



LA GRANADA



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

Granaderos at



On Saturday, August 17th, Granaderos staffed a living history booth on the grounds of the Witte Museum. Henry Alvarado and Joe Perez represented Granaderos of the Navarra Regiment and Bill Bowlin represented a Continental Marine (the first Marines) who fought under Gálvez' command for a brief period.

Henry, Bill and Joe stayed busy throughout the day speaking with several museum visitors about General Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. They also spoke about the many items on the display table such as the musket, the halberd, the snare drum, the Spanish Milled Dollar and colonial toys. They also handed out several brochures for visitors to take with them. The photo on the top left is Henry

Alvarado explaining the Spanish Milled Dollar to a museum guest. At top right (from left to right) are Henry Alvarado with a musket, Bill Bowlin with a sword and Joe Perez with a halberd. To the right is Joe Perez explaining Spain's role in the American Revolution and farther right is the display table



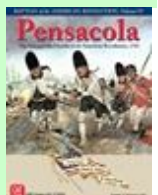
G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex

On Saturday, August 10th, the city of Denton, Texas, conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for the G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex located in North Lakes Park. The complex is named in honor of G. Roland Vela, Ph.D., a Granadero member of our chapter. Dr. Vela served on the City Council of Denton, the Denton Airport Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Municipal Power Company. Congratulations Dr. Vela!

Fun And Games

GMT Games has a war game called "Pensacola 1781". It is a board game on the Battle of Pensacola. You can be either the Spanish side with a large army and French allies or the British side with a strong fortification and swift

Indian allies. The end result depends on how you use your Tactic Cards, your Event Cards and, of course, the roll of the dice. It's at gmtgames.com/p-239-pensacola-1781.aspx.





Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 4

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine

5440 Babcock Rd

(Corner of Babcock & Hamilton Wolfe)

Dinner at 6:30

Meeting at 7:15

Guest Speaker:

Arthur Pagan

"Fundamentals of Heraldry"

Upcoming Events

September 7 at 12:00 noon

We will conduct a living history presentation at Brook Hollow Library.

September 15 Noon to 4:00 pm

Pioneer Sunday at the Institute of Texan Cultures. We will staff a living history booth.

September 21 from 9:00 to 5:00

September 22 from 9:00 to 3:00

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

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.

October 25

Genealogical & Historical Seminar

October 26 at 12:00 noon

We will conduct a living history presentation at Tobin Library.

Fundamentals Of Heraldry

Everything on a coat of arms stands for something. Every color, every symbol every word has a specific meaning. What would your coat of arms look like if you were to design one? What color would it be? What symbols would it have? What would be the shape of the shield that represents you specifically?

At our next meeting, Granadero Arthur Pagan will answer these questions. He will cover the history of heraldry and tell us various meanings of everything on the design of a coat of arms. We are all bound to learn something new from this interesting presentation.



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

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September Events

September 7 – Saturday from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Brook Hollow Library located at 530 Heimer Rd.

We will give a living history presentation. We need musicians at this one.

September 15 – Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Institute of Texan Cultures located at 801 S. Bowie St.

We will have a living history booth. We will not have a musical presentation.

September 21 – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. &

September 22 – Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Living History Timeline Event

SAF Studios located at 8350 Cagnon Rd near Loop 1604 and Hwy 90

We will have a living history booth both days. Would like musicians there at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday for one hour. This is a fun family event that is a fund raiser benefitting Wounded Warriors, Veterans and Special Needs Children.



Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Meeting Minutes

For the meeting held [August 7, 2013](#) at the Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant

Submitted by Secretary Briana Perez

Attendance:

Henry Alvarado, Ed Butler, Jack Cowan, Joel Escamilla, Felix Figueroa, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Karla Galindo, Frank Galindo, Yolanda Kirkpatrick, Larry Kirkpatrick, Bonnie Kuykendall, Olga Lizcano, Manuel Lizcano, Debye Nicholl, Father Rex Nicholl, Zena-Antoinette Pagan, Arthur Angel Pagan, Dorothy Perez, Rueben Perez, Elizabeth Perez, Briana Perez, Joe Perez, Susan Rodriguez, Miaoyin Rojas, Michael Rojas, Elizabeth Salinas, James Salinas, Corinne Staacke, Victoria Thonhoff, Robert Thonhoff, Richard Whynot, Joe Zavala

- Governor Perez opened the meeting at 7:24 p.m.
- The Invocation was given by Judge Ed Butler.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Judge Robert Thonhoff.
- The Governor welcomed all the guests.
- Treasurer Olga Lizcano presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept passed.
- There was no Secretary's Report since there was no meeting in July.
- Governor General Escamilla announced that the Houston Chapter will host the National Meeting and they will let everyone know the dates.
- Judge Butler mentioned the Genealogical & Historical Seminar on October 25th.
- Guest Speaker Rueben Pérez gave an outstanding presentation on his new book "*Laredito, The Forgotten Neighborhood West of San Pedro Creek*", which was very well received. Rueben generously donated the sales from the book to our chapter.
- Governor Pérez adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Birthday Wishes

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Happy Birthday wishes go out to Dama Dorothy Pérez who celebrates her birthday on September 5<sup>th</sup>, Dama Lucila Flores who celebrates her birthday on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fifer Vangie Garcia who celebrates her birthday on September 26<sup>th</sup> and Granadero Michael Rojas who celebrates his birthday on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Where Did That Phrase Come From?

Did you ever hear a phrase and wonder where it originally came from? Many popular phrases we have heard throughout the years came from the era of the American Revolution.

### ***“The whole thing, lock, stock and barrel”***

This phrase derived from the three parts of a musket; the lock (firing mechanism), the stock (wooden handle) and the barrel. A complete musket consisted of all three parts and it also came to refer to other items that were complete.

### ***“Flash in the pan”***

The “pan” was the part of the musket’s lock where you would put the powder for firing. When the trigger was pulled, the hammer would hit the frizzen, creating a spark and ignite the gunpowder in the pan. However, if there was a misfire, possibly due to the powder being moist, the powder would flash but the musket wouldn’t fire, creating a *flash in the pan*. This came to mean something or someone that has a lot of flash but no substance or durability.

### ***“Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar”***

We have heard this cheer at sporting events. It refers to the Spanish Milled Dollar, also known as a Piece of Eight because it was often cut into eight pieces or “bits” to make smaller denominations from the coin. The term “two bits” meant “cheap” or not worth much, hence the phrases, “He ain’t worth two bits” and “a two bit scoundrel”.

### ***“Not worth a Continental Dollar”***

During the American Revolution, Congress issued nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in paper currency. This currency depreciated terribly during our War of Independence due to oversaturation and counterfeiting. By May of 1781, this currency became so worthless that it gave rise to the phrase, “Not worth a Continental Dollar”.

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## Damas Brooches

Although it has taken some time, we are close to a final product on the Damas brooches. The vendor just received a sample from the manufacturer. It did not have the ribbon and clasp and the center area is a smooth mirrored finish when it should be textured. I will send a photo of the sample out soon via email and will take the sample to our September meeting for review. --Joe



# The Siege of Pensacola

By Joe Perez

Having captured British forts at Manchac, Natchez, Baton Rouge and Mobile, General Gálvez set his sights on the ultimate goal of his Gulf Coast Campaign: Pensacola.

## *Yo Solo*

British General Campbell advanced toward Mobile with 1,100 soldiers but when he got word that Gálvez captured the fort there, Campbell turned and headed back to defend Pensacola against an inevitable Spanish attack.

Gálvez arranged for ships and troops to leave Havana for Pensacola. He also ordered troops from Louisiana to go by sea and troops from Mobile to go by land to Pensacola.

With ships staged outside the bay, Gálvez ran into a problem. He was ready to lead the navy in but Admiral Calvo would not allow the ships to follow. Although Gálvez was in charge of military operations, Admiral Calvo was responsible for the safety of the fleet. Calvo feared that the entrance to the bay was too shallow and the ships would go aground. He also feared the ships would not survive the cannon fire from the nearest British fort. How do you lead those who will not follow? Gálvez had to do something and do it quickly or his campaign was at risk.

True to his nature, Gálvez decided to lead by example. He boarded his flagship, the Gálveztown, as the only officer on board and made it clear that it was his decision alone to enter the bay. Although British cannon fire rained down upon his ship, there were no direct hits. All the other naval ships except for Calvo's, followed suit the next day. For this brave act, Gálvez was allowed to add "Yo Solo" (I Alone) to his coat of arms.



Bust of Gálvez at Ft. George in Pensacola dedicated May 8, 1981 for the bicentennial

## *Cruel Incendiaries*

Once on the mainland, Gálvez' troops began digging in, building redoubts and positioning themselves in favorable locations for a siege of Fort George, which was not in the town of Pensacola but in close proximity to it.

Gálvez and General Campbell began exchanging letters that were very cordial and usually ending with flowery language such as, "May God keep your Excellency many years."

Soon enough, though, the letters went from very cordial to very direct. Gálvez wrote to Campbell saying that even though the fort will be under attack, they should ensure the safety of the people and buildings in the town. Campbell

agreed, however, one of his commanders considered the Navy Redoubt indefensible and evacuated it while ordering the burning of a nearby blockhouse and storehouse.

This infuriated Gálvez, who accused Campbell of acting in bad faith. Gálvez wrote, "...nor do I wish to hear other propositions than those of surrender, assuring your Excellency, that as it will not be my fault, I shall see Pensacola burn with the same indifference, as I shall see its cruel incendiaries perish upon its ashes."<sup>1</sup> Gálvez concluded that if Pensacola burned, it would not be his fault but Campbell's, however, Gálvez expressed that he would surely spare the women and children. Gálvez felt that diplomacy was no longer an option and, at this point, the only terms he would accept from Campbell were the terms of surrender. (Continued on next page)

# The Siege of Pensacola (cont.)

## *A Lucky Shot*

By the end of April, Gálvez had over 7,000 troops under his command<sup>2</sup>. It was a very diverse military force with soldiers from various Spanish regiments, French regiments, American Colonial troops, slaves, free Negroes and Native Americans. The British fort was surrounded by land forces digging in and preparing for a siege.

General Campbell noticed that, in addition to the land forces, Gálvez had also blockaded the bay with Spanish and French ships, which safeguarded the land force against any naval aid the British might send. Campbell wrote to his superior officer, "...it appears mysterious whether he (Gálvez) actually means to take us by force or by blockade."<sup>3</sup> However, it was no mystery to Gálvez that he intended to take Fort George by force.

Establishing position was a chess match between the generals as Gálvez' troops built redoubts and dug covered trenches to reach them while Campbell's troops were quick to open fire and conduct rapid strikes to prevent the Spanish from digging in. In one of several exchanges, Gálvez was wounded by a bullet that went through a finger and into his abdomen. He was immediately treated and recovered within days.

The British Queen's Redoubt was key to the defense of Ft. George and Gálvez had his troops construct a Spanish redoubt 225 yards from the Queen's Redoubt. *The range was so close that any type of battery fire would be exceedingly lethal to the British*<sup>4</sup>.

On May 8, 1781, a lucky shot from a Spanish howitzer exploded in the Queen's Redoubt, igniting the powder magazine which resulted in a tremendous explosion. Gálvez now controlled the higher ground and Campbell could no longer defend Fort George adequately. On May 8, 1781, Campbell raised the white flag. The Battle of Pensacola was over and Gálvez captured another British fort.

## *Merci, Mes Amis*

After the Battle of Pensacola, Gálvez let the French fleet go and "*provided them with 500,000 pesos*,"<sup>5</sup> which were donated by the Spanish citizens of Havana to support the war effort. French Admiral de Grasse used the money to refit his fleet and acquire more provisions for his troops. Re-supplied and rejuvenated, de Grasse sailed his fleet up the Atlantic seaboard. De Grasse arrived at Chesapeake Bay just in time to block in the British fleet, which helped General Washington defeat Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown and ended the American Revolution.

## *Gracias, Mis Amigos*

Most history books acknowledge the French assistance because their forces fought alongside American troops while the Spanish troops did not. However, if it had not been for Gálvez and his troops keeping the British occupied, like he did at the Siege of Pensacola, Cornwallis and other British generals surely would have benefitted from British troops coming to their aid from the Gulf Coast. Gálvez served as the Southern Front and his crown jewel during our war of independence was the Battle of Pensacola, the longest siege of the American Revolution.



General Gálvez at the Battle of Pensacola and the explosion at the Queen's Redoubt

<sup>1</sup> *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana 1776-1783*, John Walton Caughey, p. 205

<sup>2</sup> *The Texas Connection With The American Revolution*, Robert H. Thonhoff, p. 38

<sup>3</sup> *Battle of Pensacola*, N. Orwin Rush, p. 29

<sup>4</sup> *The Longest Siege of the American Revolution: Pensacola*, Wesley Odoms, pp.104-105.

<sup>5</sup> *The Vital Contribution of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution*, Robert H. Thonhoff, p. 3 (This essay is in hardcopy form and also appears on the Granaderos de Gálvez website [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org).)