

SWEARINGEN, W. C.-Born in Kentucky. He arrived at Velasco January 28, 1836, on the schooner Pennsylvania, having been recruited in New Orleans for the army of Texas by Captain Amasa Turner. In Service Record No. 4553 it is certified that Mr. Swearingen served in Company B, first regiment of infantry, from February 13, 1836, to February 20, 1837, at which time he was detached by the War Department at the Post on the Sabine. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 14 for 1280 acres of land November 1, 1837. He was a member of Captain Amasa Turner's Company (Company B) at San Jacinto and on February 7, 1860, his heirs were issued Donation Certificate No. 132 for 640 acres of land due him for having participated in the battle. Mr. Swearingen on February 26, 1838, was issued a headright certificate for one-third of a league of land by the Harrisburg County Board. In the certificate it is stated that he came to Texas in January, 1836.

At the promotion of Captain Turner to Lieutenant Colonel, the men of his company were transferred to Company A, First Regiment of Regular Infantry, of which John Smith was elected Captain, August 29, 1836. On page 170 of the muster rolls in the General Land Office Mr. Smith is shown as a member of Captain Smith's Company at muster December 31, 1836. At that time he is shown on detached service on the Appolo and as having been promoted March 17 and as having resigned November 4, 1836. On page 180 of the rolls he is listed as a member of Captain Smith's Company, February 28, 1837 and at that time on detached service at Cedar Bayou. In a Comptroller's Military Service Record he signed his name as Captain, Commanding Post Sabine, August 2,

1837. The record reads: "Post of Sabine Aug. 2, 1837. 2nd Lt. Jno Ingram is hereby honorably Discharged from the Company of Rangers stationed at this Post, having served from the 6th day of May to this time.

W. C. Swearingen

Capt. Com. Post Sabine.

The heirs of Mr. Swearingen in 1860 applied for land due Mr. Swearingen from the State of Texas. Some papers from the Swearingen case in the Court of Claims file in the General Land Office have apparently been removed and in the remaining papers the names of the heirs of Mr. Swearingen are not shown. The file contains a deposition of Samuel Paschall of Houston in which he said he knew Mr. Swearingen in New Orleans and that he arrived with Mr. Swearingen at Velasco January 27, 1836. He said that Mr. Swearingen died in Houston in 1839.

In the Probate Records of Harris County it is shown that Mr. Swearingen died in Houston December 24, 1839.

An original letter from Mr. Swearingen written on the battle-  
field on the day following the conflict was in January, 1940, in  
possession of Mr. Chester L. Knox, 15 William Street, New York City.  
It was addressed to Mr. Lemuel Swearingen, Scottsville, Kentucky.

The letter in full:

"Texas Buffaloe Bieau

April 22nd, 1836.

Dear Brother:

In my last letter I informed you that I should start the next  
day for Gen Houston's camp and join him on the Colorado river. The  
Mexican army was then encamped on the opposite side of the river  
3,000 strong. Houston's army was, including our two companies,  
1,372 men. The next day after we joined him he commenced a retreat  
back on the River Brasas, 15 miles above the town of San Felipe de  
Austin (which Gen. Houston had burnt). The second day after the site  
of San Felipe was occupied by the Mexicans army, Gen. Houston stationed  
three companies on the river opposite town to prevent their crossing.  
Santa Anna sent a detachment of 500 men to a ferry below San Felipe  
called Fort Bend and crossed them over, and then sent the remainder  
down to the same place and crossed his whole force. Santa Anna  
stationed 2500 men at Fort Bend and took 500 of his veterans and one  
heavy brass nine pounder and pushed on to Harrisburg on Buffalo Bieau,  
35 miles from Fort Bend, on his way to Galveston Island, the only  
port the Texans now have in their possession. Houston immediately  
crossed the Brasas and took up his ~~xxxxxx~~ march for Harrisburg,

distant 57 miles. We got to the bieu opposite Harrisburg in the evening and Santa Anna had left it that morning for Linches Ferry on the road to Galveston. Next morning our spies brought in the Mexican mail rider and the mail from which we learned that Santa Anna was with the army in person, Gen. Houston had been compelled to give furlows to upwards of 200 men to go and carry their families beyond the Trinity river for security and one entire company that was left opposite San Felipe went home instead of joining us on our march. When we reached Buffalo Bieu we had 810 men and before we were through examining the letters our spies crossed the bieu, brought in the colonel commanding the Mexican cavalry with a letter from Cos to Santa Anna stating that he would start the next morning from Fort Bend with 650 men to join him at Linches Ferry on Buffalo Bieu. Gen. Houston then knew that Santa Anna had gone by way of New Washington on the bay to destroy that place and then to march up the Bieu to Linches Ferry and join Cos and march on to Galveston and take it before Houston could find where he was, leaving the main body at Fort Bend to amuse Houston. Gen. Houston crossed the bieu next day with 520 men and the two 4 pounders that reached up on our march from the Brasas and left the balance to take care of our baggage and guard the camp. We lay in the bushes on the road to watch Cos and the 650 men which were expected to pass that day but did not. As soon as it became dark we commenced a rapid march for Linches Ferry, calculating that Santa Anna would not cross the Bieu until the arrival of Gen. Cos. At two o'clock a. m. we halted within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of Linches ferry. At sunrise on the 20th ultimo we

formed our line of battle and proceeded to the ferry. When we reached the ferry we found Santa Anna had not yet reached there, but was on his way up from Washington. Houston picked his ground, placed his men, gave them his orders, then made them stack their arms in their places and told them to eat their breakfast and be ready to receive them about 11 o'clock a. m. They came in sight drawn up inline, 400 infantry and 100 horses with their 9 pounder in the center of their infantry. At about 350 yards distant they opened on what few they could see of us with their cannon charged with grape and canister shot, but we were protected by the timber and sustained no injury except one man slightly wounded. They did not know we had a cannon and their fire was not returned until their infantry commenced their fire with musketry. We then commenced with our cannon, hoping they would charge with their infantry to take them, and by that means we could cut them off and if possible take Santa Anna prisoner, or kill him. They retreated from our fourth fire of the cannon to a small wood in our front where their cannon was planted and kept up a fire with their cannon until 1 o'clock p.m. when they fell back to a piece of high prairie in front and immediately commenced fortifying with brush, baggage, etc. Houston then determined to come out in the plain and engage them. The cavalry was sent out to draw the enemy from their cover, but we could not get them to attack us. It being late in the afternoon, Houston decided to defer attacking them until morning and marched into camp. That night Cos arrived with 650 men and joined Santa Anna, making his force 1,150. Santa Anna then con-

sidered Houston and Texan then in his power with no chance of escape, and that he would let Cos' men rest one day and on the morning of the 22nd seal the death warrant of Texas by the destruction of Houston and the only men Texas had in the field. At half past 3 o'clock of the 21st ultimo we left our camp and attacked him, leaving one company of 38 men in camp. Our cavalry about 110 strong was posted on the right, the 2 companies of regulars next to the cavalry, the 2 companies of volunteers on our left and the militia on the left. Opposite the woods about 300 yards in their front was a bottom that protected us from their cannon. In that hollow we formed our line with our two 4-pound cannon (presented to Texas by the ladies of Cincinnati, Ohio) in the rear of the regulars with orders as soon as they ascertained where their cannon was planted to open fire on it and to keep up on the advance with the infantry was ordered to trail arms and advance until within 50 yards of the enemy before we fired. As soon as we gained the level they commenced on our company with grape and canister shot. We rushed on it quick to within 50 yards a heavy fire of grape and canister and musketry. Our riflemen having nearly 100 yards left to go than we had commenced the action with small arms before we did with our muskets. The musketry and riflemen kept advancing as they fired. When within about 20 steps of the enemy's line we were ordered to charge with bayonets. As soon as we were ordered to the charge and brought our guns to the proper position the enemy gave way except about 60 men around the cannon and protected by a breastwork of corn sacks, salt, barrels of meal, and boxes of canister shot. They fell

by the bayonet and swam in one mangled heap from that time until they reached the bieu. It was nothing but a slaughter. They at first attempted to swim the bieu, but were surrounded by our men and they shot every one that attempted to swim the bieu as soon as he took to the water, and them that remained they killed as fast as they could load and shoot them until they surrendered. The enemy lost between 620 ~~xxx~~ and 700 killed on the field and in the bieu, 480 prisoners among whom was Santa Anna H-I-M-S-E-L-F, his private secretary, and the next in command to Santa Anna, De Savala. Ten of his field officers were killed. At the head of them is General Cos. There are more than half of our prisoners wounded. Our loss was 4 men killed and 23 wounded, three have since died and there is one more that will die in two days at most. The balance will get well. Gen. Houston, when he ordered the charge, went in front of his men. He was shot through the ankle the bone and the heel string and his horse killed.

To see the number, the position and the termination and the time in which it was done (time 18 minutes) it at once shows that the hand of providence was with us. I shall be in Kentucky early in the fall. Kiss William for me and tell him pappy will be there in the fall and stay with him and that he must be a good boy."

SWEARENGEN, WILLIAM C. - Born in Kentucky. In Headright Certificate No. 505 issued to him February 26, 1838 for one-third of a league of land by the Board of Land Commissioners for Harrisburg county it is certified that he came to Texas in January, 1836. Later, after having married, he received Headright Certificate No. 8 for two-thirds of a league and one labor of land from the Galveston County Board.

Mr. Swearengen arrived at Velasco January 28, 1836, on the schooner Pennsylvania, having been recruited in New Orleans for the army of Texas by Captain Amasa Turner. In Comptroller's Military Service Record No. 4553 it is certified that Mr. Swearengen served in Company B, first regiment of infantry, from February 13, 1836, to February 20, 1837, at which time he was detached by the War Department at the post on the Sabine. For this service he was issued Bounty Certificate No. 14 for 1280 acres of land November 1, 1837. He was a member of Captain Amasa Turner's company (Company B) at San Jacinto and on February 7, 1860, his heirs were issued Donation Certificate No. 132 for 640 acres of land due him for having participated in the battle.

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