

SWEARINGEN, VALENTINE WESLEY In the Headright Certificate No. 69 issued to Mr. Swearingen by the Austin County Board for one-third of a league of land it is stated that he arrived in Texas in March, 1835.

In Service Record No. 3387 signed by Captains John York and Mosely Baker it is certified that Mr. Swearingen served in Captain York's Company at the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5 to 10, 1835, and in Captain Baker's Company at San Jacinto. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 4489 for 320 acres of land, December 4, 1838 for having served in the army from November 9, 1835 to February 6, 1836. At the same time he received Bounty Certificate No. 4492 for 320 acres for his services from March 22 to June 22, 1836. On December 10, 1848 he was issued Bounty Certificate No. 4486 for 320 acres for serving from July 10 to October 10, 1836. He received Donation Certificate No. 648, December 4, 1838, for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto.

Mr. Swearingen, as shown in Service Record No. 3387½ was discharged from Captain Baker's Company May 29, 1836 and enlisted the next day in Lieutenant David Murphree's Columbia Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Swearingen lived for many years in Austin County but the Deed Records of Austin County show them living in Goliad County, October 3, 1857.

Note: Born in Kentucky.  
Member of Chapel Hill Masonic Lodge in 1855  
Richard J. Swearingen 1808-1861  
Margaret M 1810-1859  
Masonic Cemetery Chapel Hill  
Page 233 Joined Capt. Wm H. Patton's Co. sometime after battle of San Jacinto.

February 3, 1940

Miss Mollie Turner  
Eldorado  
Texas.

Dear Miss Turner:

When I sent you the first sheet of my revised sketch of Mr. Swearengen I should have explained why I sent it.

I am acquainted with all the facts stated in your letter. You may recall that you gave them to me in about 1930. I thought you might be interested in knowing that the original document is now owned by a gentleman in New York.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. KEMP.

LWK:eh

Eldorado, Texas.

Jan. 31, 1940.

Mr. L. W. Kemp,

Houston, Texas.

My dear Mr. Kemp:-

I received an envelope yesterday containing a part of an old letter written by a Mr Swearingen from the battlefield of San Jacinto. I think I have had some correspondence once before about this letter.

The page you sent me is only a small part of the letter, and it reads to me more like a copy than the original. I have an exact copy of the original, for I copied it myself from the original. It is four long pages closely typewritten. In 1930 I sent a copy to a cousin who was teaching Texas History in the Fort Worth schools. She sent the copy to the Texas Outlook for publication. I didn,t know anything about it until I saw the paper. They made several misstatements, and changed it upso I hardly recognized it.

It was not given to me by Mr. Swearingen. I will give you the history of HOW I got it.

In 1906 I was teaching in Fernandina Florida. I met an old gentleman there from Canada. He was a Baptist minister and about 86 years old. I have forgotten his name. When he found that I was from Texas, he told me about having this letter. He let me read it and copy it in his presence. He seemed to be afraid to trust it out of his sight. I told him it belonged to Texas and I tried to get it for the state, but all I could get was a copy. I sent copies to Texas

University and other State Schools. Later when I returned to Texas, I gave a copy to Miss Katie Daffin who at that time was writing a History of Texas. This old gentleman told me he wanted to sell it to the State. Miss Daffin took it up with state officials. The man was then living in Key West Florida. We wrote him, also some one from Austin wrote, but he put his price so high, \$5000.00 I think, that the state wouldn't buy it. He wrote them that I had an exact copy.

He told me how he got it. He and his wife were driving through from Canada to Florida. During a rain they were some distance from a town, and they stopped in an old vacant farm house in Kentucky, to spend the night. The house was almost down so he told me. They found an old box of old papers in the house that had probably been left by the owners when they vacated it. From mere curiosity they went through those papers and found this old letter. He said that he knew enough of Texas history to know that it was valuable. He took the letter hoping some day to sell it to the state. It was written on old fine foolscap paper. It was very closely written in a very small handwriting. It was very much faded when I saw it. I had to take a magnifying glass to make out some of the words. There were no punctuation marks, it was mostly one long sentence. Very few capitals and most of them in the wrong place. I copied it exactly as it was written, spelling and all. Houston was spelled Huston, Ferry, fery. Cos Santa Ana, and a number of other words, old time spelling I presume.

I notice the Outlook corrected the spelling, paragraphed it, and

put in punctuations marks that were not there. I presume they thought I had misspelled the words.

I am giving you this explanation, and you may believe it or not, but I have my copy to prove it.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Mollie Turner

Mollie Turner.