



LA GRANADA



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.granaderos.org

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Gálvez Marker

A big Thank You goes out to all who have contributed to the funding of the new Bernardo de Gálvez historical marker to be placed at the Gálvez statue in New Orleans' Spanish Plaza. A big salute goes out to Governor General Joel Escamilla and Richard Whynot for their diligence in this endeavor. The unveiling ceremony will take place on September 27 at 10:00 a.m. in New Orleans followed by a reception at the Gálvez Restaurant. Some members from our chapter will be there in uniform.



Our Webmaster, Roland Cantu, has placed a link on our website to our group page on Facebook. The link is at the lower left corner on the home page of our website. Thank you, Roland, for your outstanding work in maintaining such a great website.

Scanning History

The Louisiana Colonial Document Project is underway which will create an online database of document scans freely accessible to anyone with internet access. The scans will be of 70,000 handwritten records of the proceedings from Colonial Louisiana's French Superior Council (1714-1769) and Spanish Judiciary (1769-1803) totaling nearly a quarter million pages currently maintained by the Louisiana State Museum. Michael Henderson, President of the Button Gwinnett Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution states, "*I have recently had some tremendous success in locating a few of my Louisiana Creole ancestors in several of those documents which, by the way, linked me to Louisiana's participation in the American Revolution.*" His discovery led to the PBS program History Detectives episode "Gálvez Papers". More information can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/investigation/galvez-papers/>.

They Do That Too?

From our 4th of July ceremony, many people now know the great deeds of the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment and the services they provide to ensure all veterans at that cemetery receive full military honors at their funerals. However, did you know that a few Granaderos are members of that group? Jesse Benavides, Michael Rojas and Rusty Hoffer have been serving on the Memorial Services Detachment for quite some time. Thank you Jesse, Michael and Rusty for your great volunteer work.

The stamp enlargement unveiled at our 4th of July ceremony was donated by the San Antonio Postmaster to the Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) to hang in their office. On July 31st, Governor Joe Perez presented the stamp enlargement to the MSD at the cemetery's Assembly.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Earl Abel's Restaurant
1201 Austin Highway

Ph: 822-3358

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting: 7:00

Our guest speaker will be
Judy Reimer
Why I Wrote About
General Gálvez

(Guests are always welcome.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

For July 2012

Prev Balance 2,276.56

Deposits:

Dividend 0.18

Expenses:

Port-A-Potty for 4th 150.00

New Balance: 2,126.74

Calendar

September 5 (Wed) 6:30 am

San Antonio Airport – Terminal A

Soldiers and Fife & Drum Corps will provide colonial atmosphere for an inaugural flight from San Antonio to Philadelphia.

September 15 (Sat) 10:00 am

San Pedro Park – 1415 San Pedro Ave

Fife & Drum Corps practice
Park on W. Myrtle Street

September 27, (Thurs) 11:30 am

Presentation for Hispanic Heritage Month

We're looking for 3 Granaderos to give a 30-minute presentation to the Navy Medicine Training Command as they honor Hispanic Heritage Month. We will not be in full dress uniform but will wear blue blazers and blazons.

September 27, (Thurs) 10:00 am

Unveiling of Gálvez Plaque in New Orleans

At the Gálvez statue in Spanish Plaza

September 29 (Sat) 1:00 pm

Presentation at Semmes Branch Library

30-minute presentation to library patrons. This library is located at 15060 Judson Rd near Nacogdoches.

Social & Welfare

We mourn the passing of an uncle of Granadero Roland Salazar.

We wish a speedy recovery from surgery for Granadero Robert Hancock.

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

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

Read All About It

Second In A Series

By Joe Perez

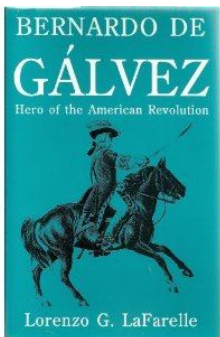
The mission of our organization is to educate the public about Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. Invariably, that includes the valiant efforts of General Bernardo de Gálvez in aiding the American cause through his successful Gulf Coast campaign against British forces. While many of our members have given presentations about Gálvez, a few of our members have written books about him. This is the second in a series of articles on Granaderos who have written books about General Bernardo de Galvez.



Born and raised in Alpine, Texas, Lorenzo G. LaFarelle was accustomed to dichotomies in both nature and cultures. He grew up in a land mixed with the low Chihuahuan Desert and the high Davis Mountains. He spoke Spanish at home while learning English in school. He maintained pride in both his Mexican roots and in his American citizenship. His parents kept a modest household with a well-stocked library. From these humble beginnings, he has fulfilled a lifetime of achievements.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sul Ross State College in both history and Spanish. He received a Master's Degree from Texas Western College which is now the University of Texas at El Paso. He furthered his knowledge with graduate studies at three universities in Mexico as well as the University of Valencia in Spain. He later earned a Doctorate in Hispanic-American studies from the Universidad Internacional de México at age sixty. An accomplished author, historian and educator, Dr. LaFarelle says a source of pride for him is his extensive teaching at all levels of education, from primary to college to university, for over fifty five years. As if teaching weren't enough, he also served as a vocational counselor at El Paso's Jefferson High School for seventeen years, to which he states, *"I guided young students into lifelong professions."* His writings and teachings are so extensive and so appreciated that the El Paso Independent School District named a school after him; the Dr. Lorenzo G. LaFarelle Alternative Middle School in honor of his influence over thousands of students throughout the years.

Dr. LaFarelle and his wife Carmen learned of the Granaderos de Gálvez from then Texas State Representative Dr. Shirley Abbott, who was a Granadero with the El Paso Chapter and also from Carmen's uncle and aunt (Ernest and Mary Ponce) who were charter members of that chapter. This sparked in him the desire to educate others about General Gálvez. *"I was motivated by the fact that credit should be given by American historians to Spain and de Gálvez for their respective contributions to the War of Independence. American historians have always recognized the Marquis de LaFayette and the help received from the French. They had not recognized Spain's contribution."* Dr. LaFarelle was so moved that he wrote the book, *Bernardo de Gálvez Hero of the American Revolution* published by Eakin Press in 1992. At the beginning of the book, he wrote, *"I dedicate this book to all my loved ones, my family; to the memory of the late Charles Barrera of San Antonio, and, of course, to the Granaderos and the Damas de Gálvez."* This is



quite a tribute to an organization that continues to educate the public about General Gálvez from a man who has spent a lifetime educating others.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter gave a presentation to students at Mount Sacred Heart School in 1999 and donated Dr. LaFarelle's book to the school's library where it continues to educate students who pass through that school.

Yo Solo

Stan Bradford has been a Granadero for several years and played in our Fife & Drum Corps. He currently lives in Utah but maintains his membership in our chapter. Stan was interviewed recently via email. Below is the interview.

Q: How did you come about writing a fife tune called “Yo Solo”?

Stan: For me, learning to play the fife was a challenge. Playing the historical tunes was fine but as I learned the music, I wanted to learn more than just the historical tunes. It is like I wanted to move on to new material and learn newer music.



As I continued to practice, every now and then, a new tune would surface. At first, I didn't do anything with them but in time, I learned to transcribe the basic tune and then later work with it enough until I had a new tune to play. “Yo Solo” was one of those tunes and the tune formed very quickly.

As we know, during the Battle of Pensacola, Gálvez took the initiative and led his ships into Pensacola Bay past the guns guarding the entrance to the bay. This action encouraged the remaining Spanish ships to run the British batteries and join Gálvez in the bay. Because of what he did, Bernardo Gálvez was given the right to place “Yo Solo” on his family crest.

When you look at the details of the tune, you see how the tune honors this action. The first part is a stately march that represents Gálvez striking out on his own as the rest of the Spanish Fleet held back from the British guns guarding the entrance to the bay. Marching to the first part can be difficult because the tune constantly feels like it is out of synch with the marching cadence. As Gálvez was determined to get by the British guns, the marcher must be determined to move forward and stay in step. Even the drum part in this section can sound like cannon fire. The second part is more spirited and the marching is easier. This part of the tune celebrates Gálvez's accomplishment as his ships reaching the safety of the bay out of range of the British guns and the feelings for a job well done.



Q: How did you learn about the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez?

Stan: I found out about the Granaderos from Jesse Benavides when I was first learning how to play the fife. Since he was the leader of the fife and drum corps, he recommended I become a member. At that time I really didn't know a lot about Spain's involvement of the American Revolution but I learned about a part of history I had never heard of.

Q: What have you gotten out of being a member of our organization?

Stan: The fellowship from the group was great and I felt right at home. Since I am in Utah, I can best answer the question by what I miss. I miss being with the group and being a part of an organization that teaches some American history most people never heard of. Of course, I miss the fife and drum corps. The performances were great and a lot of fun and through this organization, I went to and participated in events I never ever dreamed I would be a part of.

Editor: Stan, you know you always have a home here with us. Let us know whenever you are in San Antonio.

DateLine: September

2 September 1789

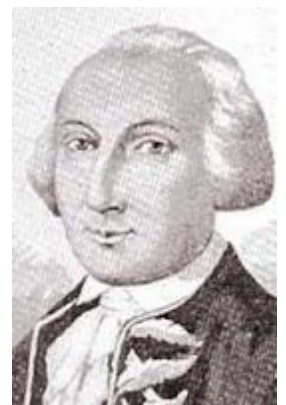
The United States Treasury Department was founded. Did you know prior to that, the Continental Congress rejected the British Sterling and adopted Spanish currency instead? To the right is a Spanish Milled Dollar (obverse and reverse) and to the left is an American Colonial dollar bill equal to one Spanish Milled Dollar.



There are very interesting connections between U.S. Colonial currency and Spain. For example, do you know where the dollar sign came from? To find out, go to www.granaderos.org and click on *La Granada Newsletter Online Edition and Archives*, then click on *Articles*, then click on *The Dollar Sign By Robert H. Thonhoff* for an excellent article on this.

7 September 1779

To initiate his Gulf Coast Campaign against the British during the American Revolution, Spanish General Bernardo de Gálvez captured Fort Bute in Manchac. It was a small victory at a small fort but it gave the troops under Gálvez a taste of what was to come in the next few months.



21 September 1779

General Gálvez defeated British Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Dickson and captured Fort New Richmond in Baton Rouge. The fort was defended by 400 regular British infantry and 150 militiamen. In the terms of surrender at Fort New Richmond, Gálvez also demanded and received the surrender of Fort Panmure in Natchez and its 80 soldiers. In the month of September alone, Gálvez took 550 British soldiers as prisoners of war. For his victories in September, Gálvez was promoted to Brigadier General.

Hooah!

Thanks go out to Bill Bowlin for giving his presentation "*Not So Quiet On The Western Front: Marines in the Revolution*". Bill did a great job in telling of the Continental Marines who were dispatched to serve under a Spanish command "*for the space of twenty days or longer if necessary, or requested by the Commander in Chief of the Spanish fleet.*" It is believed this is the first instance of American troops serving under a foreign command. We learned that the U.S. Marine Corps celebrates its birthday on November 10, 1775 when the 2nd Continental Congress "*Resolved, That two battalions of Marines be raised...*" It is interesting to note that the Marines started in 1775 but were disbanded in 1783 only to be re-created in 1798. Bill has been a history teacher for many years and his knowledge is always welcome in our group. There is an interesting precursor to Bill's relationship with the Granaderos. Bill received a degree in history from the University of Alabama in Birmingham and one of his instructors was Dr. Jack D.L. Holmes who wrote the Forward to the book *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana 1776-1783* by John Walton Caughey. Evidently, Bill was destined to be a Granadero de Gálvez.

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes of the meeting August 1, 2012

The meeting, held at the Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine restaurant, commenced at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation was presented by James Salinas and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tito Fernandez.

Treasurer Robert Flores gave the Treasurer's Report (reflected on Page 2 of this newsletter). A motion made to accept the report was carried. Robert moved to reimburse Mr. Whynot for his monetary contribution given as seed money for the Gálvez Statue. The motion carried and Robert presented a check to Mr. Whynot.

Richard Whynot announced that the unveiling of the Gálvez plaque is scheduled for Thursday, September 27 in New Orleans. The size of the plaque will be 28 inches by 18 inches.

Robert Flores announced we are still taking donations for funding of the plaque and a donation of \$1,000 was made by James and Betty Salinas in honor of James' recently deceased brother, Fred. Governor Joe Perez announced that we mourn the passing of Rick Rodriguez' mother, James Salinas' brother, and Steven Saldana and asked that we keep all of them in our prayers. Joe also made more announcements that Granadero Bob Hancock is recovering from surgery, Fifer Vangie Jacquez recently got married and Secretary Briana Perez received a scholarship to the University of the Incarnate Word.

Joe declared a break in the meeting for dinner.

Joe resumed the meeting and presented the answers to the Pop Quiz in last month's newsletter. He then presented a framed cachet envelope of the Gálvez U.S. postage stamp to Briana Perez inscribed with words of appreciation for all her hard work on the 4th of July Patriotic Ceremony. Richard Whynot mentioned that we received great coverage of the event in the Fort Sam Houston newspaper.

Past President Jack Cowan announced a fund drive for sponsorship of the Clemens High School dance team and a motion was made to donate \$150 for a sponsorship which includes the name of our organization on the back of a t-shirt worn by a dance team member as they travel to a national event. The motion was seconded, then discussed and voted on but the motion did not carry. Another motion was made and seconded to support the group by purchasing a large photo of the team for \$25. Discussion was had followed by a vote and the motion carried.

Joe Perez announced that the stamp enlargement unveiled at our 4th of July ceremony was donated by the San Antonio Postmaster to the Ft Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD). Joe presented the enlargement to the group at the cemetery's Assembly on July 31, 2012. He also announced that Jesse Benavides, Michael Rojas and Rusty Hoffer are members of the MSD and thanked them for their service.

Granadero Bill Bowlin served as Guest Speaker and gave a well-received presentation titled, "Not So Quiet On The Western Front, Marines in the Revolution." He presented information on the Marines who served during the American Revolution along the Mississippi aiding the troops of George Rogers Clark as well as Marines who fought on the southern front under the command of General Gálvez.

Joe Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.