



LA GRANADA



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

DECEMBER 2013

www.granaderos.org

SAN ANTONIO, TX

U.S. Military Veterans Parade



On Saturday, November 9th, we participated in the U.S. Military Veterans Parade in downtown San Antonio. We marched proudly in honor of all veterans who have served this country. Thanks go out to Governor General Joel Escamilla, Drum Major Ricardo Rodriguez, Fifer Vangie Garcia, Fifer Miaoyin Rojas, Granadero Henry Alvarado and Drummers Jeremy Reynolds and Joe Perez. This was Jeremy's first parade with us, so special kudos to him for doing an outstanding job in helping us honor our country's veterans.

A Salute To Veterans at the Alamo

We conducted our Salute To Veterans on Veterans Day in front of the Alamo. We were fortunate to have the Memorial H.S. Color Guard and the help of musicians Gerard Cortese and Kate Bolcar to join Jesse Benavides for the musical portion. Bill Bowlin and Henry Alvarado fired the muskets and Samantha Moreno sang our National Anthem while Joel Escamilla took pictures and Joe Perez gave a speech.

This was Gerard and Kate's first time with us and they did an outstanding job on very short notice. This was the first year we've had an outside color guard, the singing of the National Anthem and the firing of the muskets at this ceremony. By all accounts, it was a huge success. Thanks to all who made it happen!





Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 4

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine

5440 Babcock Rd

(Corner of Babcock & Hamilton Wolfe)

Dinner at 6:30

Meeting at 7:15

Christmas Party

Please bring a new un-gift-wrapped toy to donate to the Children's Shelter of San Antonio

Our next meeting also serves as our Christmas Party. We will have a brief business portion then the party commences. As we have done in the past, our group will be donating toys to needy children at the Children's Shelter of San Antonio. The shelter provides a safe haven to needy children and parents in emergency situations. They also provide adoption services.

These children are in desperate situations and are provided short term sanctuary until they can be placed in long term stable environments.

Please bring a new un-gift-wrapped toy to our Christmas Party and know that you are making a child's Christmas much brighter.

We will take the toys to the shelter at 2939 W. Woodlawn Ave on Friday, December 6th at noon. All are invited to join in the presentation.

Upcoming Events

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**November 29, Friday: 4:30 p.m.**

Thanksgiving Parade

We will lead the Thanksgiving Parade at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort. This is the same place where we have led the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade for the past two years. This is a short half-mile, tree-lined parade that is a big hit with the guests at the resort.

**December 6, Friday: Noon**

Children's Shelter of San Antonio

We will present toys donated by members to the Children's Shelter of San Antonio at 2939 W. Woodlawn Ave (between Bandera & St. Cloud). All members are invited to join the presentation from our group.

## **Thank you, Bea.**

Dama Beatrice Rodriguez donated her late husband Willie's uniform and accoutrements to our chapter including two wigs and a musket. Bea and Willie were an integral part of our chapter for several years and have been in royal audience with the King of Spain a few times with the group. I was honored to stand with Willie in Color Guards and to march with him in parades. We have missed his company and his great singing voice and he is remembered fondly. Willie and Bea's efforts will be perpetuated by Bea's generous donation. -J.Perez

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

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

## Gentle Reminder: Dues are Due

Thanks to all who have already sent in their membership dues but for those who haven't, we need the dues to pay for upcoming events. Membership dues are \$30 per person annually. Those exempt from dues are Honorary Members and Fife & Drum Corps members. Please bring your dues to our next meeting or mail a check made payable to "Granaderos" to Elizabeth Pérez, Treasurer Granaderos, 2714 Lovelace Blvd, San Antonio TX 78217.

## **Bernardo de Gálvez Exhibition**

**From December 12, 2013 through March 1, 2014, a Bernardo de Gálvez Exhibition will be on display at the Beaches Museum & History Park in Jacksonville Beach, Florida.**

**The Jacksonville Chapter of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez will host an Exhibition Inauguration Party on Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. The party will include Granaderos in uniform and a re-enactment by Louisiana Regiment (Granaderos from the Washington DC Chapter) and various British and Hessian militia. All Granaderos y Damas from every chapter are invited and will be made welcome. Below is their invitation.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
A PREVIEW RECEPTION OF**

**BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ:  
SPANISH HERO IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**THE BEACHES MUSEUM & HISTORY PARK  
381 BEACH BLVD  
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**PLEASE RSVP TO:  
DR. MAARTEN VAN DE GUCHTE  
904-241-5657 x 113  
Maarten@BeachesMuseum.Org**

## **Haunted Painting of Bernardo de Gálvez**

Youtube.com has a video about a painting of Bernardo de Gálvez that has a reputation of being haunted. The eyes in the portrait, at the Hotel Gálvez in Galveston, Texas, follow the guests. When a team of paranormal investigators snapped a photo of the portrait, the picture showed a skeletal image. You can see the video at the following website:



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBszCrVoBoE&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBszCrVoBoE&feature=youtube_gdata)

## **What I Meant To Say Was.....**

Last month's issue of La Granada mentioned that Governor Joe Perez gave a presentation to the Atascosa Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. What was inadvertently omitted was the donation of \$75 the ladies made to our chapter. Thanks go out to Chapter Regent Barbara Westbrook and all the ladies of the Atascosa Chapter for their generosity.

The article in last month's issue of La Granada "*For the Space of Twenty Days – Continental Marines Under the Command of General Gálvez*" had an error. While the Continental Marines fought at the Battle of Mobile, they were not at the Battle of Pensacola as cited.

# An American Revolution, Cajun Style

By Joe Pérez

This is the story of American colonists in the latter part of the 1700s who rebelled against their European king. Does it sound familiar? Well, here's the twist: these Americans lived in the French colony of Louisiana and they were about to become subjects of the Spanish crown.

After sixty years of trying to colonize Louisiana, France was ready to abandon its efforts at colonization there. France found a way to unload the colony while maintaining the appearance of being generous. As compensation to Spain for her assistance in the French and Indian War, and because Spain lost Florida as a result of the war, Louisiana was ceded to the Spanish king. However, King Carlos III was reluctant to take possession of the colony. He saw it for what it was to the French, a colony too costly to maintain. However, it was strategically located and could provide a barrier between the English on the east and Spanish America.

As reluctant as Spain was about taking Louisiana, the French colonists were even more reluctant about becoming Spanish subjects. The colonists had hoped that the French king would reconsider and in 1765, the colony's Superior Council convened and voted unanimously to implore the king of France to rescind his offer to Spain. The Council elected Jean Milhet, who was the wealthiest merchant in New Orleans, to convey their sentiments to the king. Milhet, along with Bienville "The Father of Louisiana", met with the Duke de Choiseul to plead their case for continued French control of Louisiana. However, the Duke considered the cession of the colony to Spain as an issue already decided upon by the king.

Although France ceded Louisiana in 1763, it wasn't until three years later that Spain finally sent Antonio de Ulloa to serve as Louisiana's first Spanish governor. Ulloa enjoyed a distinguished career as a scientist and a naval officer. He had organized the naval defenses of Chile and Peru, he was a member of the Royal Society of London, and associate member of the academics of Berlin and Stockholm, a correspondent of the Academy of Science of Paris and a member of the Academy of Madrid. He was highly regarded as an intellectual scholar and world-renowned scientist. However, his intellectual skills were ineffective in governing the fledgling colony, especially when the French Creole residents were not happy being converted to Spanish citizens.

In what could be seen as an omen, Ulloa was greeted in Louisiana by a severe thunderstorm upon his arrival in March 1766. From the very beginning, the Creoles did not accept or respect Ulloa as Governor and they resented the pending Spanish control of their colony. The Creoles would have to be won over by force of personality or force of might, neither of which Ulloa had since he was meek and unimposing and arrived with only about ninety soldiers, which were reduced to seventy nine through death or desertion.

Spain thought the French soldiers who were already in Louisiana would enlist in the Spanish army but that didn't happen. It didn't happen because Ulloa was given the instructions "not to change existing conditions in Louisiana" and through his strange interpretation of this, he lowered the pay of his soldiers to match that of the existing French. This resulted in his own troops being instantly disgruntled and it provided no incentive for the French troops to join his forces. Had he simply raised the salary of the French troops to match that of the Spanish, he could have induced the French to serve under the Spanish flag, increasing his military presence in the colony.

The Creoles did not need more reasons to resent Spanish control, but Spain gave them more anyway. The Spanish government severely restricted Louisiana's exports by issuing decrees that the Creoles could only export to certain Spanish ports. This, combined with Ulloa's constant offending of Louisiana's Superior Council made the situation ripe for revolt.

In 1768, the leaders of Louisiana's insurgents circulated a petition, signed by more than 500 colonists, demanding the removal of Ulloa, the reinstatement of past privileges and the freedom to conduct open trade with countries other than Spain. What was brewing was a real American Revolution.....Cajun style. (continued on next page)

# An American Revolution, Cajun Style

Continued

The petition was sent to the Superior Council, who sent it to a committee. It just so happened that the committee contained several of the local insurgents. The committee instigated a mob and more than 400 colonists marched into New Orleans to take matters into their own hands. Upon seeing this, Ulloa gathered his family and took refuge on a Spanish ship anchored on the river. However, the Spanish soldiers at his headquarters were able to present such a show of force that the mob's attack was unsuccessful.

The next day, after things had quieted down, the Superior Council considered the petition. Louisiana Attorney General Nicolas de Lafrenière, Jr., a prominent Council member, gave an inspiring speech listing grievances against the Spanish crown and their restrictive trade regulations while praising how the colonists thrived under the French crown. His remarks have been compared to those of another American Revolutionary, Patrick Henry, who gave inspiring remarks to the British colonists just a few years later. The Superior Council then issued an order for Ulloa to leave and asked the King of France to rescind his cession of Louisiana to Spain and place it back under French control.

Three days later, the cables of Ulloa's ship were cut, sending it and Ulloa floating back to Spain. It is noted that the cutting of the cables was the only case of violence during the entire insurrection. This was truly a bloodless revolution.

The colonists sent a party to France to state their case, but the French king had already gotten word from Spain of the revolution. The French crown let it be known that it did not want to get involved in a situation that it considered entirely Spanish.

The purpose of the rebellion was to oust the Spanish and return Louisiana to French rule. However, the more radical of the colonial insurgents wanted this to be a revolution to institute their "Creole Republic" and break away from any European monarch. A new frame of government was even drafted in anticipation of this.

Over the next ten months, the rebellion gradually lost steam but remained quite a dilemma for the Spanish king. His Council of the Indies, aware of the great expense in resuming control over Louisiana, was also fully aware of the beneficial barrier the colony provided between the English colonies and the rest of New Spain. In 1769, they decided to send in their best general, Alejandro O'Reilly, to enforce Spanish control over Louisiana. O'Reilly did this with a vengeance earning the nickname "Bloody O'Reilly". Under his command, the leaders of the Louisiana rebellion were sentenced to hang but there was no hangman available so they were placed before a firing squad.

It has been written that the Louisiana insurrection of 1768, where American colonists rebelled against foreign rule, was the first real American Revolution, albeit unsuccessful. A much greater one would occur a few years later in 1776.

## Resources:

*Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana, 1776-1783*, John Walton Coughey, 1991.

*Louisiana in 1776, A Memoria of Francisco Bouligny*, Gilbert C. Dinn, 1977.



Marker at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, Louisiana

## Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Meeting Minutes

For the meeting held November 6, 2013 at the Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant

Submitted by Secretary Briana Perez

### Attendance:

Eileen Barrientos, Sandra Benavides, Louis Benavides, Jack Cowan, Joel Escamilla, Joaquin Faz, Roberto Flores, Lucila Flores, Yolanda Kirkpatrick, Larry Kirkpatrick, Rose Marie La Penta, Olga Lizcano, Manuel Lizcano, Elizabeth Perez, Briana Perez, Joe Perez, Rueben Perez, Carmelo Rivas, Jose Rivas, Miaoyin Rojas, Michael Rojas, Elizabeth Salinas, James Salinas, Corinne Staacke, Victoria Thonhoff, Robert Thonhoff, Susan Thonhoff Rodriguez, Jesse Villarreal, Santos Villarreal, Richard Whynot

- Governor Pérez opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
- Judge Robert Thonhoff gave the Invocation and James Salinas led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Governor Pérez welcomed all guests, of which we had many. He thanked Louis Benavides, President of Los Bexareños, for including information about our meeting in their newsletter. He also mentioned that the Texas Connection with the American Revolution Association (TCARA) chartered a chapter at Texas A&M-San Antonio and will branch out to other satellite campuses.
- Since we are in transition with the position of Treasurer, Governor Pérez gave the Treasurer's Report with a previous balance of \$3,562.75, income of \$75.28, expenses of \$542.34 and new balance of \$3,095.69. He also mentioned that almost all of this money is already allocated to various projects and we will need to replenish our treasury with income from dues. Robert Flores moved to accept the report, it was seconded by Richard Whynot and the motion carried.
- Secretary Briana Pérez gave the Secretary's Report. Reuben Pérez moved to accept the report, it was seconded by Richard Whynot, and the motion carried.
- Governor Pérez presented a certificate of appreciation to Olga Lizcano for serving as Treasurer and executing her duties admirably.
- Governor Pérez announced that Elizabeth Pérez has accepted the appointment to serve as our new Treasurer and she was sworn in as our newest officer.
- Governor General Joel Escamilla, in his capacity as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election of officers by announcing the incumbents for re-election and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was conducted and Joe Pérez was voted in as Governor and Robert Flores was voted in as Deputy Governor for second terms.
- Governor Pérez announced progress on the Damas brooches. The vendor informed him they should be shipped from overseas soon. It has taken a year but we're finally near the end product. He presented a certificate of participation to Fifer Miaoyin Rojas to give to her school to earn extra credit or community service hours for participating in the Tobin Library presentation. He also presented Reuben Pérez with a blazon, which is part of his Honorary Membership. Governor Pérez announced that the National Meeting was held in Houston, was a great success and that he was elected as Governor General. He announced upcoming events and the sale of a book edited by Joel Escamilla titled "*Pacheco vs. Menchaca (1780) Colonial Texas Litigation Associated With a Cattle Drive to Louisiana During the American Revolution*", which we will sell for \$20.
- Our guest speaker, Jesse O. Villarreal Sr., gave an excellent presentation on his book "*Tejano Patriots of the American Revolution 1776-1783*", which has won the prestigious Presidio La Bahia Book Award given by the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Mr. Villarreal signed all of the books that were sold after the meeting.
- Governor Pérez adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.