

Today in Columbus History: On June 7, 1870, an announcement appeared in *The Weekly Sun* for the marriage of Samuel Green Murphy to Helen Waynman Swift, eldest daughter of Columbus industrialist George Parker Swift and his wife Adelaide Jewett Swift. The date given for the marriage is wrong. The "18th instant" (meaning current month) would have been June 18 – and the paper was published on June 7. They were married on June 1. J.R. McIntosh, minister who married them, was the bride's uncle by marriage (married to Adelaide's sister Caroline). The other pastor was the father of Noble Leslie DeVotie, one of the founders of the S.A.E. fraternity.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>



MARRIED.
In the Presbyterian Church, in this city, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., by Rev. J. R. McIntosh, assisted by Rev. J. H. DeVotie, D. D., MR. S. G. MURPHY, of the firm of Swift, Murphy & Co., to MISS HELEN W., eldest daughter of Col. G. P. and C. Adelaide Swift.

Georgia, Muscogee County:

To any ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Minister, Judge, Justice of the Inferior Court,
or Justice of the Peace:

You are hereby authorized to join S. G. Murphy
and Miss Helen W. Swift in the holy state of Matrimony,
according to the Constitution and Laws of this State; and for which this shall be your
sufficient License.

Given under my hand and seal, this 1st day of June 18870

John W. Dyer
Ordinary.

Georgia, Muscogee County.

I do hereby certify that

S. G. Murphy
and Miss Helen W. Swift were duly joined in
Matrimony, by me, this 1st day of June 18870

J. B. McIntosh

Marriage record of Murphy-Swift marriage, Muscogee Co. Courthouse. Note date: June 1.



George Parker Swift had moved to Georgia in 1832. Elder sister Deborah had married William J. Waynman, who built a textile mill in Upson Co. As fate would have it, Swift got drawn into the textile business because of a terrible accident. In 1835, when Waynman fell off the roof of his mill and died, Deborah asked George to come help run the mill. Swift created a number of textile mills in Upson, but after the war he moved his family to Columbus, where there was a larger cotton market and better water power. By 1867, Swift and business partners Samuel G. Murphy and J. J. Grant had organized the Muscogee Manufacturing Company. Thus began the impressive textile legacy of the Swift family of Columbus, GA. Photo from Ancestry chart.