

# **Finding Aid for the Swift family diaries Collection 172**

**Finding aid prepared by John Kaiser**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 06, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503  
616-988-5400  
[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

## Table of Contents

---

|                                               |   |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> .....              | 3 |
| <u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....     | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....          | 4 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> .....       | 4 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....       | 5 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> .....             | 6 |
| <u>Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1908-1945</u> ..... | 6 |
| <u>Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1944-1948</u> ..... | 7 |
| <u>Diaries of Genevieve Swift</u> .....       | 7 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> .....                    | 8 |

## Summary Information

---

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Creator - Author</b> | Fraam, Genevieve Swift, 1883-1965                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Creator - Author</b> | Swift, Lucy, 1862-1948                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Title</b>            | Swift family diaries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1908-1963                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 1.5 Linear feet Three boxes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Language</b>         | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | <p>The Swift family diaries were written by a mother and daughter, Lucy and Genevieve Swift, from 1908-1963. Lucy wrote some, Genevieve wrote others and they both shared space in a third set. The diaries tell about animals in the Swift's yard, the weather, trips to the medical doctor and dentist and their daily routines. Some diaries give lists of garden prices, and others give lists of travel expenses. They talk about the various clubs the Swifts attended and their other forms of recreation. Some tell about very serious moments, like when Lucy thinks she is going to die, Genevieve's thoughts when her mother dies, and Genevieve's marriage. They also contain the women's views on politics.</p> |

## Biographical/Historical note

---

Lucy Swift (1862-1948) was married to John Swift, and they had one daughter, Genevieve (c.1900-1965). After her husband died, probably in Holland, Michigan, Lucy and Genevieve moved to 2047 Leonard, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Genevieve continued to live there after Lucy died on June 9, 1948. During her life, Lucy was active in different clubs including The Bards (poets), The Kent Garden Club, and The Ladies of the Eastern Star (masonic affiliation). A political conservative, Swift attended Fountain Street Church. Her diaries indicate that throughout her life she seemed paranoid about her health.

Genevieve Swift lived in her mother's house until the late 50's. Like her mother, she was involved in various clubs including The Bards. In 1957 she was married to a long time friend, George Framm, the owner of Framm's cafe. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Palm Beach, Florida. After the death of her husband in 1963 she lived a few years until her death on Nov. 2, 1965.

---

## Scope and Contents note

---

This collection contains diaries written by a mother and daughter, Lucy and Genevieve Swift, from 1908-1963. Lucy exclusively wrote in some, Genevieve exclusively wrote in others, and they both shared space in a third set. The diaries tell about animals in the Swift's yard, about the weather, about trips to the medical doctor and dentist, and about their daily routines. Some diaries give lists of garden prices, and others give lists of travel expenses. They talk about the various clubs the Swifts attended, and their other recreations. Some tell about very serious moments like when Lucy thinks she is going to die, the death of Lucy, and Genevieve's marriage. They also talk about their feelings on politics.

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Clarence Weaver, 1979, accession number 00.028

## Controlled Access Headings

---

### Genre(s)

- diaries

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### Personal Name(s)

- Fraam, Genevieve Swift, 1883-1965
- Swift, Lucy, 1862-1948

## Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1908-1945.

## Collection Inventory

| <b>Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1908-1945.</b>              |            |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
|                                                       | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| 1908, In "Private Bankers" booklet                    | 1          | 1             |
| 1921                                                  | 1          | 2             |
| 1922-1925 Fnd. 1998 and 11/20/2001                    | 1          | 2.5           |
| 1924, In "High School Note Book no. 1"                | 1          | 3             |
| 1925                                                  | 1          | 4             |
| 1926                                                  | 1          | 5             |
| 1926                                                  | 1          | 6             |
| 1927, In "Memorandum" notebook                        | 1          | 7             |
| 1927/1928 travel notes, In "Memorandum" notebook      | 1          | 8             |
| 1928/1929 travel notes, In blue "Memorandum" notebook | 1          | 9             |
| 1929, In dark green "Memo" notebook                   | 1          | 10            |

**Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1944-1948.**

|                                                                                                                                         |            |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1930-1931, In "Memorandum Book"                                                                                                         | 1          | 11            |
| 1931-1944, In 3-ring black binder [Processing note: pages should be removed and a small acid-free folder made to accommodate the pages] | 1          | 12            |
| 1932, In green "Year Book"                                                                                                              | 1          | 13            |
| 1934-1942, In "The Scribble in Book"                                                                                                    | 1          | 14            |
| 1935, "Diary"                                                                                                                           | 1          | 15            |
| 1938-1942, red "Five Year Diary"                                                                                                        | 1          | 16            |
| 1939-1942, green "The Scribble-In Book"                                                                                                 | 1          | 17            |
| 1943, brown "Write it Down"                                                                                                             | 1          | 18            |
| 1944, crème "Write it Down"                                                                                                             | 1          | 19            |
| 1945, brown "Penstar notebook"                                                                                                          | 1          | 20            |
| <b>Diaries by Lucy Swift, 1944-1948.</b>                                                                                                | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|                                                                                                                                         | 2          | 21-24         |
| <b>Diaries of Genevieve Swift</b>                                                                                                       |            |               |
|                                                                                                                                         | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Diaries by Genevieve Swift, 1918-1954.                                                                                                  | 2          | 25-36         |

**Miscellaneous**

---

Diaries by Genevieve swift, 1955-1963.

3

37-42

**Miscellaneous****Box****Folder**

Postcard. Transferred from 078-1-11, 6/14/2007. Twin Lakes, Baldwin,  
Mich. May 1, 1929 Message to Genevieve from J.C. Bright.

0.5

21