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DECLARATION IN REGARD TO THE DISTURBANCES AT BRAZORIA.

Town of Guadalupe, A. D. 1832.

Declaration made by the Citizen Gayetano Garza and the Soldier Miguel Benites in relation to the disturbance at Brazoria--Judge Advocate Lieutenant Jose Cuellar, of the 11th Permanent Battalion--Clerk, private Jose Maria Mora of the 4th Company of the same Battalion.

Fort Lavaca--You will be pleased to examine the Citizen Gayetano Garza, and the private Miguel Benites in relation to what they saw or heard concerning the late disturbances among the Americans, at Brazoria and the attack upon the new Station of Velasco, and you will immediately inform me of the result of said examination.

God and Liberty.

Guadalupe, June 24, 1832, 5 o'clock P. M.

Anisteto Ateaga.

To the commanding officer of the fort.

I, the citizen Jose Cuellar, Sub-Lieutenant of the Light Company of the 11th Battalion commanded by Colonel Mariano Paredes; having according to the regulations to appoint a clerk to act in the examination to be made by the orders of the Commanding Officer of the Fort, have appointed private Jose Maria Mora, of the 4th Company of said Battalion, who after having been acquainted with his duties, promised and swore to discharge them faithfully, and to preserve secrecy. In testimony whereof we have signed these presents at the town

of Guadalupe the 24th day of June, 1832.

Cuellar

Jose Maria Mora.

Declaration of the 1st Witness

Personally appeared before the Judge Advocate and the Clerk the Citizen Gayetano Garza, who was caused to raise his right hand and to make the sign of the Cross, and was asked:

Do you swear to God, and promise to the nation, to answer the truth to such questions as shall be propounded to you? To which he answered, "I swar it."

Upon being asked to state his name and other general questions, answered: His name to be as aforesaid, his residence the town of Mier, State of Tamaulipas.

Question--From whence did you come, what did you observe on your way?

Answer--I came from Brazoria, on my way back home, in consequence of having heard at Brazoria that some Americans had been fighting at the military post of Anahuac, with the troops stationed there, who lost three men and had 10 or 11 men taken prisoners; the news was reported as certain; at the same time the Americans residing at Brazoria armed themselves with their rifles and two mounted cannon; they were well-supplied with ammunition and fired a salute of one gun, and innumerable discharges of their rifles. They were very much excited, and gave several shouts which I understood to be in favor of Santa Anna. This took place at about 8 o'clock A. M. on the 17th inst; at 3 o'clock P. M. they be-

gan crossing the river, about 100 in number more or less, with the arms above mentioned, and seemed to follow the direction of Anahuac; the Americans who remained with the families were in great exultation and insulted the few Mexicans who were present; and even one of my friends whose name is Mariano Olivarez and who happened to be in a billiard room, was taking a jug to drink some water when an American entered who was left in charge of the administration of justice (the alcalde having gone to the mouth of the river in a boat with some Mexicans) approached Olivarez with a well-sharpened broadsword in hand and said: "Do you want some it it?" making at the same time motions with the sword; Olivarez made no answer, whereupon the American raised his arm and struck at Olivarez several blows, one of which hit on the right arm; seeing which, I became disgusted with such disorder; Olivarez left the place at dusk and I went to prepare myself to do the same and did so in fact, in company with four of my friends at about 8 o'clock P. M. On my way, and on the 20th of this month, I stopped on the San Bernardo creek to noon and met there Don Vicente Padilla, who told me that he was fleeing from Velasco, fearful of being killed, the Americans having made an outbreak on the 16th inst., and disarmed the troops of garrison; but he left in too great a hurry to take time to enquire into the circumstances of that insurrection; Padilla told me also that he was on his way to Nacogdoches, his residence, but had to pass through San Felipe, but should not remain there long, because if Anahuac, Brazoria and Velasco are in revolution it must be still worse at San Felipe,

and therefore he wanted to be back home as soon as possible.³⁵⁶
Padilla told me also that the Chaplain of Velasco was fleeing to Guadalupe Victoria; we then parted, following each his direction.

Question--Where are the four friends with whom you said you left Brazoria?

Answer--I left them encamped between the Bernardo and Garcitas, and I went to a Rancho to look for something to eat; my intention being to go, afterwards, to Guadalupe to take the news of the disturbance at Brazoria and Velasco, knowing that the people of these places could not send timely information. Then I intended to continue on my way and to meet my friends, Julian Garcia, Antonio Garza, Jose Maria Barrera and Juan Delgado, on the Coletto or La Bahia. I was going to the rancho above alluded to, and situated in the Garcitas when I met the soldier Quintanilla, who told me that he was riding express to Brazoria and inquired of the news there; I told him what I knew; Quintanilla put his hand in pocket and drew out a letter from which he tore a piece of white paper, and after having written some words, gave it to the Dragoon who accompanied him, telling him to deliver the paper and my person to the Commander of the Post; the Dragoon obeyed, and Quintanilla continued on his way with two citizens who as I understood do not go farther than the Colorado.

Question--Do you know anything else? if so, state clearly what you may have omitted.

Answer--I have stated all I know and have told the truth upon my oath.

And the foregoing declaration having been read over to him, he affirmed and ratified it, declaring also that he is 24 years of age, and not knowing how to sign his name, he made the sign of the cross on these presents, which were signed by the Judge Advocate and Clerk.

Sign of the cross--Jose Cuellar,

Before me. Maria Mora.

Declaration of the 2d Witness

Whereupon personally appeared before the Judge Advocate, and Clerk, Miguel Lopez, who having been caused to make the sign of the cross and raise his right hand, was asked:

Do you swear to God, and promise to the Nation to answer the truth to such questions as may be made to you? To which he answered: I swear it.

Being questioned as to his name and profession, he answered his name to be as aforesaid, and that he is a soldier in the Company of La Bahia.

Question--What were you doing on the 24th of June? on what duty were you detailed?

Answer--On said day being detached in the town of Guadalupe, I was detailed to show the road to an express who was going to Brazoria, the corporal who escorted him having fallen sick and the other soldier of the escort being unacquainted with the country. After having travelled some distance, we stopped at Garcisas Creek to cook our dinner, a short time afterward, a citizen whom I did not know came up and began talking with the soldier Quintanilla of my company, who asked him where he was coming from, and what news he heard. The

citizen answered that he came from Brazoria, in consequence of an insurrection among the Americans, who armed themselves about 100 in number, and crossed the river with two cannons on their way to Anahuac; that the Americans who had remained were very insolent, and even had wounded one of the friends on the arm, which caused them to leave the place as quick as they could. He also said that he had met Don Vicente Padilla on the San Bernardo, who told him that he came from the mouth of the Brazos, where the Americans have disarmed the troops of the garrison. Quintanilla wrote at once a report to the Commanding Officer of this post, and ordered me to deliver to the said Commander a paper he gave to me and the citizen. Quintanilla continued on his way with some citizens who had joined us. When we left town, and will return if he hears further news.

Question--Did you not on your way from here to the Garcitas, meet any other travellers who spoke to you of the difficulties in those places?

Answer--I met no other person beside the citizen above mentioned. I have nothing else to state. I have told the truth upon my oath.

And the foregoing declaration having been read over to him, he affirmed it and ratified it, declaring also that he is 38 years of age, and he signed the presents with the Judge Advocate and the Clerk.

Jose Cuellar.

Miguel Benites.

Before me.

Jose Maria Mora.
