

**Collection #**  
**SC 1952**

**JOHN C. SWIFT**  
**CIVIL WAR DIARIES, 1861-1863**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 small bound volumes

COLLECTION DATES: 1861-1863

PROVENANCE: Hillforest Historical Foundation, Box 127, Aurora, IN 47001, 22 September 1995

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: See card catalog for references to United States. Army. Indiana Regiments. 18th 1861-1865

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1985.0909

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

John C. Swift was mustered into Company A of the 18th Indiana Volunteer Regiment as it formed in Indianapolis in August 1861. Company A was recruited mainly from Aurora and Moores Hill in Dearborn County. The regiment was sent to Missouri, where it served under Pope and fought several skirmishes in early 1862. In the spring of 1863 the 18th was put under Grant's command, and participated in the movements to encircle Vicksburg. After the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, the regiment went to New Orleans, then to Texas, and then to Virginia. After forming part of Grant's advance on Richmond in 1864, the 18th was sent to Savannah.

Terrell's Adjutant General's Report shows that John C. Swift was promoted to second lieutenant in February 1863 and that he resigned on 1 September 1863. However, Swift's diary makes no mention of the promotion.

Sources: Materials in collection

W. H. H. Terrell, Report of Adjutant General, Vols. II and V  
Shaw (editor), History of Dearborn County, 306

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains four small diaries, kept by John C. Swift from 21 August 1861 till 1 May 1863. The entries are rather brief, "Laid in camp all day" being the most frequent. Movements of the regiment, and news of the war in other theaters, are the main staples of the diary. On 19 April 1863 Swift reports, "I was put under arrest [for] telling t[w]o boys [to] fire of[f] some of their guns the evening before." The diary stops with a note about the battle of Port Gibson on 1 May 1863, and the notebook was used for accounts thereafter.

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 1952).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.