

## SWIFT NIGHT OUT IN NATIONAL

The public was invited to Swift Night Out at National on August 9, 10, and 11. Joyce Schoulte hosted five children and five adults at the Tower on August 11. Seven swifts entered the Tower. The swifts tended to enter the chimney one or two at a time, stay briefly, then one would leave. Perhaps these were the young who just left the nest in the Tower?

### THANKS TO:

**Corbin Schoulte** for capping and uncapping the chimney.

**Scott Chase** for connecting the solar panels to the monitor in the spring and taking the system down in the fall.

**Joyce Schoulte** for putting yellow duct tape on the edge of the steps in the tower, making the curved steps much more visible.



**Gilbert Brainard** for checking the integrity of the wood in the interior, and for fixing the base of the entry door.

**Roger Schoulte** for monitoring the Tower and toilet facilities.

**Those who maintain the lawn** at the National Cemetery and the Tower.  
Our **visitors and supporters**.

### TREES

The loss of the ash tree nearest the Tower last year didn't seem to affect the nesting swifts. We wondered about the temperature in the Tower being affected. The near-by young swamp white oak continued its struggle to survive.

**FRIENDS OF THE SHERMAN SWIFT TOWER**

18874 Hwy. 52  
Farmersburg, Iowa 52047

# FRIENDS OF THE SHERMAN SWIFT TOWER

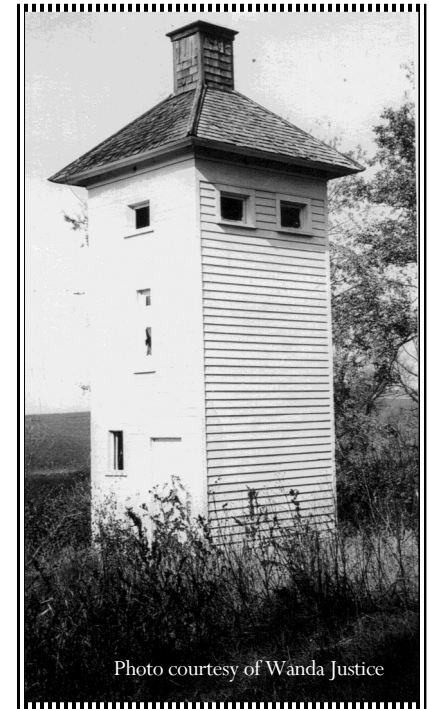


Photo courtesy of Wanda Justice

National, Iowa

563-536-2258

563-964-2535

[www.shermanswifftower.org](http://www.shermanswifftower.org)

*2025 Newsletter*



Look closely at the clouds and see the swifts.

## SWIFTS

### 2024 Swifts at the Tower

**May 31** Swifts flying overhead. A small nest in the tower.

**June 14** Nest is complete. No eggs.

**June 15** One egg on nest

**June 17** One egg on nest. No birds in chimney. Two broken eggs on chimney floor.

**June- 22** Two swifts flying overhead, they entered chimney, and left again. Three eggs in a nest with shallow front. Three or 4 broken eggs on chimney floor.



**June 30** Nest now has 5 eggs. Swift entered, then on nest. Front of nest is very shallow.

**July 7** Swift on nest. Very active, scratching and moving eggs about.

**July 14** Swift on nest. Scratching and grooming. No young seen.

**July 21** Swift on nest. One or more young birds in nest. Adult swift has wing spread over young in front of nest. One young bird defecated over edge of nest.

**August 2** One small swift just under nest? Three or four young swifts lower on chimney. Fed by adult swift.

**August 6** Through monitor, chimney appears empty. Tower entered. A young swift, completely feathered out, hangs below nest. One leg firmly held by nest material. Numerous portions of broken eggs on chimney floor. Five chimney swifts were seen flying over the tower. Two entered the tower, the other three flew away.

A sad and mysterious year for the swifts at National. Was there a disagreement early in the year as to which female or pair used the Tower? And what caused the low rim on the front of the nest which would later entrap the leg of the young swift? Thankfully, we believe four young swifts survived this year.

Visitors are welcome at the Tower any time. While the Tower is closed when swifts are nesting and raising their young, there is signage, printed information, and a recording about the Shermans available at all times. The Shermans are buried in the near-by cemetery, along with other prominent local citizens, many who were neighbors and friends. There are toilet facilities and a table with seating near the Tower and cemetery.

Visitors who signed the register were from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Florida and West Virginia. We appreciate their comments and hearing their experiences with swifts.

For information about the Tower, tours, presentations or other, please call 563-536-2258 or 563-964-2535. We have not scheduled open dates for the tower for 2025 but we are available to anyone who would like more information or to tour the tower. Tours will only be held if there are no birds nesting.

## NOTES FROM ALTHEA...

*Althea Sherman papers, 1902-1936. MS49. Special Collections, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.*

*The Sherman sisters lived in a beautiful home which lacked modern conveniences. There was no running water, central heat, plumbing, or electricity. They planted and tended large gardens, and stored the produce in their cellar.*



Special Archives  
State Historical  
Society Of Iowa

September 26, 1923

Day has been unusually upset by a "civet cat" that Amelia found in box at foot of stairs that is half full of canned fruit over which a paper is spread making a cozy bed for the little skunk. It was asleep there, staid asleep until both viewed it there, then got out and nearly walked up to Ameilia, where she could easily have killed it, I said "No" when she asked if she should try to kill it. Thereupon it devolved on me to suggest a plan to get rid of it. My plan was to open the screen door after flies had gone to roost. I was about ready to go out and open screen door. Had set lamp on sink and gone to the cellarway for milk when I saw the little "varmint" pushing against the screen door. I closed cellar door and hurried to south end of porch, called to Amelia that her pet was at front door. She opened the screen door and the creature very serenely walked out. At first it started south then turned to front walk over which it proceeded to front gate. So we were rid of the first skunk to get into the house 57 years old. How or where did it get in?

Young killdeer are often seen about the National Cemetery. They have been there for some years. In 1933 Althea noted that "Amelia's hearing proves to be better than mine and she gets the Killdeer records."

