

Testimony of Francisco Esparza, August 26, 1859

The State of Texas County of Bexar

Before me, Saml. S. Smith, Clerk of the County Court of Bexar County personally appeared Francisco Esparza a citizen of Bexar County to me personally known, who being by me first duly sworn upon his oath saith that the late Gregorio Esparza was his brother; that said Gregorio Esparza about the middle of October 1835, entered the Texas service as a volunteer, and as such volunteer Soldier he entered Bexar between the mornings of the 5th and 10th of December 1835 with the American forces; he remained in Bexar until the approach of Genl. Santa Anna when he entered the Alamo, when he was killed with Cols. Travis, Crockett, Bowie and the other Americans. After the fall of the Alamo I applied and obtained permission from Genl. Cos to take the body of my Brother (Gregorio Esparza) and bury it. I proceeded to the Alamo and found the dead of my Brother in one of the Rooms of the Alamo, he had received a ball in his breast, and a stab from a sword in his in his side. I, in company with two of my brothers, took his body, and we proceeded and interred it the burying

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ground (Campo Santo) on the West side of the San Pedro Creek, where it still lies. My brother at the taking of Bexar was under the of Col. Juan N. Seguin and Capt. Don Manuel Flores and a member of their company. I was in service at the time of the Storming of Bexar, the company to which I belonged the Local Presidial Company of Bexar, and the soldiers of the company of the Alamo, were under the capitulation of Genl. Cos, allowed to remain in Bexar with their families. I remained with my family, as I was born here, and had always lived here; When Santa Anna arrived here in Feb. 1836, he gave orders that all those who were local Soldiers at the capitulation of Genl. Cos. should hold themselves in readiness to join the Army for active service, but he never called us away from our homes. I remained here, when Santa Anna's Army went into the interior of Texas, and am now fifty-four years of age and have lived here ever since, and done and performed all the duties of a good Citizen, as all my neighbors can testify. I mention these facts to show the reason why permission was given me to bury the brother of my Brother. The legal heirs of my said Deceased Brother, Gregorio Esparza, are as "To Wit:"

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Enriquez Esparza; Manual Esparza; and Francisco Esparza his sons, who are living in Attascosa County together at their Ranche. Sworn to and subscribed (he marking his mark for signature declaring his inability to write,) this 26th day of August 1859. And I do hereby certify that the said Francisco Esparza is personally known to me to be the identical person he represents himself to be, and that he is a man of credibility, and a Citizen of Texas, and a resident of Bexar County. And that after having read over the above depositions to the said deponent, and no one being present but him and myself and he being again duly sworn by me, he upon his oath said that his depositions, as written out above, are true and correct, and he signed the same in my presence, making his mark, declaring his inability to write. In

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testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the seal of the County Court of said County, at Office, in San Antonio, this 26th day of August 1859.

Samuel S. Smith
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