



LA GRANADA



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter
AUGUST 2013 www.granaderos.org SAN ANTONIO, TX

29th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony

Once again, our chapter brought special meaning to the 4th of July with the help of our friends.





Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 7

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine

5440 Babcock Rd

(Corner of Babcock & Hamilton Wolfe)

Dinner at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

Guest Speaker:

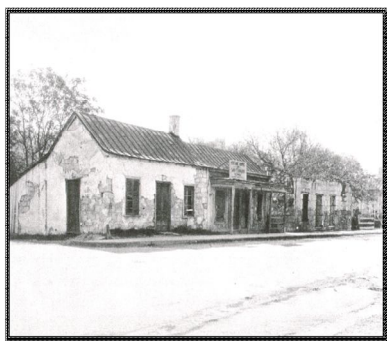
Rueben Perez

"Laredito"

Not only will we have a great presentation but we will also be able to purchase this book at our next meeting. This is a well-researched book about a forgotten part of San Antonio history. You will want to have this book (signed by the author) in your home library.

"LAREBITO"

**THE FORGOTTEN NEIGHBORHOOD WEST OF
SAN PEDRO CREEK**



**By Rueben M. Perez and Dr. Citlali M. Zentella
Edited and Annotated by Bonnie Kuykendall**

Upcoming Events

September 7 at 12:00 noon

We will give a presentation at Brook Hollow Library.

September 21 & 22 from

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will staff a booth at "A Living History Timeline Event"

September 21 at 12:30 p.m.

234th Anniversary of the Battle of Baton Rouge. The ceremony will be held at Ft San Carlos in Baton Rouge.

October 12-13

The National Meeting of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez will be in Houston TX.

November 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Veterans Day Parade.

November 11 at 4:30 p.m.

A Salute to Veterans at the Alamo.

As Information:

Governor Perez is working on scheduling presentations at various libraries. He will let everyone know when schedules have been finalized.

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter – San Antonio TX

Governor (& Editor of La Granada): Joe Perez / (210) 386-5050 / jperez329@satx.rr.com

Deputy Governor: Roberto Flores / (210) 433-8971 / roberto.flores76@att.net

Secretary: Briana Perez / (210) 412-4929 / briana_rosa_perez@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Olga Lizcano / (210) 843-5162 / olizcano@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster of La Revista (official website): Roland Cantu / gne@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members

Deborah Nicholl

Debye Nicholl is a new member of our Fife & Drum Corps as a fifer. She is a Texas native with a history degree, so her natural inclination is to be a librarian (preferably a Genealogist). Debye works as the Assistant Manager at Brook Hollow Library. She says, "I am a history buff and a certified Biblioholic--it's a real word--you can look it up at <http://www.columbia.edu/~fuat/biblioholic.com/>". She and her husband live in a book-filled townhouse with their two turtles, Plato and Cleo.

Miaoyin Rojas

Miaoyin is also a new member of our Fife & Drum Corps as a fifer. She was born in Beihai, China to Xiaoqin and Micheal Rojas (a longtime Granadero). She is a 14-year-old straight A student who plays the violin and recently taught herself to play the fife. She is very musically talented and has been invited to join the University of Texas Youth Symphony. Miaoyin was recently baptized and received her First Holy Communion. "*I am very proud of her*", says her dad, Michael Rojas.

Henry Alvarado

Henry has been married to Nancy for 34 years and they have two children and two grandchildren. He is an ASE certified automotive technician and is currently employed by the Utopia ISD as the Transportation Director and bus mechanic. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix. Henry served two terms as Alderman for the city of Sabinal then served as Mayor from 2003 to 2008 and again from 2010 to 2012. He continues to serve in various civic organizations and works with youth summer sports in addition to being a volunteer fireman. Henry says, "*I have always enjoyed history and now having the opportunity to be a part of this great group has me very excited. I am happy to have the privilege of participating with a great bunch of people.*"

The 29th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony was a great success thanks to everyone helping out. To see a very nice video that appeared on the Express-News website of July 5th, click on the link below, then click on the icon that says "Interactive".

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/Fourth-at-Fort-Sam-Taps-and-reflection-4647434.php>



On Saturday, July 6, Governor Joe Perez donated the book *Bernardo de Gálvez, Services to the American Revolution* to Los Bexareños Genealogical Society Library-Resource Center on behalf of our chapter. The book was presented to us by Mr. Jesse Searles through Granadero Clifford Normand, both in Baton Rouge. The picture to the left shows Joe Perez presenting the book to Bexareños President Louis Benavides. The Library-Resource Center will have the book available to everyone for research purposes.

They Wouldn't Allow Us to Use Daddy's Last Name

A Family Historian's Curiosity Leads to Revolutionary Results

By Anita R. Paul

Most family history researchers know that surnames are an important key to finding ancestors. They also know that names can often lead to dead ends due to misspellings and other misinformation. For Michael N. Henderson, a retired Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, the spelling of a family surname sparked his curiosity and eventually led to a nearly 30-year journey to uncover a hidden truth about his Louisiana roots.

"It all began when I was a kid," recalls Henderson, a native of Algiers—a neighborhood in New Orleans, Louisiana—who now lives near Atlanta, Georgia. "I asked my mom why her mother's maiden name was spelled Mathieu instead of Matthew." She credited it to the family being Louisiana Creole and simply chose to spell the surname that way. Fortunately for Henderson, that answer did not satisfy him, so he sought a more suitable explanation. In the midst of his searching, which

became a hobby and eventually an obsession during much of his naval career, he uncovered one fact after another about his family's history and soon became the family historian, a role that did not always meet with genuine excitement from his relatives.

"When you start digging into the past, some family members get nervous. They're afraid you might uncover some deep, dark secret that's been buried for generations," Henderson explains. Others, mostly those of the younger generation, simply shrugged off Henderson's many attempts to share his findings. "My nieces and nephews have never been keen on listening to my ancestral stories, except, of course, when the time came for a school project."

As his genealogy research continued, a conversation with a distant cousin opened a genealogical can of worms that caused Henderson to delve deeply into the unique three-tiered social structure of French and Spanish colonial Louisiana. He studied the Code Noir (Black Code) that regulated relationships between Europeans, Native American and African enslaved people, and the distinct class of free people of color.

Locating documents from as far back as 1658, several connecting him to the founders of Louisiana, Henderson came across the 1779 manumission, or freedom papers, of a woman named Agnes. With the assistance of a third party, Agnes engaged in a year-long court battle to gain her freedom, which she eventually won on December 16, 1779. Agnes is Henderson's fourth-generation great-grandmother. As Henderson discovered, the third party who assisted Agnes in her quest for freedom is his fourth-generation great-grandfather, a Frenchman named Mathieu Devaux. Although unable to marry due to the laws of the day, the two maintained a 31-year relationship and produced seven children who were all born free prior to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

Uncovering this relationship revealed the answer to a haunting statement that had been in Henderson's family for generations: "They wouldn't allow us to use Daddy's last name." As Henderson discovered, Agnes assumed the first name of her French consort, Mathieu, as her own surname and passed it on to their mixed-race children and the generations following. This answered the question about the spelling of Henderson's maternal grandmother's surname and consequently exposed the answer to the generations-long lament about not being able to use "Daddy's last name."



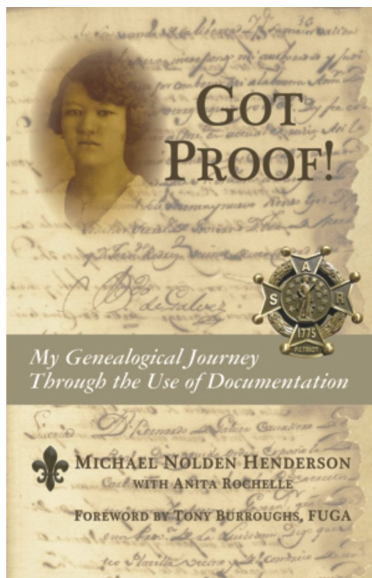
Author Michael N. Henderson at the Gálvez statue in New Orleans and the new plaque.

Henderson has written a memoir about his journey to find Agnes and identify the truth behind the spelling of the Mathieu name. In *Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation* he reveals the childhood curiosity that sparked his interest in his family's history, examines the documents that revealed his ancestor's trials and triumphs, and tells the story of how he became the first African American in the state of Georgia inducted into the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

In *Got Proof!* Henderson chronicles his years growing up in Algiers within a community of Louisiana Creole descendants. In the book, he recounts:

As a child, my entire world revolved around Algiers ... I had heard talk that my family was Creole, but I did not know what that meant. As a child, many of our customs were referred to as being Creole: we ate red beans and rice on Mondays, fish on Fridays, and filé gumbo and fried chicken on Sundays, and we attended the neighborhood Catholic church, All Saints ... For generations there has been much confusion and curiosity about the Creole culture among outsiders; some criticize it, while others aspire to be a part of it.

As Henderson learned about his Creole roots, he also learned of the struggles his ancestors endured. Interestingly, as Agnes fought for her freedom in court, Mathieu Devaux was engaged in another battle—America's struggle for independence from Great Britain. "Most people don't realize that Louisiana was a critical force in the American Revolution under the command of General Bernardo de Galvez," says Henderson.



The book "Got Proof!"
by Michael N. Henderson

Devaux served as an artilleryman under Galvez, who led troops to major victories in the Battle of Baton Rouge, the Siege of Natchez, the Battle of Mobile, and the Siege of Pensacola. Henderson discovered that Galvez's troops included not only able-bodied French, Spanish, and German citizens, but also free people of color, Native Americans, and Haitians. "Many of these men of color made critical inroads towards victory and were honored for their bravery, skill, and service," Henderson notes. "As a retired naval officer, I have developed a kindred connection to these men, and I hope to some day bring to light their contributions and their stories so that others can appreciate them too."

The same year that Henderson was inducted into the SAR, the story of Agnes and Mathieu caught the attention of the PBS series "History Detectives." The segment, titled "[The Galvez Papers](#)," explores Henderson's quest to determine whether the signature of Bernardo de Galvez on Agnes' manumission document is authentic. Two years after his induction, Henderson was elected president of the Button Gwinnett Chapter of the SAR and to this day he remains the only African American SAR member in Georgia.

"In my travels, I meet people from many backgrounds, some who are convinced they have ancestors who served in the American Revolution or otherwise supported the cause for freedom," Henderson says. "Others I meet don't believe they could ever prove their ancestral link to American history. For both, I suggest they dig deep and find proof to connect their ancestors to the rich history of this country. We all have a part to play in the narrative of America."

To order Henderson's book, visit his [blog](#).

Recently On The Web – Articles About Gálvez

If Bernardo de Gálvez were to have a Facebook page, this is what it would be.
<https://www.facebook.com/bernardo.degalvez.9>

From the Monitor in the Rio Grande Valley: Espana and Yankee Doodle—Part 1 by Tom Fort
http://www.themonitor.com/life/valley_life/article_6973e106-eb2f-11e2-8f14-001a4bcf6878.html

BUFFALO FOR THE KING

Submitted by Rueben Pérez

Adapted from the book by Robert H. Thonhoff

El Fuerte del Cibolo Sentinel of the Béxar-La Bahía Ranches (Eakin Press, Austin, Texas, 1992)

The word *cíbolo* is Spanish for an Indian word that means “bison” or “buffalo.” Arroyo del Cibolo, as used by the Spaniards, or Cibolo Creek, as used today, literally means “Buffalo Creek” in English. El Fuerte de Cibolo in English means “Fort of the Buffalo” or simply “Fort Buffalo.” The naming of both the creek and the fort, therefore, implies that one time buffalo roamed in their vicinity.

An interesting sidelight to the story of El Fuerte de Cibolo, or Fort Buffalo, is the story of a unique buffalo roundup that occurred between Béxar and La Bahía from 1780 to 1785, which overlaps the time frame of the fort. Very likely, the soldiers of Fort Buffalo participated in this buffalo roundup.

King Carlos III appointed Domingo Cabello governor of Texas. Wishing to express his gratitude to the king for this honor, Cabello decided to send His Majesty something very special: some live buffalo and a collection of buffalo skins from the Lipan Apaches.

Appointed by Cabello to supervise this project was Joseph Antonio Curbelo, prominent citizen of San Antonio de Béxar and the lieutenant governor of Texas. Assisting him were two teenage boys, Francisco Pacheco and Lorenzo Reñe and some soldiers who were sent out to capture buffalo (bulls, cows, and calves) and take them to the Presidio La Bahía to be held until shipped. One can imagine what it would be like to do this.

The first attempt was described in a letter dated February 19, 1780 from Domingo Cabello to Teodoro de Croix. It reads in parts, “As for the matter of the buffalo – which is in my hands- it is impossible for me to explain to your Lordship the pain I am taking to ensure success, sparing no expense or other requirements, for it is my hope to pursue. I

therefore am preparing an expedition with nursing cows which are to have suckling calves at their sides, to see whether I can avoid disappointments as shown when the larger buffalo were caught. It was probably an order to catch the larger buffalo at first that proved to be more difficult than the cows and calves.

Governor Cabello kept his superiors informed and received a correspondence from Croix stating that Mobile was captured by Don Bernardo de Gálvez and for Cabello to continue acquiring the buffalo.

Nearly three years had passed and on January 4, 1783, Don Joseph Antonio Curbelo wrote: “*I am preparing to embark on a journey transporting four female buffalo and two male buffalo belonging to the King our Lord – to which the Lord Governor of this province has deigned to place in my care- to be delivered to the Most Excellent Lord Viceroy of Mexico, as ordered by the Lord Commandant General of the Interior Provinces, so that His Excellency may provide for their embarkation.*”

What happened next is anyone’s guess. The buffalo were loaded probably somewhere on the Texas coast, sailed to Vera Cruz to receive the viceroy’s approval before being sent across the Atlantic. At any rate, Curbelo and the two boys reached their destination as revealed in a letter dated May 22, 1784, from Joseph de Gálvez, minister to King Carlos III, to the governor of Texas, Domingo Cabello. It reads in parts: “*Of the six buffalo which your Lordship sent for the King, only two, one male and one female, arrived alive. His Majesty has seen them with great satisfaction and is also satisfied with the diligence with which Your Lordship was able to remit all of them. Wishing to convey his pleasures to the transporters and having in mind the qualifications of Don Joseph Antonio Curbelo, he in his royal piety has deigned to grant him the rank of active*



lieutenant of the cavalry of the cavalry"
He went on to provide a bonus for Curbelo and the boys and made arrangements to transport them back home.

King Carlos III, therefore, scarcely could have been more pleased had the buffalo been a whole herd! He acknowledged the gift and rewarded the caretakers as only a king could, but he instructed that no more buffalo be sent, not even a burro.

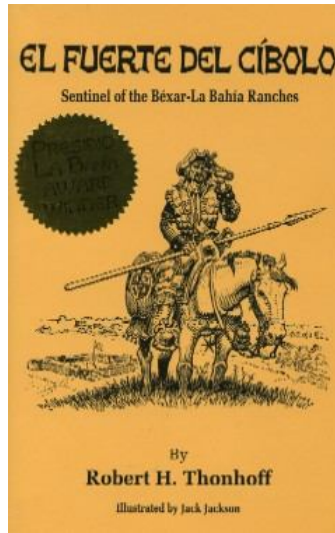
Seven months later, Curbelo and the boys were in México City. On January 12, 1785, Curbelo wrote a letter to Governor Cabello to say he was expected to arrive in San Antonio about the first of April. Again, one can only imagine the celebration the trio received upon their return home.

The story does not end here. There is a sequel to the buffalo roundup concerning the confiscation of two pet buffalo by Governor Cabello, who seemed to have a special fascination for the animals. In a memorial of 1787, a group of Cíbolo ranchers added to their list of grievances against the governor the taking of two pet buffalo from fellow ranch Don Juan Andrés Travieso. It seems that Governor

Cabello confiscated the two tame buffalo from Travieso in lieu of nonpayment of tax for 184 head of cattle. The buffalo were caught and taken to Béxar for auction after Travieso had caught and raised with great care, his two tame buffalo. The ranchers complained the money raised at the auction was sent off to Spain. The Travieso family owned the ranch of Las Mules, just north of El Fuerte del Cíbolo.

Joseph Antonio Curbelo continued his service with Royal Spanish Army and served in January 1780 as Lieutenant Governor of the province, in San Fernando. Curbelo is recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution for his patriotic service for capturing and driving cattle to Bernardo de Gálvez. The Lipans killed him along with five other citizens of San Antonio.

Joseph Antonio Curbelo is the ancestor of Granadero Rueben and Dama Dorothy Perez of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez / San Antonio Chapter. The full story can be found in Robert H. Thonhoff's book, *El Fuerte del Cíbolo Sentinel of the Béxar-La Bahía Ranches*, which is available in public libraries and can also be found on the Internet.



Even More Recent Articles About Gálvez On The Web

Huffington Post–Slideshow of 11 Latino Contributions to U.S. History published on the 4th of July
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/04/latinos-contributions-to-us-history-independence_n_3545899.html

An online magazine called VOXXI published July 2, 2013
<http://www.voxxi.com/general-galvez-us-independence/>

Video on Vimeo, a website for amateur filmmakers to share their work.
<http://vimeo.com/68135334>

A website about the book *The Edge of Freedom and the Texas Revolution* with related article.
Published June 21, 2013 <http://edgeoffreedom.net/tag/bernardo-de-galvez/>

Article by Bartee Haile titled *Spanish Hero Who Made A Lasting Impression* published on May 22, 2013 in the San Marcos Mercury and May 24, 2013 in The Courier of Montgomery County (north of Houston).

San Marcos Mercury:

<http://smmercury.com/2013/05/22/bartee-haile-the-spanish-hero-who-made-a-lasting-impression/>

Montgomery County:

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/courier/opinion/spanish-hero-who-made-a-lasting-impression/article_65aedb06-449d-5b54-aba4-ece59bbe97b7.html