It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Levinus M. Swift  (1833-1897)

From: “An Illustrated History of Whitman County”

LEVINUS M. SWIFT.—For many years one of the leading agriculturists of Whitman county, and pre-eminent above all others in the extensiveness of his fruit culture, the man whose name initiates this paragraph certainly deserves rank among the forces which have wrought the development of the Palouse country, and it is eminently fitting that we incorporate here a brief summary of his useful career.

Mr. Swift was born in the state of Connecticut on September 20, 1833. He grew to manhood there, receiving a public-school education and also taking a course at Troy, where he learned surveying. For, some years after completing his school courses he was numbered among the tillers of the soil of his native state, but in 1862 he came west to try his hand at mining. For a time he searched for the hidden treasure in Colorado, but eventually the desire to travel took possession of him and he journeyed extensively over the coast states.

Returning at length to Connecticut, he again engaged in farming there, continuing in the same until 1872, when he again came west. He bought a tract of railroad land about three miles northwest of Diamond, also took a preemption there. His realty holdings increased as time went by until he became the owner of one thousand and forty acres, of which princely domain he was master at the time of his demise, November 1, 1897. We have already alluded to the fact that Mr. Swift was pre-eminent among orchardists in this county, and it is only necessary to state that his orchard covered one hundred and thirty acres. For a number of years he was also extensively engaged in the nursery business.

About the year 1892 our subject's health began to fail, and he went east seeking recuperation. He traveled quite extensively, incidentally visiting the World's Fair, but failed to find the great object of his search. He died in Geneva, N. Y., on the date above given.

The marriage of Mr. Swift to Cornelia Rose, a native of Geneva, New York, was solemnized in the bride's birthplace on March 21, 1866. They became parents of five children, the names and dates of birth of whom are as follows: Alfred L., April 19, 1867; Charles B., July 25, 1869; Edward S., September 8, 1871; Robert M., January 12, 1873; and Arthur R., February 22, 1876.

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i “An Illustrated History of Whitman County, State of Washington,” W. H Lever, Publisher, 1901