"Two Dozen Pewter Plates, six soup plates and nine dishes for Mr. Joseph Swift. *Likewise my 2vo Bible.*

"A Pair of Spectacles for Mr. John Swift, & my Blue Great Coat for John Swift.

"John Swift's Picture & my own for Mr. John Swift.

"Six Damask Napkins & Six shirts mark'd from twenty to twenty-six. My best suit of Cloathes Black Velvet waistcoat and Breeches and my Night Gown for Mr. John Swift.

"One eight Day Clock, one Corner Cupboard, one Pier Glass, One

¹ Probably some information could be found at Bristol about the Swifts.

Mahogany Dining Table, one Pigeon-Wood Tea Chest, six chairs with Silk Damask seats, one Elbow Chair, one Grate, Shovel, Tongs Poker & Fender, one Dozen Blue and White China Plates, six Japan Do., six cups & saucers, six Do., one Dozen Wine & Two Beer Glasses, Four Glass Tumblers, six wine glasses, a Two quart China Bowl, Two Blue & White Do., One Mahogany Tea-board, six Black handle knives and six Forks, A Parcel of Ivory handle Desert Knives & Forks, one Coffee Mill, one Pepper Mill, A Mahogany Claw Table.

“In the Red Room.

“A Feather Bed, Bolster & Two Down Pillows, Four Blankets, two Cotton Counterpanes, a Bedstead with sacking Bottom & Mahogany feet Posts, Harrateen Curtains and Two Window Curtains, Double Chest of Drawers with a Mahogany Front. Four Cherry Tree Chairs, a Mahogany Night Chair, a Brass Hearth, Brass Shovel, Tongs, Poker, & Fender, Three Chintz Curtains, a Side Carpet in the Red Room.

“In the Blue Room.

“A Feather Bed, Bolster & Two Pillows, Four Blankets and a blue and white callicoe Coverlid, A Bedstead & Blue Curtains, A Bedside Carpet, Two Window Curtains, a Wainscot Desk, a Looking Glass, Four Chairs & a Trunk.

“In the Kitchen.

“A Plate warmer, a Grate with Iron Back, Shovel, Tongs, Poker & Fender, an Iron Crane, Two Double Box Irons & Four Beaters, two Spits & a Cook-hold, Four Brass Candlesticks, a Tinder-Box, a Spice-box, a Pair Window Curtains, a small Wainscot Table, two Copper boiling Pots & Covers, a Stewpan & Frying Pan, one Preserving Pan, Four Sauce-pans, two Cushions, one Ironing board with Iron Legs, Spiracks, Meat screen, Dripping Pan & Hand Jack & Warming Pan.

“*My Quarto Bible to Joseph Swift*, a green Cloth for a Table.

“In the Cellar.

“Six twelve Gallon Casks iron bound, one Twenty Gallon Cask, Iron bound, Three stands, a small Deal Binn.

“In the Brewhouse.

“A copper weight 56lb. & Iron work, a stand & Cooler, Bottlerack, a Chicken Coop, a Watering Pot, a Parcel of Baskets, a Ladder, a Horse for beating Cloathes & a Plate rack, 4 doz. Bottles.

“In the Garret.

“A new Partition & New Door. Four Cloathes Posts.

“In the Parlour.

“A Floor Cloth.

“It is my will and desire that everything in this House, besides what is bequeath'd, be sold by Auction, upon the Premises by Moyce & Fry, & I appoint Grosvenor Bedford Esq^r., & Chas. Bedford, his son, my whole and sole executors, & I desire that Mrs. Alice Young of

Croydon be so far my Executrix as to be impowered to take into her possession a marriage Bond & Testament between her son in law Carew Saunders of Croydon, Attorney at law, & Sarah his wife.

“30 July 1767

“Sign’d at Croydon.

“John White.

“The beforementioned things to be sold to pay any Funeral expences, which I desire may be plain and neat & Perform’d by John Stedwick, one Hearse & one Coach. Here lie the remains of John White of Croydon, who departed this Life ——— Aged ——— & I desire that my two Friends, Chas. & Rich^d. Bedford may attend my Funeral, & the Overplus to be paid to Gros^{vr}. Bedford.

“John White.”¹

John and Joseph Swift, and their sister Mary, were the children of John Swift and Mary White, his wife. John was born in 1720, Mary in 1726,² and Joseph on June 24, 1731.³ They were all born in England. In 1740, John Swift, who was a young gentleman fond of society, arranged a number of dancing parties or “assemblies,” as they were called at that time. In 1743 he went back to England to join his uncle, where he remained until 1747, when he returned to Philadelphia. In this city he became a successful merchant and a prominent and influential individual in

¹ John White’s arms as painted on his china and engraved on the silver, are:—Gules, a bordure sable charged with eight estoiles or; on a canton ermines, a lion rampant sable. Crest,—On the china, an ostrich, but on the silver a stork.

The coat of arms of the Swifts was:—Or, a chev. barry nebulée ar. and az. between three rebucks courant ppr.

² Mary Swift married Matthias Keen, September 1, 1743 (Trinity Church Register).

³ In a letter dated at Philadelphia, September 29, 1743, Abram Taylor writes to “Mr. John White, Croydon, Surrey, Engd,” as follows:

“Yesterday, I saw Rich^d. Martin, who acquainted me that a few days before one of your nieces was married to the Brother of his son’s wife. He says it is a very good match, and I sincerely wish them and you joy of it; he promised to send you a Letter of it.” From this letter it would seem that there was another sister, who died young. THE PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vol. V. p. 480.

the affairs and the social life of the town. He was elected to the City Councils, and was appointed by the Crown Collector of the Port, 1762-72; after that he was known as "the Old Collector." In the winter of 1748-9 he was primarily instrumental, together with Lynford Lardner, also an Englishman, and John Wallace and John Inglis, both Scotchmen, in planning and organizing a series of dancing parties, known as the "Assemblies."

Thus was inaugurated a long series of balls that have become historic in the annals of Philadelphia, and are known to-day as "The Philadelphia Assemblies." During the winter of 1748-9, six Assemblies were given under the management of four Directors: Lynford Lardner, John Inglis, John Wallace and John Swift. There is a tradition in the Swift family that has come down in two different lines that the first meeting at which the Assemblies originated was held at John Swift's house. There were fifty-nine subscribers in all, and as an invitation was extended to the family of every head of a family who subscribed, probably some two hundred persons were eligible to attend the dances. The subscription was two pounds sterling. Three manuscript relics of those gay festivities have come down to us: the rules to govern the dances, the list of the original subscribers, and the Treasurer's Account-book. Except the signatures of the subscribers all three documents are in the handwriting of John Swift. In 1879, Mr. Charles Swift Riché Hildeburn, a descendant of John Swift, the Manager and Treasurer, and Mr. Richard Penn Lardner, a descendant of the first Lynford Lardner, the Manager, presented to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania two of these three documents. Mr. Hildeburn gave the rules to govern the dances, and Mr. Lardner gave the list of the original subscribers. In 1902 Mr. Edwin Swift Balch and Mr. Thomas Willing Balch presented their great-great-grand-uncle's Account-book to the American Philosophical Society.

The Account-book is small and thin, and Mr. Swift

used it originally for some of his own accounts, and for some land transactions for his younger brother, Joseph. On one cover he wrote: "Account book, 1746." When the Assemblies were instituted and his fellow-managers chose him the Treasurer, he turned to the other end of his little Account-book, and there kept the "Assembly Account." Owing to age and neglect, the Account-book is much worn and somewhat injured. But now it has been treated by an expert, and every sheet covered with silk so as to guard it against any future weathering of time.

An examination of the Account-book shows that the six Assemblies of 1748-9 were far less costly than the two large balls that were until recently given annually at the Academy of Music, and now at the Bellevue-Stratford; or, for that matter, even the three balls that were held each season about fifty-five years ago at Musical Fund Hall. The Managers of the first Assemblies had to pay a tax, both to the city and to the county, as may be seen by turning to Mr. Swift's Account-book, but as the book is there somewhat torn, it is impossible to know how much.

From the time the Assemblies were first organized to the present, they have continued with pretty general regularity except when interrupted by war or other events. They have been held in various places, and the names on the list of subscribers have changed much. Many of the Quaker families—such as the Rawles, the Norrises, the Logans, the Whartons, etc.—that owing to their faith kept aloof at first from such gay and frivolous pastimes, later joined in with the Shippens, the Willings, the Swifts, the McCalls, the Hopkinsons, the Lardners, the Francises, the Bonds, the Lawrences, and others who were among the first list of subscribers. And many of the old names, alas! have died out.

On October 4, 1757, John Swift was elected a Common Councilman of Philadelphia, and so continued to serve until about the end of 1764 and in that office devoted much

time to the service of the city.¹ In 1762 he was appointed by the Crown Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, and during the ten years that he served in that office, a large part of his time was occupied in preventing the landing of cargoes without the payment of duties. He had to cope with all sorts of subterfuges on the part of the smugglers in their attempts to avoid the payment of duties. For example, sometimes the clearance papers were altered during the voyage. And on two occasions the smugglers resorted to acts of piracy in the Delaware River to accomplish their purpose, as some of the following letters from his correspondence in the collections of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania show.

*“ To The Honourable Commissioners of His Majesty’s Customs in America.”*²

“HONOURABLE GENT^{NS}.

* * * * *

“In your letter of the 14th August your Honours are pleased to say ‘That it is the Merchants business to put the goods into the Scales.’ We wish your Honours had been pleased to point out the Law that obliges them to do it, because they are an obstinate sett of People, and we might as well pretend to make them change their Religion as do any thing of this Kind which they think they ought not to do. This is a matter of little consequence and in our opinion not worth contending with them about. The Principal thing is to have the Goods honestly weighed. If we employ the Porters, they will be in our Interest, if the Merch^{ts}. employ them, they will be in theirs, and your Honours may easily conceive that in weighing a Cargo of Sugar it may be in the power of the Porters to cheat the King of more than all their Wages will come to. The Officers of the Customs are but few, & they have to contend with the whole Body of Merch^{ts}, many of whom think it no crime to cheat the King of his Duties. If therefore we can at a small expence make friends, even of Porters, we think it will not be bad policy to do it. The difference between employing them to put the weights in & out of the Scales & doing the whole business, will be very inconsiderable, if any. The Inspector General saw the difficulties that would arise about

¹ “Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, 1704 to 1776,” Philadelphia, 1847, pp. 621, 703.

² “Custom House Papers, Philadelphia,” Volume X., May 1769–Nov. 1770. The King’s Commissioners were at Boston.

this matter before he went from hence, & he promised to represent them to your Honours, when he got to Boston ; and in the mean time (that there might be no interruption of business) he order'd us to pay the Porters at the rates that Allen had paid them, which was 9^d p. Hhd. We have lately had several Cargos of Sugar landed here, and we were obliged to engage to pay the Porters for weighing them, or they would never have been weighed. We got it done for 6^d Curry. p. Hhd., which we hope your Honours will have no objection to allowing us in our account of Incidents, and we do not see how we can possibly avoid continuing this practice. It is a dangerous thing for officers of the Customs to insist upon any thing of this kind that they have no law to support them in. Suppose the Duties pd. & a permit granted for landing a cargo of Sugars ; they are accordingly landed. The Merch^t. refuses to put them into the Scale, the officer says he will not weigh them unless they are put into the Scale, nor suffer them to be taken off the Wharfe. There they lie, night comes on & the Goods are Stolen. Query. Whose loss would it be? Or if the Merch^t. should take them away by force, what remedy would the Officer have? We think it best to avoid contentions of this kind, where the object is not worth contending for. It has happen'd once before, since M^r. Williams went away, and is the case at this present time, that we have five or six Vessels discharging dutiable Goods on the same day. It was not possible for M^r. Smith to attend them all. We were therefore, obliged to employ M^r. Allen to assist him, and having only one Beam & weights, we were obliged to hire two others for the purpose of weighing the Sugar. As it was necessary for the service of the Revenue, we hope your Honours will have no objection to allowing what was paid.

“ We were in hopes that M^r. Williams would have prevailed on your Honours to have made M^r. Smith the usual allowance of 3^d p. Cask for gauging & 6^d for weighing over & above his Salary as Land Waiter. It is a place of great trust, he is an honest man, is indefatigable in his Duty, and deserves encouragement. Fifty pounds a year is but a poor living in this Country for a man who ought to make some little appearance to support the dignity of his office.

“ We find that Keeping a Custom H^o. Boat is attended with considerable expence, and we beg to know whether we are to answer all M^r. Ross's Bills for Keeping her in repair. Sometime ago he had the misfortune to run foul of a Schooner in the Bay, and lost his Boat ; he represented that another was absolutely necessary, & we therefore consented to his purchasing one, which he has done ; the cost was Six pounds ten shillings, besides Oars etc. We have paid several small Bills, which we thought were necessary. We beg your Honours will be pleased to let us know whether we have done right or not. M^r. Williams directed that the Tidesmen who go with M^r. Ross in the boat are to be paid

their 18^d Sterg. p. day while they are upon that service, which we have accordingly paid.

* * * * *

“ We are

“ Honourable Gentⁿ

“ Your Most Obedient

“ Humble Servants

“ J. S.

“ P. S. We are in want of another set of Instruments for gauging ; they are not to be got here.

“ Custom H^o. Philad^a.

“ Aug^t. 23rd, 1769 ”

This letter is addressed to John Swift, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, by John Hatton, Collector for the district of Salem and Cohansy.

“ CUSTOM HOUSE FOR SALEM & COHANSY¹

“ AT CAPE MAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1770.

“ SIR :

“ There arrived in this Bay on Monday evening last a large Ship which from the best Information I can get is from Liverpoole or Londonderry, her name was formerly the King George, but now is the Prince of Wales commanded by Capⁿ. Crawford, which Ship was met by several pilot boats, who immediately set to unload her, on which I got about eight men, and manned two wherries, & rowed down to her about ten miles. We rowed on each side of the Ship with our two Boats, as soon as they perceived us they threw overboard a great quantity of Bales & casks of Claret or Red wine, which casks they bilged. When we came near, they called out to me, & bid me stand off, or they would sink me, and they manned their Sides with Swivels, Guns, Peteraroes, Blunderbusses, & Musketts, and declared they would murder us. I parlied with them about an Hour, but could get no Information from them, they had a pilot boat along side which they Mann’d, which Boat was deeply laden, and I suppose they are in Number about Fifty Persons ; finding I could not board them, I then set out for another pilot Boat I saw about four miles off, which I supposed belonged to them. They then manned their Barge & after us, as soon as we reached the Pilot Boat I jumped on board, then my Son and Negro got in, the Pilot & me set to scuffle, my Son open’d her Hatches, and said she was full of goods such as Bales & Casks etc. I then legally seized her & set the two Pilotts & then my Boy in my Boat to be put on Shore by my american men who would not stay any longer. We then weighed anchor and made Sail, but there

¹ “ Custom House Papers, Philadelphia,” Volume X., May 1769–Nov. 1770.

being no wind, their barge soon came up with the man who call'd himself Captain, & eight more men arm'd with a Musquett, Patteraro Gun, Swords & axes, and threatned us with Death if we would not Surrender. We stood on the side of the Boat to meet them when they began their assault and endeavored to board us, but with our Guns & Swords we beat them off for about an hour and a half, but my Negro being Knocked down they boarded us when we put down our arms, and I said 'Gentlemen, we submitt.' Then they took up our guns & with them & their Swords & axes beat & wounded us in a most inhuman manner, rifling our Pockets, taking from me one rifle Pistol, four Dollars and my Shoe buckles & some other trifles. With great intreates we got them to leave off, & my son and me got on Shore, leaving my Negro and three Guns, two Hangers & several other things behind us which they would keep. I despair of my Negro's life, and am dangerously wounded myself. as the Bearer my Son (who is the least wounded) can testify. It now being night they took the Pilot Boat with my Negro up to the Ship, and took him on board her, where the captain and others sett on him again, but towards morning they put him on Shore; he informs me they had a great quantity of valuable goods on board; the two Pilot boats before mentioned were to sail the next Tide up the Delaware. I am not able to write or travel, therefore my Son writes & comes with this tho' in a poor condition. The Pilot on board of the Ship who pointed the Patteraro at me & swore he would murder me was one Jeddediah Mills a neighbour of mine, & part owner of the boat I seized, the other Pilot boat which lay along side belonged to another neighbour of mine, one Seletheall Forster.

"This is a just information of the proceedings of

"Sir

"Your most obedient humble Serv^t.

"JOHN HATTON, Coll^r."

In the following letter John Swift reported to the King's Commissioners at Boston this act of piracy:—

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15th, 1770.¹

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN

"I herewith enclose a Letter which was deliver'd me by M^r. Hatton's Son, on Monday evening the 12th instant just after his arrival in town. He was in a sad condition, he had one cut on the inside of his wrist an inch & a half long & very deep, but the Sinews are not cut; and two cuts on his head, one of two inches long and the other an inch & a half, & both to the bone. The Vessel his complaint was against had got here

¹ "Custom House Papers, Philadelphia," Volume X., May 1769–Nov. 1770.

before him, and was enter'd from Liverpoole with 7188 Bushels of Salt & $24\frac{3}{4}$ Chaldrons of Coal. I do not apprehend that her breaking bulk at Sea and putting Goods on board the Pilot Boat makes her liable to any penalty; the Goods taken out & the Boat into which they were put were forfeited if M^r. Hatton could have keep'd possession, but as they were rescued from him, the case is alter'd, and the Persons who beat, wounded & abused him are liable by the Act of 14 Cha. II. to a forfeiture of one hundred pounds & to be imprison'd till discharg'd by the Court of Exchequer (in England), for we have none here. There appears such an absurdity in extending that part of the Act to America where there are no Courts of Exchequer that our Lawyers & Judges think it was not intended that it should ever be put in execution here. So that an Officer may be beat and abused in the Execution of his Office and can have no redress but at common Law. I am in doubt whether M^r. Hatton can have any redress here for an offence that was committed in another Province, or rather upon the high Seas. But if he could, the persons who beat & wounded him & his son are unknown, and will probably continue so for nobody will dare to discover them.

“But the worst part of my Tale is yet to be related. The young man (Hatton) called on me again the next day, and acquainted me that he had seen the Pilot who own'd the Boat that had been rescued from him, and said he made no doubt but the Boat was somewhere in the Harbour, upon which I order'd one of the Waiters, who said he knew her, to find out where she was and to bring me word. He accordingly went in Search of her, but did not return before I went out to dinner (I was that day engaged to dine abroad). I invited the young man to dine with my Family & when I went out left him at my House. I had given directions to two of the Waiters in case the Boat was discover'd to go with young Hatton and assist him in securing her. The Waiter return'd & said that he had seen a Boat at Carpenter's Wharfe that he believed to be her but could not be sure, and thought it would be best for young Hatton to see her before any steps were taken to stop her. Accordingly my Son went with him to show him the Wharfe where she lay; and as they were going thither they met the Pilot who own'd the Boat, and young Hatton enter'd into a conversation with him, he pretend'd to be very sorry for what had pass'd, and told him he might take the Boat and do as he pleased with her and artfully engaged him in conversation for near half an hour till he (the pilot) observed seven or eight Sailors arm'd with Clubbs, close upon them; he then told him to take care of himself for they were coming after him, upon which young Hatton & my son took to their Heels, and the Sailors after them. My son was fortunate enough to get into a House where he was known & was protected. A Sailor just as he enter'd the door made a blow at him with a Club but miss'd him. Young Hatton likewise got into another

House, but the Sailors follow'd & dragged him out, and drove him about from place to place, and with more than savage barbarity tore off the dressing from the Wounds on his head and arm and pour'd a pot of Tar upon his Head, and then feather'd him. The mob gather'd as they drove him with sticks from Street to Street. They had a rope round his body, and when he would not walk or run, they drag'd him ; they put him in the Pillory, and when they were tired of that, they drove him to the River & duck'd him. They then put him into a Boat and row'd him across the River to the Jersey shore & there landed him. From what I can learn they tortured him in the manner above related an hour or more. As I was in a different quarter of the town I heard nothing of it till it was all over. As soon as I heard where young Hatton was I immediately sent one of the Waiters to enquire what condition he was in. He returned and inform'd me that he had found him at Cooper's (the ferry House), opposite Philadelphia. He was in bed but so ill that he could not speak ; I immediately went to Doctor Bond and desired he would either go or send somebody to do what was necessary for him, which he accordingly did. Early the next morning Doctor Bond called on me and I went with him to Cooper's where we found him in Bed. His wounds were much inflamed, his wrist much swelled, & he had a fever. Doctor Bond attends him constantly at Cooper's, and every thing possible shall be done for his recovery. I did not dare to have him brought to this City, fearing the same Tragedy might be acted over again. I am much at a loss what steps to take in this matter. Many people here say they are sorry for what has happen'd, tho I believe most in their hearts approve of it. Not a man interposed to prevent it, neither Magistrate or Citizen. I have no doubt but that the Sailors were set on by an Irish Merchant in this City, one Caldwell, to whom the Vessel was consign'd ; its the same man that own'd the Wines that were rescued ab'. two years ago after I had seized them. If these riots are permitted with impunity it will be impossible for any Custom House Officer to do his duty in this Port. There are not less than a thousand seamen here at this time, and they are always ready to do any mischief that their Captains or Owners set them upon."

[PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20th, 1770].¹

"The Honourable the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs in America.

"HONOURABLE GENT^N.

"We have received your Letter of the 10th instant and enclosed we now send you copy of the Register of the Ship Prince of Wales from which you will learn who are the owners and also copy of her entry

¹*"Custom House Papers, Philadelphia," Volume XI, Nov. 1770–Oct. 1771.*

inwards. We had no suspicion when the vessel was enter'd that any illegal practices had been committed, & therefore, did not think it material to enquire the names of the seamen, but we will endeavor to find out their names & transmit you a list of them.

“Your Honours are pleased to say that we ought to have made proper representations of the riot which happen'd in this City the 13 Novemr. last to Governor th [Thomas?] Penn. May it please your Honours we were of opinion that the governor & the magistrates of the city ought of their own accord to have taken the proper steps & have exerted themselves to discover who were the ringleaders & perpetrators of such a notorious insult offer'd to government ; but finding that they did not do it, the D. Coll^r. did apply to the Mayor & some of the Aldermen who with great indifference told him, that if he would inform them who were concern'd, they would do their duty ; but they did not think themselves obliged to hunt after business of this Kind. He also spoke to the Governor about it, who told him that he thought the Magistrates would have done something in it ; he had heard, he said, that they intended it. In short, the truth of the matter is the hands of government are not strong enough to oppose the numerous body of people who wish well to the cause of smuggling, even if they were ever so well disposed to do it. What can a government do without the assistance of the govern'd ? What can the Magistrates do unless they are supported by their fellow citizens ? What can the King's officers do, if they make themselves obnoxious to the people amongst whom they reside ? Your Honours are pleased to authorize us to offer a reward of fifty pounds,—we don't look upon this as a command, & therefore take it for granted that we are at liberty to use our own discretion in the case. We don't think it can possibly answer any good purpose, nobody will dare to inform unless we & they were countenanced by the government. If the Governor with the advice of his Council would issue a Proclamation & offer a reward, it might perhaps be attended to ; but for us to offer a reward in the present situation of affairs will in our opinion, answer no purpose, but to make ourselves ridiculous. This is not a time for works of supererrogation, and it will be said, that this is a matter that does not immediately concern us, and that we had no occasion to make ourselves busy about it. This is our opinion of the matter ; but if your Honours are desirous of having a reward offer'd, we beg you will be pleased to direct the form of the advertizment & send it to us. It will not be too late for we are well assured that the persons principally concern'd are inhabitants of the City. The Ship is still in this Port, & now loading lumber for Ireland. The Capt., a Patrick Crawford is rewarded with a new Ship lately built at this Port called the Venus, belonging to the same Owners, and sail'd for Londonderry yesterday.

“Mr. Hatton Son's hand is yet very bad, he has had the assistance

of two as able Physecians as any we have, the two Doctor Bonds, who have constantly attended him, at Coopers, where he was landed after the Mob had done with him. They have done everything that could be done for him, but fear that he never will have the right use of his hand again. He has suffer'd infinite pain, which at first brought on a fever & his life was thought to be in danger; and it was long a matter of doubt with the Doctors whether they should not be obliged to cut his arm off, but I believe they now think him out of danger. But he is not in a condition to travel, and if he was at home he could get no assistance there. As I employed the D Collector's Doctors & undertook to see them paid, he hopes your Honours will be pleased to allow him to charge it in his amount of incidents. His board at Cooper's is to be paid for as well as the Doctors Bills, and his father is not very well able to bear the expense of either out of his small salary and no fees.

“Mr. Hatton the Collector (for Salem and Cohansy) was here two days ago. He has been sadly harassed by the Magistrates of his county where he resides, who have done everything in their power to perplex & plague him. He is now gone to Burlington with a remonstrance to Governor Franklin, seting forth the ill treatment he has met with from them and from thence he intends to go to Amboy, to take the opinion of the Attorney General agreeable to your Honours directions. And if we are not much mistaken he would have done just as well if he had stay'd at home and whistled to the wind.”

“To the Honourable the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs in America.”

“HONOURABLE GENT^{NS}.

“It is with extream concern that I am now to acquaint you that Mr. Barclay the Comptroller of this Port departed this life last night;—his disorder was the gout in his head. We acted together as officers of his Majesty's revenue at this port with the greatest harmony for many years, & I very sincerely lament the loss I have met with. As it was necessary that some person should be immediately appointed to succeed Mr. Barclay in his office, the Governor has thought proper to appoint his Uncle Lynford Lardner Esq^r. till your Honours pleasure be known. If I might presume to ask a favour of your Honours, it would be, that you would be pleased to confirm the Governor's appointment of Mr. Lardner, till some person is appointed by the Lords of the Treasury. I have never deceived your Honours in any matter that I have ever had occasion to write to you about, nor could private friendship induce me to do it. I have a very high opinion of Mr. Lardner, & think him a very proper person for the Office. He is a man of good understanding & a man of honour; & is beloved and esteemed by all that know him; and is one of the few persons in this City who have

not joined with the multitude in giving all the opposition in their power to the measures of Government ;—and he is not concern'd in trade. If your honours will be pleased to confirm the Governor's appointment of Mr. Lardner, I shall esteem it a particular favour confer'd on

“Honourable Gent^a.

“Your most obedient

“Humble Servant

“J. S.

“Custom H^o Philad^a.

“Jany. 12th 1771.”

“PHILAD^a Jany. 16, 1771 ¹

“SIR—

“Inclosed I now send you the account of Sales of the ship Marquis of Granby & her Cargo, the neat proceeds after paying all expences being £ 960 in Currency.

“By the Packet I rec^d. an Information from the Treasury that the Ship Speedwell, George Hardwick master, was taking in a Cargo of Tea at Gottenburg, for this Port ; she has since made her appearance here & enter'd from Liverpoole with Coal & Salt—dated the 6th Sept^r. last. I have seized her agreeable to my orders from the Treasury, & am now geting the Coal landed in order to discover whether she has any Tea under the Coal, but I fear I shall find none. I have no doubt but she has come from Gottenburg & brought Tea from thence, but I fear it was all got out before she came here, & is probably lodged some where below in order to be brought up here, of which I give you this notice that you may act with your usual diligence in discovering it. There were two other Vessels bound either to N. York or this place with Tea, I have not yet heard of their arrival. I am

“Sir

“Your Most Hum. Serv.

“J. S.

“CAP^t. W^m. DUDINGTON
at Wilmington”

[PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6th, 1771].²

“To The Honourable The Commissioners of His Majestys Customs in America.

“HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN

“On the 13th of last month the Deputy Collector seized the Schooner Mary, W^m. Alexander Master, from Nevis with ninety five Hhds of

¹ “Custom House Papers, Philadelphia,” Volume XI., Nov. 1770–Oct. 1771.

² “Custom House Papers, Philadelphia,” Volume XI., Nov. 1770–Oct. 1771.

Rum & fourteen Hhds & one barr^l of Sugar on board. The Capt. when he came to make his entry produced papers from Nevis sign'd by the Collector & Comptroller there, for eighty Hogsheads of Rum & twenty tierces of Sugar, for which the Duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ P C was certified to have been paid. But upon examining of the papers it appear'd that they had been altered. They were originally for eight Hogsheads of Rum containing seven hundred & twenty gallons, & twenty tierces of Sugar. By adding a y to the word eight they had made it eighty, and between the words seven and hundred, they had interlined the word (thousand two) in another hand writing & different ink. So that instead of eight Hogsheads of Rum containing seven hundred & twenty gallons, which is ninety gallons to a Hogshead (the way they rate them in all the Islands for the $4\frac{1}{2}$ P C Duty) it reads, eighty Hogsheads of Rum containing seven thousand two hundred & twenty Gallons w^{ch}. is twenty Gallons more than it ought to have been supposing each Hogshead to be rated at ninety gallons. The Nevis papers were originally dated in June, and the word June is alter'd to July, in so clumsy a manner, that the original letters can be plainly distinguished. We have not the least doubt but that the whole cargo was taken on board at St. Croix.

“ * * * * *

“To The Honourable The Commiss^{rs}: of His Majestys Customs in America

“HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN

“Nov. 25th 1771¹

“We are now to inform you of a sad mischance that has happened to the Custom House Schooner & the Officers & people belonging to her. On Saturday last the 23^d instant they met with a pilot Boat of Chester ~~standing towards Philad^a.~~ which they ~~boarded~~ & found that she was loaded with Chests & Cases, w^{ch}. they seized, and were afterwards informed by the people belonging to her, that there were fifteen Chests & twenty quarter Chests of Tea & some Cases of Claret & Geneva on board her,—that proceeded with her towards Philadelphia till they got as far as red Bank (eight miles below Philad^a.) where they met the ebb tide & were obliged to come to an Anchor, there being no wind. The Custom H^o. Boat & the Prize lay close along side of each other. About ten o’Clock at night they discovered a large pilot Boat standing towards them & they observed that she had three small Boats with her which being uncommon alarm’d them a little, but as they saw only two people they had no apprehension of what was to happen; as she drew nearer Capt^a Mushett called to them to keep off & not run foul of him, which

¹ “Custom House Papers, Philadelphia,” Volume XII., Nov. 1771–March 1774.

they paid no regard to, but came close along side the prize. Capt^a. Mushett's people at first endeavor'd to shove them off, but in an instant, they were prevented from doing that, by a number of people who had concealed themselves in the Cabbin & hold of the Vessel, who rushed out & boarded the prize, & with Clubs, Cutlashes & Guns, with which they were arm'd, attacked Capt^a. Mushett & his people with such violence that they presently laid most of them flat upon the Deck and then threw them, some into the Hold & others into the Cabbin of the Custom H^o. Schooner & fastin'd the hatches upon them. Capt^a. Mushett was shut up in the hold by himself, & was near expiring with his Wounds when Peter Ozeas who had been shut up for some time in the hold of the boat that made the attack, was removed (being first blind-folded) to the Custom H^o. Schooner & thrown into the hold where Capt^a. Mushett was and hearing his groans, enquired how it was with him, and beg'd of the people upon deck to let him have a Bucket of Water, which after some entreaty they comply'd with. After they had thus treated Capt^a. Mushett & his people they fell foul of the Custom H^o. Boat, with their Cutlashes cut away all her standing & running rigging & sails, cut the other cable in several places, carried away their small Boat, & then towed the Schooner to the shore & and let her sticking fast in the mud & carried off the prize. About three o'Clock on Sunday morning Capt^a. Mushett & his people got up to Town & is now in bed very ill with his wounds. Capt^a. Mushett had with him Alban Davis, Peter Ozeas, John Mercer, James Ash, James Forrest & John Wormington. Davis has got a very bad cut & bruise on his head. Ozeas is much hurt with a blow on his right Arm. Forrest has got a cut on the head. Ash had several blows but he don't complain much. On Sunday morning after the D. Coll^r. had been inform'd of the Affair he waited on the Governor and acquainted him with it. He has promised to issue a Proclamation as soon as the necessary affidavits can be taken & laid before him. He also waited on the Chief Justice, & the Mayor of the City who both promise to do every thing in their power to get the persons concern'd apprehended & brought to Justice if it can be discover'd who they are—but we have no reason to believe that any discovery will ever be made. We are getting the Boat fitted up again but we fear Capt^a. Mushett will not be in a condition to take command of her again very soon, he has got one very bad cut on the Head. This is all the information we can at present give your Honours respecting this affair, but you may depend upon our exerting our selves to the utmost of our power in the prosecution of it. We are

“Honourable Gent^a”

“Your Most Hum Serv.

“JOHN SWIFT D. C.

"To The Honourable The Commissⁿ. of His Majestys Customs in America.

"Nov. 30, 1771.¹

"HONOURABLE GENTⁿ.

"In our letter dated the 25th instant we acquainted your Honours of the mischance that had happen'd to the Custom H^o. Schooner & the people belonging to her. We have not yet been able to discover who were the person concern'd in this unwarrantable Act, tho we have too much reason to believe that they were some of the principle Merch^{ts}. in this City in disguise. They had Sailors Jackets & their faces were black'd but some of them had white Stockings. It was a very bright moonlight night, and it seems very strange to us that none of the people belonging to the Custom H^o. Schooner should not know some of them, either by their Voices or the shape & make of their faces & persons; but so it is, they either do not know them, or are afraid to mention their names, or have rec'd smart money & therefore will not do it. Peter Ozeas, Alban Davis & John Mercer are well acquainted with the faces & persons of every Merch^t. of any consequence in this City, but they say they did not know any of them. Capt^a. Mushett thinks he knows some of them & has mentioned their names, but he cannot be positive; he was surrounded by a dozen of them in an instant, which confused him; one of them (a lusty man whom he thinks he knows) presented a Blunderbus to his breast, while others, laid him over the head with Cutlashes & Clubs & knocked him down & then threw him into the hold of the Custom H^o. Schooner where he found himself after he recover'd his senses; he seems well disposed to have the affair brought to light. Mr. Smith & Thornton have taken a great deal of pains to make discoveries & have made some that will probably lead to more. Thornton has discover'd the Pilot Boat that was made use of by the Persons who rescued the Seizurd. The Governor's Proclamation is not yet issued; when the D. Collector waited on him on Sunday morning he found him booted & just going out of town into the Jerseys, from whence he is not yet return'd. We don't know whether any reward will be offer'd by the Government of this Province for discovering the persons concern'd in this scandalous affair, or whether it will be expected that we should offer the reward, and if the latter should be the case, we shall be at a loss what reward to offer, nor do we know whether your Honours would approve of our offering any, without first having your approbation. We shall therefore wait till we have your honours directions concerning this matter. We think it will be best to offer a large reward, three, four, or five hundred pounds.

¹ "Custom House Papers, Philadelphia," Volume XII., Nov. 1771-March 1774.

“The Superior Court of this province has refused to grant Writs of Assistance agreeable to the form transmitted by your Solicitor & the reason given by the Judges is that such Writs are not warrantable by Law. The D Collector in a late conference with the Chief Justice Allen ask'd him if he would grant him a Writ to search for the Goods above mention'd, which had been rescued from the Officers after seizure. His answer was, Yes, If you will make Oath that you have had an information that they are in any particular place I will give you a Writ to search that particular place, but no general Writ to search every House. He added, I would not do that upon any consideration.

“We have had the Custom H^o. Schooner refitted & she is gone upon another Cruise, under the Command of John Thornton extra tidesman who appears to be a man of resolution and we believe is very honest,—we have recommended him to M^r. Wootton to be put upon the establishment. We requested M^r. Thayer to take command of the Custom H^o. Schooner till M^r. Mushett was able to go, but he gave us a possitive denial.

“Inclosed we sent your Honours The Affidavits of Alban Davis, Peter Ozeas & James Forrest respecting the Rescue of the Goods & pilot Boat taken before the Chief Justice viva voce. He choose to have it done in that way which took a great deal of time, & are not so full as they would have been if we had done them ourselves at our leisure. Capt^a. Mushatt's examination was not taken because he was not able to go out of his chamber, but he has nothing very material to add. He complain'd much of a gidiness in his head, but he is getting better,—and so they are all.

“The Commission mention'd by Peter Ozeas in his Deposition which Capt^a. Mushett show'd to the people belonging to the pilot Boat which he seized, was no Commission at all, but Ozeas thought that it was, & he knows nothing to the Contrary now.

“Your Honours may depend that every thing in our power shall be done to discover the Persons who have been guilty of this dareing insult against the laws, that they may be brought to Justice, & others deter'd from acting the same part. We are

“Honourable Gentlemen

“Your most obedient

“Humble Servant

“J. S. [JOHN SWIFT]

“J. L. [JOSEPH LORING]

“CUSTOM H^o. PHILAD^a.

“Nov^r. 30th. 1771.”

The Collector and the Comptroller of the Port, John Swift and Joseph Loring, offered a reward of two hundred

pounds sterling for the discovery of any one concerned in the rescue of the smugglers.¹ But no success seems to have rewarded their efforts as the following letter of John Swift to the Commissioners of Customs in Boston shows:

"To the Honourable the Commiss^a of His Majestys Customs in America.

" Feby. 11th 1772.

"HONOURABLE GENT^l:

"In consequence of your Honours leave of absence to M^r. Loring, Comptroller of this Port, in your letter N^o. 1 dated the 10th of last month, he set out for Boston on Monday the 3^d instant. As we did not conceive that his presence was any longer materially necessary here in taking proper measures for discovering & bringing to Justice the Persons concern'd in the outrage upon M^r. Mushett and the Rescue of the Pilot Boat, nor for instituting a Presecution for treble the value of the Tea seized & condemn'd at this Port. We have very little expectation of every discovering the persons concerned in the first. We cannot but be of opinion that the Tidesmen must know them, and we have try'd every method to induce them to make a discovery, but in vain,—they persist in it that they do not know any of them. M^r. Mushett's Doctor has brought him a Bill of £ 6—for curing his head, and the same Doctor charges Alban Davis £ 1, 14, for curing his, and they both expect that your Honours will be pleased to give me an order to pay him. Now I am upon the Subject of Broken Heads I will beg leave to mention to your Honours a request which M^r. Hatton has often made to me, which is that I will pay another ten pounds to Doctor Phineas Bond for attending his Son when he lay ill at Coopers with the Wounds he received in his Head and Wrist when the Pilot Boat was rescued from him at Cape May, and in this City, where he was attacked by the Mob. There were two Doctor Bond attended him, and only one of them has been paid. I employ'd Doct^r. Tho^s. Bond, but as it was not convenient to him to cross the River to visit him so often as was necessary, he desired his Brother to assist him, and they went by turns, and often both together, and between them they attended him very faithfully for upwards of six weeks. M^r. Hatton thought they had been in partnership and I do not know to the contrary, so that when he got your Honours order to pay the Doctors, he apply'd to Doct^r. Tho^s. Bond for a Bill, which he gave him, and I supply'd him with Money to discharge it, agreeable to your Honours orders, and imagined that all was paid. But

¹ Letter of January 17th, 1772, "Custom House Papers, Philadelphia," Vol. XII., Nov. 1771–March 1774.

² "Custom House Papers, Philadelphia," Volume XII., Nov. 1771–March 1774.

some considerable time afterwards Mr. Hatton apply'd to me again for another ten pounds which he said Doctor Phineas Bond demanded of him in making the second application, and as I had forwarded my preparatory account for your Honours approbation before he apply'd, I refused to pay any more without a fresh order from your Honours, wherefore Doct^r. Phineas Bond remains still unpaid, but I think he ought to be paid, and if your Honours approve of it I will supply Mr. Hatton with money to pay him. The poor young man will never have the use of his Hand again. If Mr. Loring's presence should be necessary I will immediately acquaint your Honours therewith; at present there is nothing to do, the River being full of Ice. Mr. Loring appointed Mr. Smith to Act for him in his absence."

John Swift married twice, first Magdalen Kollock, and second Rebecca Kollock, a niece of his first wife. In the latter years of his life he lived at his country place, Croydon Lodge, in Bucks County, Pa.¹

Among the children of John Swift and his first wife, Magdalen Kollock, their eldest daughter, Alice Swift, born at Philadelphia, February 20th, 1750-1, was married at "Croydon Lodge," Bucks County, Pa., on November 22nd, 1778, to Robert Cambridge Livingston, son of Robert Livingston, Third Proprietor of the Manor of Livingston.²

Another of the children of John Swift and his first wife, was Charles Swift who, admitted to the Philadelphia Bar in March, 1779, was one of the founders in 1805 of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

John Swift, a son of the above-named Charles Swift, was born at Philadelphia January 21st, 1790; he graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1808, receiving the A. B. degree, was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar on March 16th, 1811, and married at Philadelphia on March 11th of the same year, Mary Truxton, a daughter of Commodore Thomas Truxton of the United States Navy. He was

¹ His portrait belonged in 1855 to his grand-daughter, Miss Magdalen Peel Swift.

² For an account of their descendants see "Genealogy of the Kollock Family of Sussex County, Delaware, 1657-1897," by Edwin Jaquett Sellers, Philadelphia, 1897, p. 41 *et seq.*

Captain of the second company of the Washington Guards during the War of 1812 and afterwards became their Colonel. He was one of the Committee of the "Military Birth Night Ball" that was given on Washington's birthday, February 11th, (old style), 1818, at Washington Hall. He was elected a member of the State in Schuylkill, October 2nd, 1822. He was chosen chief marshall of the civic division of the parade held at Philadelphia, September 28th, 1824, in honor of La Fayette.¹ His name appears first in the charter granted by the Commonwealth to the State in Schuylkill, April 27th, 1844. John Swift was mayor of Philadelphia from 1832 to 1838, from 1839 to 1841, and again from 1845 to 1849.² He won "applause by the courage with which he quelled several riots, leading the police in person."³ On one occasion when there was an uprising in the old jail at the south east corner of Walnut and Sixth Streets, Mayor Swift, hearing of the trouble, quickly appeared upon the scene holding a loaded pistol in each hand. He met the prisoners beginning to come down the steps. Promptly he shot the first man, wounding him, and then drove back the others and put down the turmoil.⁴ During the Presidential campaign of 1844, Henry Clay, the Whig candidate, staid at his house several days, and Mr. Swift held an evening reception for him.⁵ He presided over a Mexican War meeting that was held in Independence Square, May 13th, 1846.⁶ Mr. Swift

¹ See "A History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, 1732-1888," Philadelphia, 1889, *passim*; and "History of Philadelphia," by J. T. Scharf and T. Westcott, Philadelphia, 1884, *passim*.

² During the cholera epidemic of 1832, a John Swift rendered conspicuous service in the county prison, for which the city presented him with a service of plate in March, 1833.

³ Colonel J. Granville Leach in "Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography," New York, 1889.

⁴ The late Edwin Swift, Esq.

⁵ Edward Swift Buckley, Esq.

⁶ "History of Philadelphia," by J. T. Scharf and T. Westcott, Philadelphia, 1884, page 678.

died at Philadelphia, June 9th, 1873, and was buried in Christ Church ground. His portrait by Thomas Sully, shows a man of much force of character.

Joseph Swift, a brother of John Swift, the Secretary and Manager of the first Assemblies, was born in England, June 24th, 1731, and was brought to Philadelphia by his father about 1738. In 1747 he went to England to join his uncle. He was sent to school at Manchester, and became a proficient scholar in reading both Latin and French, a rare accomplishment in those days. 'Some of his Latin and French books are still preserved in the family, among the latter a handsome edition of Fénelon's "Télémaque."'¹

On one occasion he journeyed to Paris on business in behalf of his uncle, John White, and of that trip he wrote the following amusing account:

"To Mr. John White

*"Merchant in Croydon, Surry
in England*

"PARIS 10th September 1749.

"DEAR UNCLE

"I wrote to you from Boulogne acquainting you with our safe arrival there, which I now can do to this place, we got in here last night, about seven and made a very awkward figure, 'begging my two Friends pardon' for ye Captain whom I believe I mention'd in my last letter, left us as soon as we came to Paris, and we very wisely gave ye Postilions the Directions to our Lodgings, and when we set us down at ye Inn he, either on purpose, or accidentally had lost ye directions and ye had forgot ye name, so we had no Lodgings to see in a new, and unknown Country as it were—so you may think what a fine condition we were in,

¹ Les Aventures de Telemaque fils d'Ulysse par feu Messire François de Salignac de la Motte Fenelon, precepteur de Messeigneurs les Enfants de France & depuis Archevêque-Duc de Cambrai, Prince du saint Empire, & Nouvelle Edition conforme au Manuscript original. Avec des Remarques pour l'intelligence de ce Poeme. A Londres, chez J. Tonson, à l'enseigne de Shakespear dans le Strand; & J. Watts, à son Imprimerie dans Wild-Court près de Lincolns-Inn-Fields, MDCCXIX.

One of his Latin books that he bought in Philadelphia in 1744 is entitled, "Hermes Romanus Anglicis D^m Johannis Garretsoni Vertendis Exercitüs Accommodatus." It was published at Dublin in 1735.

much ye same I believe as if we had dropd out of ye Moon, for ye neither understood us nor we them ; but as some folks are most fortunate, so we fell in Company wth. a man who could speak English and French, who clear'd up ye Spectators ye misfortune we had met wth., for we had a Crowd about us in an Instant. This honest man likewise conducted us to ye Lodgings we are now in, and told us of a Coffee-house frequented by English, where we went and fell into chat wth. an English Gentleman who very kindly informed us, of several material things, and after ye conducted us to our Lodgings and bid us good night. This morning we go up a little more reconcilted to our situation of ye night before, and find to day we are got into very good hands, and getting into English Company who have been here for some time, are a little better acquainted wth. ye Place tn. we last night expected to be. We went this morning to my Lord Albemarl's Chappel, where we heard our king pray'd for as king of France, which had a very odd sound, in this Nation. We had a very good Sermon and so return'd to Man. Kemps "an English woman where most English frequent" and dinned. I have given you a detail of our proceedings since our arrival here. Mr. Williams and Westwood are gone to ye Opera, but I chose to defer it, to write to you, as I can go another time. There is not much in omitting going of a Sunday and you may perhaps wonder what I ail of I cou'd not help out wth. my French, but I assure you, there is nothing in learning English French, it has no affinity wth. ye real French. We shall stay here three days, in which time it will be impossible, to get acquainted wth. ye Behaviour of this polite Nation and as for ye politeness of any other part which I have seen but this, it may very well be compar'd to ye Moors in Lancashire, who are amazed at everything they see and awkard in every thing they do. So don't, pray don't be amazed to find me ye unpolished piece, I was when I went out of your hands. I am told by ye French people here if I was to stay two months among'em I should speak very good French, but as I am continually upon ye motion I am deprived of ye opportunity of improving greatly in my French, 'tant pour cela.' We are not certain as yet when we shall set out for home, but I believe in a little time. Mr. Williams was in a great passion wth. himself yt. he cou'd not speak, and would have given half his Estate to have understood French for a month. I am at present Cashier they not knowing ye Coin, neither will they ever Learn it so I must pay for what they buy, and keep their accounts, for we keep separate Purses while at Paris. I am very much charmed wth. this place, it far exceeds my expectation, both in magnificence grandeur and every thing else. I cou'd not have thought there had been such a place if I had not seen it. Ye buildings are more regular than London and all of stone. I will preserve many other things which I cou'd fill another sheet of paper wth. till I have the pleasure of seeing you, and

then I shall enjoy a double pleasure. I will now have done wth. what relates to our Voyage and return to something more material, which is ye health and ease of our absent Friend. I hope first you are well—yt. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Williams are perfectly recovered, and yt. all our Friends are as well or better and we em; my fellow Travellers being absent I'll venture to desire their Compliments to all Fds. which I dare say they do.

“I am your

“ Affectionate

“ Nephew

“ JOSEPH SWIFT

“P. S.

“Pray rememr me to Mrs. Williams and Charley.”

Settling permanently in Philadelphia, Joseph Swift engaged successfully in partnership with his elder brother John Swift in mercantile pursuits. He was one of the signers of the Non-Importation Resolutions of 1765; and à propos of this, Mr. Swift's name appears with those of a committee of merchants of Philadelphia, including Tench Francis and Robert Morris, who acknowledged in October 1769 a vote of thanks for their patriotic conduct, passed by the Assembly of New Jersey.¹ On October 6th, 1767, he was elected a Member of the Common Council of the city and served in that body until the Revolution;² and under the Act of March 11th, 1789, incorporating “The Mayor, Alderman and Citizens of Philadelphia,” he was chosen one of the fifteen Alderman. For a period of about forty years he was a vestryman or Warden of Christ Church. As Deputy for Christ Church he signed “The Act of Association of the Clergy and Congragations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania” in 1785; and annually represented that parish in subsequent Diocesan Conventions till 1802, at the same time always serving upon the Standing Committee of the Diocese.³ He

¹ “The Register of Pennsylvania,” edited by Samuel Hazard, Philadelphia, Volume IV., page 198.

² “Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, 1754 to 1776,” Philadelphia, 1847, pages 722 and 810.

³ THE PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Volume VI., page 329.

was chosen in 1785 one of the first board of Trustees of The Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia. Mr. Swift resided for many years on the west side of Front Street between Market and Chestnut and afterwards on the north side of Pine Street between Third and Fourth, and had a country-seat near Germantown, in Philadelphia County. He died December 26th, 1806, and was buried in Christ Church ground. The following obituary notice of him appears in Poulson's "*American Daily Advertiser*" of the 29th of that month: "Died, on Wednesday last, in his seventy-fourth year (*sic*), Joseph Swift, Esquire, a respectable merchant of Philadelphia. It is not enough to record of this very worthy gentleman, that he maintained a blameless course through a protracted and trying life. With a constitution delicate in the extreme, he executed his many duties with an energy and steadiness only to have been expected from a stronger frame. In his private dealings, he was exemplarily just. In the city Magistracy, which he filled for some time, he was a firm, though gentle curb to evil doers, and a supporter and protector of those who did well. In various offices of our commercial, charitable, and religious institutions, and particularly in those of the Protestant Episcopal Church, of which he was an *invaluable* member, he honored himself and served his constituents by faithful, and judicious execution of the trusts. As the tender comforter and true friend of numerous relatives, bereaved, by the dispensations of Divine Providence, of precious and beloved connections, Mr. Swift's conduct was eminently meritorious and engaging: and from that cause many a tear bedews his memory. In the domestic scene—as a good Brother, a tender and excellent Father, and the true and best friend of one of the most worthy and affectionate of Wives, he merited and enjoyed the perfect esteem of all who knew him in that private walk. But his most distinguishing characteristic was an enlightened and respectful attachment to the principles and truths of Christianity. A sincere devotion to these was ever

considered by our departed Friend, as the only sure foundation of genuine piety in this world, and of safety and happiness in the world beyond the tomb."

Mr. Swift married February 3rd, 1759, Margaret McCall, a daughter of George McCall; she died in 1804, and was buried in Christ Church ground.

Among their children, Samuel Swift, born January 12th 1771, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1786, and studied law with his cousin, Judge Jasper Yeates.

"Educated a Federalist, he nevertheless espoused the Democratic policy, which he occasionally advocated in articles greatly esteemed at the time for their vigour, candour, research and polish. He possessed much natural poetical talent which he cultivated and exercised, up to his decease, for the amusement and gratification of his family, though he never cared to seek a wider circle." He was a Vestryman of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, Oxford, Philadelphia County. He married February 11th, 1795, Mary, daughter of Colonel Joseph Shippen, Secretary to the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Lancaster County.

Their eldest daughter, Margaret McCall Swift, married May 19th, 1831, her cousin, John Shippen.

Mary Swift, a daughter of Samuel Swift and his wife, Mary Shippen, was born at the "Grove," Philadelphia County, November 22nd, 1798, and died at Philadelphia, February 15th, 1877. She was married September 9th, 1824, by Bishop White to Matthew Brooke Buckley, who was President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company, from June 1st, 1842, to January 7th, 1846, and a Director of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad Company and the West End Bank.

Joseph Swift, a son of Samuel Swift and Mary Shippen, his wife, was born December 26th, 1799, at the "Grove," Philadelphia County, and died at Long Branch, New Jersey, July 1st, 1882. He was one of the original members of

the Philadelphia Club (1834). On October 5th, 1835, he was elected for the first time a Director of the Club, and in subsequent years he was chosen again and again to fill that position. On April 7th, 1854, Mr. Swift was elected President of the Philadelphia Club, in which position he continued to serve until September 16th, 1859.¹ He was elected a Director of The Philadelphia Contributionship (the Hand and Hand) from September 4th, 1844, to August 16th, 1871; The Philadelphia Bank from 1851 to 1859; The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society from 1855 until his death in 1882; and The Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities from September 13th, 1852, to December 10th, 1867. In 1845 he took the first of a number of trips to Europe, travelling in that tour as far as Constantinople. In June, 1851, he was invited to a dinner at Schloss Johannesburg by Prince and Princess Metternich. The Prince, during the course of the dinner, sent for a halt bottle of the 1842 blue seal Johannesberger, which was brought to him, and he himself poured out the fine wine

¹ "Minutes of the Board of the Philadelphia Association and Reading Room :"

April 7th, 1854: "On motion the Board proceeded to elect its officers.

"Joseph Swift was elected President,

"Persifor Frazer was elected Secretary,

"Wm. Stevenson was elected Treasurer.

"Mr. Swift then took the chair."

"Minutes of the Board of the Philadelphia Association and Reading Room," September 16th, 1859: "The resignation of Joseph Swift as President and Director of the board was received, Whereupon it was resolved, That in accepting and recording the resignation of Mr. Swift, the Board desire to express their great regret at the separation, and their sincere wishes for his safety and health during his contemplated visit to Europe,

"Resolved, That the secretary be requested to convey to Mr. Swift a copy of this resolution."

² Prince Metternich was born at Coblenz May 15th, 1773, and died at Vienna, June 5th, 1859; from 1809 to 1848 he was first Minister of Austria.

and sent it to his guests. Later, Prince Metternich sent a bronze statuette of himself to Mr. Swift in recognition of some fine madeira that the latter had sent him, In 1850 Mr. Swift was a member of the Board of Managers of the Assemblies, the last year those balls were given before the Civil War; and the next year (1851),¹ together with Peter McCall and Henry Shippen, Jr., was a member of the last Board of Managers of the Assemblies before that struggle, though no balls were apparently given in that year. In 1831, Mr. Swift married Eliza Moore Willing, daughter of George Willing. Their eldest daughter married October 5th, 1852, Thomas Balch of the Philadelphia Bar, a member of a family established in Maryland since 1658.

Another son of Samuel Swift and Mary Shippen was Edwin Swift. He was born November 6th, 1806, and died at Philadelphia, March 22nd, 1891. He was a member of the Philadelphia Club, President of the Little Schuylkill Navigation, Railroad and Coal Company from December 7th, 1836, to May 20th, 1844; and a Director of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company from June 1st, 1868, to the day of his death in 1891.

¹ Letter of Henry Shippen Jr. to Joseph Swift, November 12th, 1850.

With the purpose of writing a history of these historic balls, the oldest in the country, I shall be much obliged for the communication of any facts or items relating to them.