

History Markers — Town of Clarkson — Lewis Swift

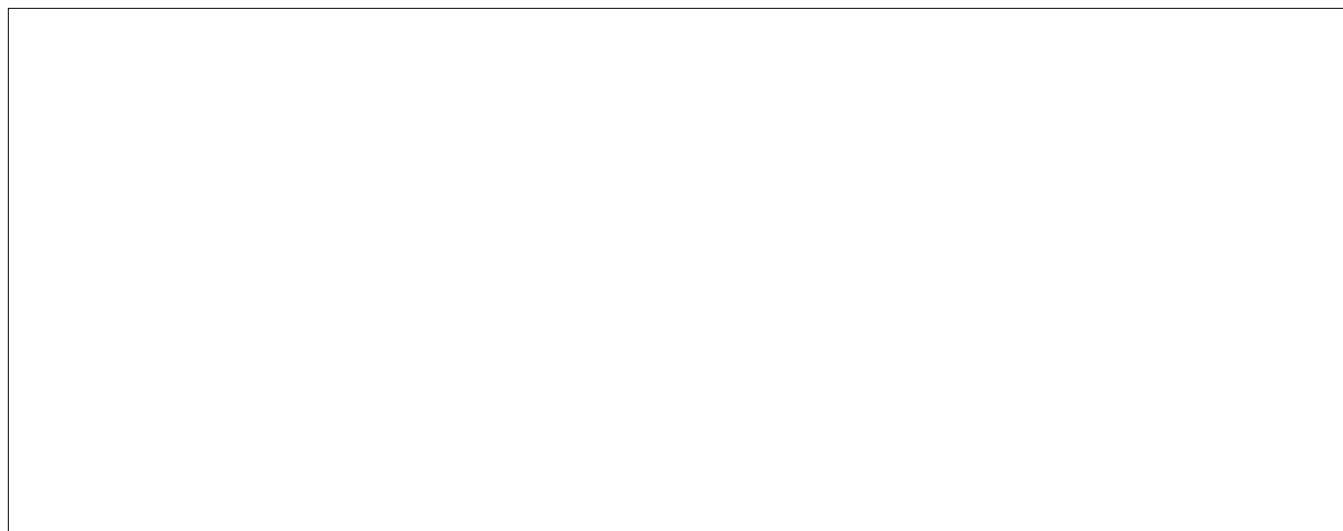


Fig. 1. This center of this [panoramic] view is toward _____.



Fig. 2. This view is toward the west. Photo: © 2015 R.W. Black

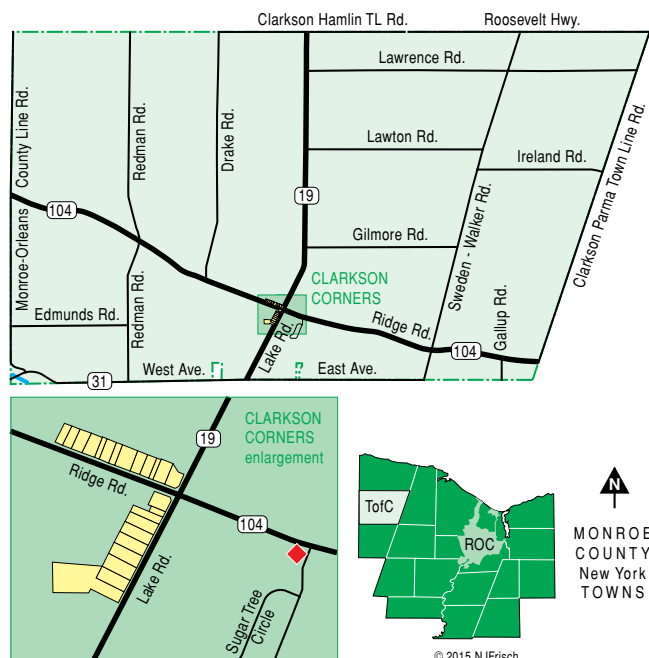


Fig. 3. The approximate location of the Swift marker is shown in red.

Quick look:

Lewis Swift

8265 Ridge Road (Route 104), south side,
viewer facing west.

Originally placed: 1959

By: Monroe County

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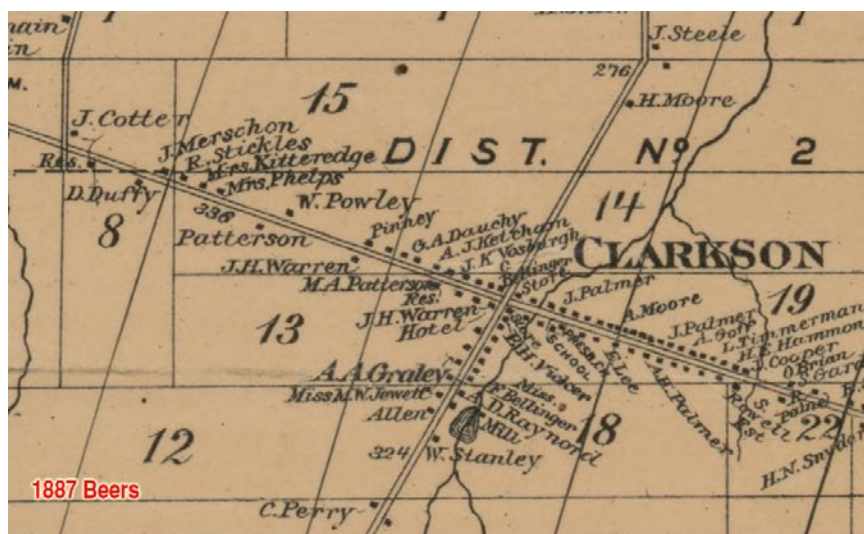


Fig. 4. This figure shows the intersection of Lake Road (Route 19) and Ridge Road (Route 104) at three different times in early Clarkson history and are shown for sake of comparison and potential relevance.

Maps shown are small sections of entire Monroe County maps downloaded from the United States Library of Congress web site. The names accompanying the dates in red are the principal author or publisher and have been added by the Museum.

Attributions, sources:

1887 Beers map

Title:
Map of Monroe County, New York.

Contributor Names:
J.B. Beers & Co.

Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000520>

1858 Gillette map

Title:
Gillette's map of Monroe Co., New York : from actual surveys /

Contributor Names:
Browne, P. J.
Gillette, John E.
Stone, C. K.
Smith, Robert Pearsall, 1827-1898.

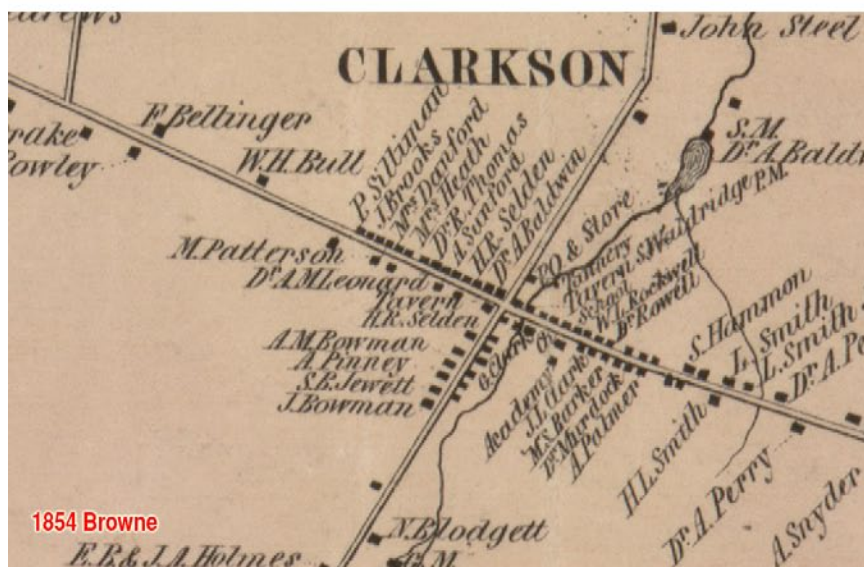
Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000519>

1854 Browne map

Title:
Map of Monroe County, New York /

Contributor Names:
Browne, P. J.
Gillet, A. G.
Smith, Robert Pearsall, 1827-1898.

Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000518>



History Markers — Town of Clarkson — Lewis Swift

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Some Old Houses of Monroe County --- Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings, Chairman

Lewis Swift birthplace --- Present owner, Mrs. Franklin Cotter

This house on the east side of the Lake Road, about a mile north of Clarkson Corners, doesn't look over a hundred years old but nevertheless the oldest part of it is, for it was the birthplace of the famous astronomer, Lewis Swift. He was born in 1820 and named after his father who was a justice of the peace in the year this son was born. Lewis Swift senior was one of the pioneers of Clarkson, coming here in 1812.

The son early became remarkable for his love of natural science. He attended Clarkson Academy, an excellent school, and finished his course there in 1838. Then he applied himself to farm work, though being "passionately fond of books and reading critically", he continued to educate himself.

He was twenty-two when he invented a horse hay rake. When he was twenty-six his father died, and thrown upon his own resources, he studied magnetism and electricity and for four years lectured on these subjects in Canada and the western states. He returned to farming in 1850 but soon began again to give lectures, this time on the wonders of the microscopic world, which he illustrated by means of a calcium light.

All of his apparatus was constructed by himself and parts of it were of his own invention. In 1854 he established a hardware store in Cortland County. But he had become interested in astronomy, and building his own telescope, he began to make observations.

In 1862 the great comet of that year was discovered by him. For years he eagerly scanned the heavens and became famous as the discoverer of comets. In 1872 he moved his hardware business to Rochester where he mounted his telescope on the roof of Duffy's cider mill on State Street. Then one of the wealthy men of the city, H. H. Warner, offered to build for his use an observatory. It stood until recent years, a gray stone building next to the Warner residence on East Avenue.

Lewis Swift received many honors. He wrote on astronomical and other subjects and was a member of various scientific associations. He died in California in 1913.

What changes he must have witnessed during his long and remarkable life!

Fig. 5. The text in this document was copied and pasted with some reformatting by the museum from a pdf on-line document which itself was a transcription[?] from the original document by Helen Hastings.

Date of original document: 1938

Transcription: SUNY College at Brockport Archives

Citation:

Hastings, Helen and Daughters of the American Revolution, Brockport Chapter, "Old Houses of Monroe County" (1946). Local History Books. Book 2, p.32

Source:

http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/2

Courtesy:

Charlie Cowling, SUNY College at Brockport Archivist

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Fig. 6. This is the same side of the same marker seen in Fig. 2, photographed at the same time, but this view shows its actual tilted orientation. Photo: © 2015 R.W. Black

HISTORY MARKERS COMMITTEE

Garrett W. Roe, Chair
Richard W. Black
James C. Fallon
Norman J. Frisch
Brian S. Wilson

IMAGE SOURCES & CREDITS

See each caption.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Fig. 1, 2 & 6. Camera: Canon 5D Mark II

Fig. 3. Drawn in Adobe Illustrator™, derived from:
<http://www.clarksonny.org/pdf/zoning-map/clarkson-zoning-map.pdf>

Fig. 4. Each map was enlarged by Frisch until the approximate area could be selected. Each map selection was then copied and placed in one Adobe CS4 Photoshop™ document—each map on a different layer. Using transparency, each layer was rotated and scaled to match each other, as best as could be done. Individual maps were then arranged sequentially, the entire figure cropped, the map date and name added, the layers flattened and the image saved as a 14.375" w x 28.375" h, 72ppi jpg file with "maximum" quality. The file placed in this document is 31.2% of that size.

Fig. 5. All text was copied by Frisch directly from the on-line source indicated, then pasted into this document. The on-line document is believed to be a transcription, not a scan of the original document. The font, and line spacing does not conform to the on-line document, spellings do.

DOCUMENT NOTES

All images were placed in an Adobe CS4 InDesign™ document by Frisch. That document was then exported as a pdf file with 150ppi resolution and compression at "high" quality.

GENERAL INFORMATION LINKS**New York State Historic Markers**

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/marker/srvmarkers.html>

Gen web

<http://www.mcnygenealogy.com/pics/index.php?category/83>