



LA GRANADA



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

Happy New Year 2013 !

It is hoped that everyone had a joyous Christmas and will have a happy and prosperous new year. We are reminded of childhood when we couldn't wait to stay up late enough to bring in the new year and adulthood when we don't know if we can. Ready or not, the new year is upon us and the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez are sure to have a busy and fun year doing what we do.

Looking back at 2012, we can be satisfied with what we did; We installed new officers, participated in the Fiesta Flambeau Parade, served as docents for the Gálvez Exhibit at Texas A&M-San Antonio, presented the colors at the DAR Texas State meeting, established a Facebook page, presented a fantastic 4th of July Patriotic Ceremony, led the 4th of July Parade at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort, performed at the San Antonio International Airport for an inaugural flight to Philadelphia, helped raise funds and participated in the dedication of a new plaque at the Gálvez statue in New Orleans, gave a presentation at the Semmes Library, staffed a booth at the History Timeline as well as at the San Antonio Founders Day celebration, retired the colors at the Alamo on Veterans Day and donated several toys to the Children's Shelter. Your participation in these endeavors made them all successful. Here's to all who made 2012 a success and for a great 2013!



For The Children

On Friday, December 21st, Olga Lizcano and Joe Perez took toys donated from our group to the Children's Shelter, which provides emergency shelter to children who have been rescued from dangerous environments.



King William Fair

This year, instead of being in the Flambeau Parade, we will participate in the King William Fair on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will start by marching in the one-mile morning parade then we will staff a



booth for the rest of the fair where we will hand out pamphlets and provide living history demonstrations. In addition to our uniforms, we will have several items to display such as our muskets, Spanish milled dollars (pieces-of-eight) as well as paper currency and colonial-era toys. We hope to reach a large audience with one-on-one interaction at the fair.



Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 2
Picante Grill
3810 Broadway
Ph: 822-3797
Dinner at 6:30
Meeting at 7:00

Recognition for the Troops of Gálvez

Granadero Clifford Normand in Baton Rouge reports that efforts continue by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to recognize those who fought under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez and have their descendants qualified for membership into the SAR. The efforts are coming along slowly but the progress continues.

Clifford's wife and grandson have lineage to Canary Islander Patriots in Louisiana Antoine Acosta and Domingo Truxillo. Below is a list of Canary Islander patriots recognized by the SAR and DAR that Clifford found online.

The Pensacola News Journal reports that on December 3rd, a bust of Bernardo de Gálvez was knocked off its base by two vandals who witnesses say appeared to be drunk. The bust was not attached to its base and the city is now holding on to it until it can be securely attached to the base.



The article makes brief mention of who Bernardo de Gálvez was as follows: *“Bernardo de Gálvez was an 18th century Spanish general who led the Spanish army to defeat the English at Fort George at the Battle of Pensacola in 1781. The victory helped turn the tide of the American Revolution.”* Drunken vandals may have knocked Gálvez down but he will soon be back atop his pedestal as if to proclaim “Yo Solo”, I alone, am back. The article can be found at the following website: <http://www.pnj.com/article/20121203/NEWS01/121203013?odyssey=mod|mostcom>

Canary Islanders

Antoine Acosta, SAR, DAR¹
Juan Francisco Gonzales Carbo, SAR, DAR
Jose Gonzales Cavo, SAR
Gaspar Falcon, SAR
Juan Antonio de Mendoza, SAR, DAR
Manual Felix Nunez de Villavicencio, SAR
Vicente Sardina, SAR
Domingo Truxillo, SAR
Thomas Villanuebba y Barroso, SAR

Other Spanish

Juan Gil, SAR
Antonio Gil y Barbo, SAR
Joseph Nunez, SAR, DAR
Manuel Peñalver, SAR
Alonzo Segovia, SAR, DAR

¹Approved application for Lynda Normand SAR information is based on Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution (LASSAR) approved applications. DAR applications are based on using LASSAR recognized Patriots information in the DAR Genealogical search.

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

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Uncovering Galveztown

By Joe Perez

La Villa de Gálvez (Gálveztown) was occupied from 1778 to 1806 where Bayou Manchac meets the Amite River, about ten miles southeast of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

On January 1, 1777, Gálvez officially became Governor of Louisiana and set out to visit his provinces. In November 1778, he arrived at a settlement of English and American refugees who fled the British community of Canewood for a quiet and neutral Spanish area as a respite from disturbances caused by the American Revolution. Gálvez granted these people asylum on the condition that they establish the village with a fort and welcome Spanish settlers from the Canary Islands. Gálvez' offer was accepted *"to which they gave the name of Gálveztown (Villa de Gálvez), asking me not to change the name, since in consideration of their having gathered at this refuge during my governorship they wished by the said name to give an indication of their gratitude and a notice of the period of its foundation."* Because of its elevation, the location was to be one of the sites Gálvez intended to serve as a defense of New Orleans against Indian or British surprise attacks and would disrupt

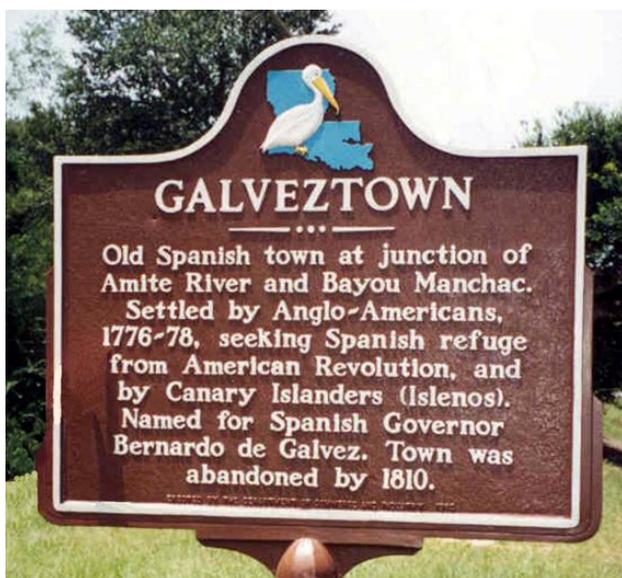
the main route between British-held Manchac and Mobile.

Gálvez decided to build Gálveztown into a formal settlement with houses, streets, a church, a cemetery and even a fort. He appointed Francisco Collell as Commandant of the district and charged him with laying out the design of town, which he did in traditional Spanish style just north of the Amite River. The center of the town had a plaza, a four-block area of public space surrounded by 32 square blocks subdivided into four 90 foot by 90 foot lots for houses. Facing the plaza were a church, civic buildings and the homes of important citizens. Twelve streets started at the plaza, eight at each corner and four at each plaza midpoint.

The first Canary Islanders joined the existing British and American refugees in Gálveztown in January 1779 and by April, there were over 400 Canary Islanders there. They cleared fields, planted crops and completed the fort in September. Two militia companies were formed, one company of 62 Canary Islanders and one company of 33 Anglo-Americans.

Unfortunately, Gálveztown was maligned from the start. Almost as soon as the building of the town began, in 1779, many of the inhabitants were stricken with various diseases, mostly smallpox. In 1780, a hurricane wiped out their crops and flooded the area. Later, the area was affected by drought and more hurricanes.

General Gálvez had launched his Gulf Coast campaign and in its first month, resulted in the capture of three British forts, the biggest of these prizes being Fort New Richmond in Baton Rouge. This, in conjunction with Gálvez capturing Pensacola, eliminated the need to maintain a fort at Gálveztown, contributing to its demise. The town was no longer a strategic outpost for the Spanish crown, who



neglected to revive it as the citizens succumbed to disease, weather and starvation. By 1796, the town had dwindled to just over 100 people and in 1806, it was virtually abandoned for better living conditions, with many people settling in an area of Baton Rouge still known as Spanish Town.

Gálveztown has since been buried by time and the land that has covered it remains virtually unchanged, with the exception of Highway 42, some driveways and plowed fields. However, subdivisions, businesses and widening of the highway are impending.

People are now trying to uncover the secrets of Gálveztown through the efforts initiated by Mr. Rob Mann, Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University (LSU). Mann has created a course in field archeology to uncover

Gálveztown and, last year, the LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology field school was held at the Gálveztown excavation site. It is an ongoing effort into uncovering Gálveztown.

Sources:

Mary Ann Sternberg, *In Search of Gálveztown*, www.maryannsternberg.com/files/Galveztown.pdf

Rob Mann, *Plazas and Power: Canary Islanders at Gálveztown*, www.academia.edu/1785114/Plazas_and_Power_Canary_Islanders_at_Galveztown_an_Eighteenth-Century_Spanish_Colonial_Outpost_in_Louisiana

John Caughey, *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana 1776-1783*, Pelican Publishing Co.

Robert Thonhoff, *The Texas Connection With the American Revolution*, Eakin Press



What's In A Name?

While the first settlement named after Bernardo de Gálvez was in Louisiana in 1778, the second settlement named after him was in Texas. The city of Gálveston was first named Gálveztown in 1785 by Jose de Evia as he charted the Texas Coast.

Gálveztown was also the name of the ship that Gálvez commanded as he ran the gauntlet and entered the Bay of Pensacola when no other ships would enter. Afterwards, Gálvez added to his coat of arms an image of the brig Gálveztown and the words "Yo Solo" (I Alone) to indicate his heroic deed commencing the Battle of Pensacola.



Welcome New Member: Lynda Normand

Lynda is the wife of Granadero Clifford Normand and she is a descendant of three Canary Island Patriots who were recruited by General Bernardo de Gálvez. She has developed an interest in the history of Louisiana during the period of the American Revolution. She is a docent at the Old Governor's Mansion, which is now a museum in Baton Rouge. Lynda has given numerous presentations about Spain's contributions to the American Revolution and specifically about General Bernardo de Gálvez. She and her husband live near the St. Gabriel church and provide tours of the church where Gálvez could have possibly prayed before his battles in Manchac and Baton Rouge.

Welcome, Lynda!