

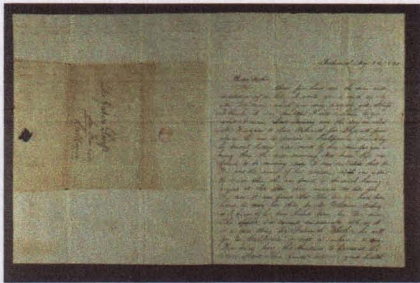
LETTER OF EDWARD BUTLER SWIFT

To His Father
Jabez Swift, 2nd
18 May 1849

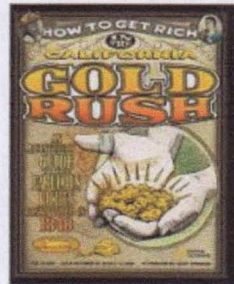
LINEAGE

1. Abraham Swift, 1762-1846 (Revolutionary War Veteran)
m. Olive Lawrence, 1780-1849, Falmouth, Mass.(Old Burying Ground)
2. Jabez Swift, 2nd, 1814-1849 (The Letter Recipient)
m. Mary H. Butler, 1814-1842, Falmouth, Mass.(Old Burying Ground)
3. Edward B. Swift, 1834-1869 (The Letter Writer)
m. Josephine Fish, 1834-1915, Falmouth, Mass.(Church of Messiah)
4. Sarah L. Swift, 1859-1934
m. Frank E. Fowler, 1856-1939, Connecticut(Church of Messiah)
5. Florence J. Fowler, 1855-1977
m. Thomas A. Raymond, 1884-1958, Connecticut(So. Dartmouth)
6. Elinor L. Raymond, 1912-2014
m. Theodore T. Martin, 1905-1989, South Dartmouth, Mass.
(South Chatham)
7. David S. Martin, 1937-
m. Susan K. Orowan, 1942- Belmont, Mass.
(residence Marstons Mills)

The Original Letter



California Gold Rush



Travel by Ship



California Locations



The Voyage

Jabez Swift 2nd is listed as "householder" in Falmouth in 1847.

On 9 June 1848 he was deeded land for a glass factory; Jabez and 4 others formed the U.S.

Glass Factory on 16 Feb 1849 (factory operated from 1850-1853).

But Jabez instead went to California Gold Rush.

"J. Swift" left Panama on steamship Crescent City, bound for San Francisco on 15 May 1849 (Records of Tuolumne County Museum, Sonora, California, 1989)

Panning for Gold



THE LETTER

Transcription

Falmouth May 18, 1849

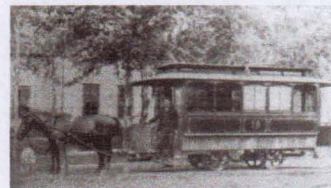
Dear Father,

These few lines are the sum and substance of a letter I wrote to you a week ago by Mr. Whitmore, which you may possibly get; although I think it very doubtful. I will explain to you what I mean. Last Tuesday was the day on which Mr. W__ was to leave Falmouth for Plymouth from whence he was to proceed to California.

Transcription, cntd.

Accordingly several letters were sent by him, one for you among them. The next morning Mrs. Susan Nye was found to be missing; soon it was suspected that Mr. W_ was the means of her absence; search was instantly made when she was found in Sandwich having arrived at that place three minutes too late for the cars.

Horse-Drawn Trolley



Transcription, cntd.

It was found that Thos. Bunker had been hired to carry her there by Mr. Whitmore. Nothing as I know of has been heard from Mr. W_ since. The affair has caused considerable talk, as it is a rare thing for Falmouth. Whether he will go to California or not is unknown to me. He may have the kindness to forward the letters if not.

Transcription, cntd.

This finds me in good health as Mother, Billy, Sis, and all our friends. Grandmother Swift died two weeks ago. Uncle Joseph was at the funeral. We have received five letters from you since you left Falmouth. We had a letter last night, and this morning I went up to Quisset to carry it.

Transcription, cntd.

I suppose you are in the land of gold by this time, and have seen the waters of the Sacramento. Since you left, Mother's health has improved much. Willie likes living to Quisset very much. As for little May, she grows very fast, and she has got to be a great girl. She can walk all around the room by the aid of the chairs and walls. She seems very glad to see me whenever I go up there, and

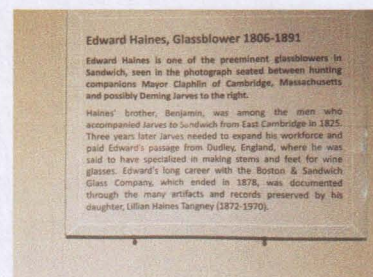
Transcription, cntd.

will cry when I am obliged to go. We are glad to hear that you are getting along as well as you are. I suppose you would like to know what we have been doing since you have been gone. We got clear of the cow in the first place. Next we hired the house to the U.S. Glass Company at a good price for Mr. Edward Haines to live in. [Haines was a glassblower at the Glass Company, in Sandwich.]

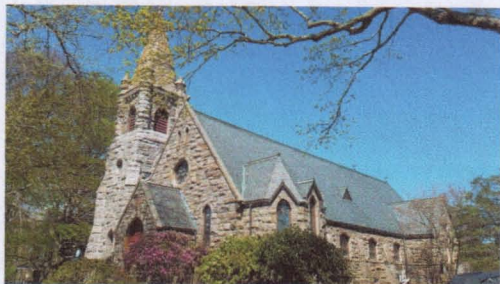
Edward Haines



Edward Haines, Glass Maker



Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole



Edward Haines, Gravestone



Sandwich Glass Works



The Letter, cntd.

We reserved two rooms in which to put our furniture. We hired some of the furniture also. We were obliged to move out of our house in a week after it was engaged, so you may think we had to work quite sharp. We sold our provisions that we thought would not remain good. We next sold our horse to Mr. John Webster for 50 dollars; he likes him very well except the use he makes of his tongue.

The Letter, cntd.

The wagon and harness have not been sold yet. The salt has been sold and shipped. Mr. Haines bought our wood, pork, etc. He seems to be a very clever man. The Glass Factory thrives under its new agent, Capt. Dillingham. Capt. Elijah Swift has been very sick with but little hope of recovery; it is not probable he will ever get out again.

The Letter, concluded

There is nothing new here except Mr. Whitmore's case which is the all-absorbing topic of conversation. You must write us often and let us know how you are getting along. I long to see you and to hear of all the strange things you have seen. People are inquiring all about you and how you get along. Our friends all join with me in sending their love.
--from your affectionate son, E.B. Swift

Father and Son

Jabez Swift, 2nd
b. March 1805, Woods Hole, MA
m. Harriet Butler
d. 13 Sep 1849, California
gravestone in Old Burying Ground, Falmouth

Edward Butler Swift
b. June 1834, Woods Hole
m. Josephine Fish (1)
d. May 1869

Old Burying Ground, Falmouth



Jabez Swift Gravestone, Falmouth Old Burying Ground

