

Company K, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

SWANGER, Alexander J. 29 Feb 1864

Private Alexander Swanger was age 18 when he entered service. He was captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point, on the Red River, Louisiana; mustered out 7 July 1865 at Camp Chase, Ohio.

Father: Peter SWANGER

Mother: Martha JOHNSON

Birth: 28 Mar 1847 in Cass township, Richland county OH

Marriage: Mary Louisa LOW/LOWE, Fitchville, 3 Apr 1869

Death: 5 Sep 1897, Shiloh, Richland Co OH

Cemetery: Mount Hope Cem, Shiloh, Richland Co OH [[Find a Grave](#)]

Relationship: Alexander SWANGER was the nephew of George S. SWANGER of Co K, 120th OVI.

Pension Index: Alexander J SWANGER, K 120th OH. Invalid filed 13 Nov 1875, Application 209816, Certificate 195160. Widow, Mary L SWANGER, filed 1897 Nov 15, Application 665605, Certificate 457801, in OH. Pension Card: Alexander died 5 Sep 1897.

1850 Census, Cass Twp, Richland Co OH, Dwelling 89, Family 92: Peter SWANGER, age 49 PA, farmer; Martha, age 34 PA; John D, age 18 PA; George W, age 16 PA; William, age 13 PA; Esther A, age 11 PA; Mary, age 7 PA; Margary, age 5 PA; Alexander, age 4 PA; Sarah E, age 1 PA. [The census taker got the birthplaces wrong on this one, it seems.]

1860 Census, Cass Twp, Richland County, OH, page 388: Peter SWANGER, age 59 PA, farmer; Martha, age 44 PA; William J, age 20 OH, farmer; Hester A, age 21 OH, seamstress; Margaret or Maryann?, age 15 OH, seamstress; Alexander, age 13 OH; Sarah, age 11 OH; Emaline, age 8 OH; Larring C??, age 6 OH; Benjamin, age 4 OH.

Huron County Probate Court record: Alexander J SWANGER married Mary L LOWE on 3 Apr 1870 in Huron County OH.

1870 Census, Cass Twp, Richland County, OH, page 32: Alexander SWANGER, age 23 OH, no occupation listed; Louisa, age 23 OH. [Living next door to Peter and Martha SWANGER]

1880 Census, Shiloh Twp, Richland County OH, page 25: A J SWANGER, age 33 OH, nursery, parents born PA; M S?, wife, age 33 OH, parents born OH; Guy, son, age 8 OH; S H, daughter, age 4 OH; Carry, daughter, age 1 OH.

[The National Tribune, 14 Dec 1882, page 6 at Chronicling America, Library of Congress]

Wanted – A history of Tyler Prison

The the Editor National Tribune:

I have read all the sketches that have been written for the Tribune by ex-prisoners of war, and I have been deeply interested in them. I was a prisoner myself for over one year at Tyler, Texas, and judging from the reports of Free Lance and others, the treatment was about the same in all. Much has been said about Andersonville and other Eastern prisons in the Tribune, but I have not seen anything about Tyler prison. Could not some comrade of the Seventy-seventh and One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Iowa furnish a sketch of it? I was captured in the spring of 1864, when I was but seventeen years old, and was one of the last to sign the parole at Tyler in May, 1865. What a joyful time we had that night. I never shall forget it. I was at Tyler when the first tunnel and the last was dug. A traitor in the prison 'gave us away' to the rebels. Every man intended to go out through the last one, and would have done so had it not been for him. However, he got his just dues all the same. I was there, too. When the boys escaped in the dirt cart. A friend of mine escaped in that cart. Two of the boys would lie down in the cart and the rest would cover them with filth from the prison. The darkey driver, with his mule, would then take them out and dump the cart and come back after others. I would like to hear from some of the boys through the Tribune. Who can give the history of Tyler? I have a sketch of the prison, drawn just before the prisoners were liberated, which is very natural. One word for the Tribune: I have taken it ever since it was born. It is the best paper we soldiers can take. Enclosed please find post-office order

for \$15 for that many new subscribers. Yours, fraternally,
A. J. Swanger,
Late of Co. K, 120th O. V.

Hardesty's Richland = Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia. [*Richland County OH version*] 1885...original available at the Ohio Historical Society. There is also a version of the soldier's biographies extracted from the above Hardesty's that has been published by the Richland County Genealogical Society, 1998 called Richland County, Ohio Civil War Veterans. This book states that Alexander Swanger was born 28 Mar 1847 in Cass township, Richland county OH to Peter and Martha Swanger. On 3 April 1869 he married Louisa Low in Fitchville. Alexander had three brothers in the Civil War: George W, W. J., and John Q. In 1885 Alexander was a nurseryman and florist in Richland county OH.

1890 Special Veterans Schedule, Cass Twp, Richland Co OH, line 5: Alex J. SWANGER, Co K 120th OH Inf. Out 7 July 1865. Post Office Shiloh Richland Co OH. Prisoner for 13 months in war

Widow, 1900 Census Cass Twp, Richland County OH, page 19: Mary L SWANGER, age 53 OH, born Nov 1846, farmer, father born VT, mother born England; Guy G, son, age 28 OH, born Jan 1872, single, florist and farmer; Fred W, son, age 19 OH, born Dec 1880, single, machinist; Foster B, son, age 17 OH, born Mar 1883, single, farm laborer; Lonie or Louie, daughter, age 7 OH, born Dec 1892.

Wife's Death Record: File #72195, Mary Louisa SWANGER, of 128 First St, died 13 Dec 1923 in New London, Huron Co OH. Widow of A. J. SWANGER. Born 16 Nov 1846 in Adario? OH. Father Alfred LOW, born VT. Mother Mary Ann PHIPPS, born England. Burial Garr? St Mausoleum. Informant F. W. SWANGER, of New London, OH.

Sister's Death Record: File #77979, Ester Ann KESTER died 11 Dec 1920 at Shiloh village, Richland Co OH. Widow. Born 16 Mar 1839 in OH. Father Peter SWANGER, born PA. Mother Martha JOHNSON. Burial Adams Cem. Informant W. W. KESTER, of Shiloh OH. [Note: Death records of siblings Loring, Sarah, Benjamin and Maggie all agree that their mother's maiden name was JOHNSON.]

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