

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 3rd

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant

5440 Babcock Rd ~ Dinner at 6:30 ~ Meeting at 7:30

Guest Speaker: Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr.

Topic: Spain ~ Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance



Saturday, August 20 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Battle of Medina Historical Symposium sponsored by the Atascosa County Historical Society. We will have a living history booth from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Atascosa County Leming Annex, 25 5th St, Leming TX.

**Happy Birthday
August Babies**

August 10:
Julie Soto

August 14:
Emma Vela

August 16:
Joaquin Faz

August 28:
Deborah Guerra

More Photos
From Our 4th of July Ceremony



The Musket Detail consisted of L-R: Pad Kelly, Adam Dominguez, Randy Pike, Dan Phillips and Bill Bowlin.



L-R: Drummer Alex Zamora, Ricky Reyes, Michael Cristian as Gálvez, Roger Valdez and Adam Dominguez.

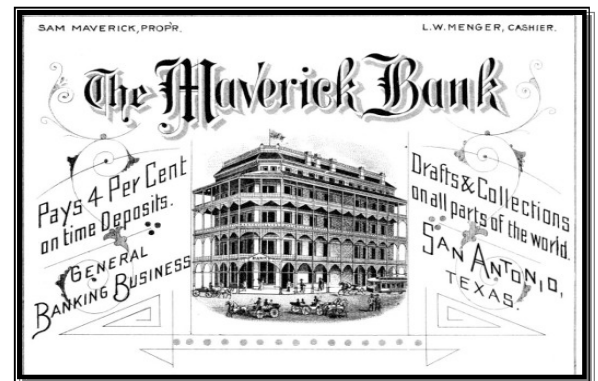
A LOOK AT THE PAST: IT HAPPENED ON THIS DATE IN EARLY SAN ANTONIO

Adapted and Edited by Rueben M. Perez

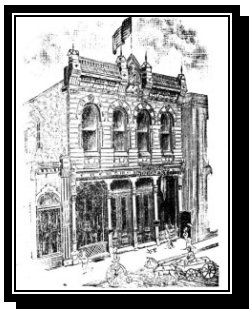


One of my favorite books and study guides is *San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History*, compiled and edited by William Corner, written in 1890. Reading the book is like taking a step back in time. In his preface, Corner states: "I trust my book will not only be a satisfaction to the inquiring visitor, but I should like to think that it could furnish a few notes and suggestions to a future historian of Texas."

If you ever wondered what it was like to be in San Antonio during the nineteenth century, this is a must read. Reading Corner's book is like being there with him, sitting across the table and talking to you, but it is 1890. The guide is for visitors as well as for home folks and it provides interesting facts of San Antonio's origin up to the 1890s. Corner discusses historical accounts of San Antonio history, missions, and buildings throughout the city as you were taking a sightseeing tour in a hack, carriage, or streetcar.



Corner provides information on early churches, organizations, and societies. One of the most interesting chapters is on the San Antonio River, San Pedro Creek and acequias. Many of the structures he points out had already disappeared; however, was captured by Corner in the book. Included in the book are interviews with Mrs. Mary Maverick, Mrs. Canterbury, Rev. Bishop Neraz, Dr. Cupples, and Dr. Ferdinand Heff Senior. In addition, Corner interviewed Mr. John Dobson, Señora Candelaria, and Colonel John Ford.



Corner includes a list of historical, statistical, and interesting dates relating to the City of San Antonio in a unique, brief, and easy-to-read format given below. The information recorded is like opening a time capsule on what occurred at a particular date. Sit back and enjoy a walk through memory lane of yesterday years.



JANUARY

First prominent settlement near the head of the San Antonio River, 1692

- 1/1874 Edward King writes "A Visit to San Antonio." A sketch for Scriber's Magazine for January
- 2/1793 The Puebla of San Antonio de Valero is combined into the town of San Fernando and Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar
- 3/1833 Sam Houston arrives in San Antonio for the first time in company with James Bowie
- 4/1884 East Commerce Street Railroad is begun and San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad gets to Floresville
- 5/1837 San Antonio incorporated by an Act of the Republic of Texas (2nd document)
- 7/1886 First time passengers and mail reach Floresville by train
- 8/ 1870 German English school has 265 students enrolled
- 11/1886 Snow felled in San Antonio
- 14/1842 Act of Incorporation of the City of San Antonio (5th document)
- 16/1883 Hass & Oppenheimer's Store opened on Main Street
- 17/1883 Contract is let for the completion of the Court House on Soledad St.
- 17/1858 Casino on Market Street opened with a German performance
- 20/1881 First issue of the "Evening Light"
- 21/1889 Beginning of laying Mesquite blocks on Alamo Plaza
- 22/1878 First stone street crossing made
- 24/1852 An Act to incorporate the City of San Antonio was voted upon and reject by the people (sixth document)
- 25/1878 The "Military Headquarters" now at the Maverick Hotel, are completed for occupancy
- 28/1878 The foundation to house the San Antonio Water Works pump house completed
- 31/1859 The Menger Hotel is opened
- 31/1885 Callaghan is a first elect Mayor of San Antonio

FEBRUARY

- 1/1836 Santa Anna leaves Saltillo, Mexico with his troops to invade Texas
- 6/1878 First Water Works Mains are laid on Avenue
- 6/1883 First through freight train on Southern Pacific R.R. passes San Antonio on the way to New Orleans
- 8/1883 Fire Company No.1 celebrates 25th anniversary
- 10/1773 First Jail Guard House and Military Quarters erected under Baron Ripperda on the Military Plaza
- 12/1872 Joseph Jefferson refuses to come to San Antonio for lack of Railway
- 13/1852 Supplementary act to San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad enacted
- 15/1879 Two new bridges on Navarro Street tested
- 16/1846 Annexation of Texas to the United States consummated
- 16/1869 The old Conception Ditch abandoned on Pagalda Street and the Mill Dam subsequently lowered
- 16/1860 Government property surrendered by General Twiggs at San Antonio to the Secession Convention Commissioners
- 16/1870 City donates 40 acres to Federal government for Post (Ft. Sam Houston)
- 17/1870 Band of Lipan Indians only nine miles from San Antonio, on the Castroville Road, tries to stampede a bunch of mules. The Indians failed and shoot a mare with arrows.
- 18/1860 Dr. J. H. Bernard, one of Fannin's men, who was spared at the Goliad massacre, revisits San Antonio and finds "all the old landmarks vanishing"
- 19/1879 Paul Wagner begins his new store on Commerce Street
- 20/1878 Contract let for Bexar County new jail, work to start on 27th
- 22/1836 Travis and Texas forces of 150 retires to Alamo to defend
- 24/1860 Colonel Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant Colonel of 2nd regiment of cavalry arrives at San Antonio to take charge of the Department of Texas
- 22/1836 Santa Anna's advanced troops arrives in San Antonio
- 26/1868 Clock tower on the Convent erected
- 26/1878 Work on San Antonio's First Street Railroad started from San Pedro Springs to corner of Alamo Plaza

MARCH

- 1/1845 Texas Annexation Bill signed by U.S. President Tyler
- 2/1836 Declaration of Texas Independence adopted
- 5/1731 Foundation of the Concepcion Mission is laid
- 5/1752 Mission Concepcion is completed
- 5/1731 Mission of San Jose completed
- 5/1731 San Juan and Espada Missions started construction
- 5/1883 First district court held at the New Court House on Soledad Street
- 6/1836 Fall of the Alamo
- 7/1842 Mexican forces invaded and captured San Antonio, left after two days
- 9/1731 Canary Islanders arrived and founded the nucleus of the Villa of San Fernando de Bexar, first organized civil government in Texas

- 12/1879 Groos' Bank and Store begun
- 13/1878 First telephone wire erected in San Antonio from City office of Water Works to the office at the head of the River

- 16/1860 Population of San Antonio is estimated at 10,000 to 12,000
- 17/1869 John Twohig lays the foundation stone of his wall on St. Mary's St
- 19/1881 Telephone system is about to be established
- 20/1840 Courthouse battle with Comanche Indians
- 27/1884 The Flores Street Railroad is completed

APRIL

- 1/1849 Outbreak of cholera in the great epidemic
- 2/1884 Mavericks sold Fort Clark for \$60,000.00
- 3/1813 Governor Salcedo, Governor Herrera of New Leon, Ex-Governor Cordero and twelve officers of the defeated Royalist troops are murdered a few miles from San Antonio in revenge by Antonio Delgado, former corporal of the B exar militia and others

- 4/1878 Water carts first used for street sprinkling
- 4/1879 Federal Court chooses rooms in the French building for Court Rooms
- 8/1884 St. Mark's parsonage begun
- 10/1880 Avenue C extension of the streetcar line started
- 12/1873 First Baptist Church begun
- 13/1887 Sixteenth Saengerfest is held
- 15/1859 Wool is established, first wool brought and warehoused here
- 17/1884 The corner stone for infirmary at Santa Rosa Hospital is laid
- 23/1840 The first market house, hitherto known as the principal Cuartel, is established by the city
- 24/1872 Losoya Street is opened to intersect Commerce Street
- 26/1878 Odd Fellows Hall on Houston Street dedicated
- 27/1882 Bexar County Court House rebuilt on Soledad Street
- 28/1878 Corner stone of Bexar County Jail is laid
- 28/1858 General Twiggs is unjustly court-martialed
- 29/1872 The old central dome of San Fernando Cathedral is demolished

MAY

- 2/1868 Guenther's second (upper mill) is started
- 6/1884 The Grenet Alamo property is sold for \$40,200 to Hugo & Schmeltzer (property condemned by the City Council in 1889)

- 8/1744 The foundation stone of the Alamo Mission Church is laid
- 10/1879 The City Government moved to the French building on Main Plaza
- 13/1734 The first foundation stone of San Fernando Church was laid; it was rebuilt and reopened on October 6, 1873

- 16/1876 Military telegraph is completed in San Antonio
- 16/1883 Sale of Alamo church consummated at Austin for \$20,000

MAY (Cont.)

- 18/1889 The Garza Block an historic corner, sold for \$61,300
- 22/1884 San Antonio Rifles organized
- 26/1869 First velocipede (bicycle) in San Antonio seen

JUNE

- 2/1882 First Volksfest held
- 5/1813 Battle of Alazan, San Antonio; Spanish 'Royalists defeated
- 5/1858 New fire engine arrives
- 7/1868 First Steam Fire Engine arrives in the City
- 11/1859 First consignment of fruit from Tampico, Mexico, via Indianolasold by auction by F.L. Paschal
- 13/1882 Crockett block started
- 15/1870 Indian raid only two miles from San Antonio, several mules stolen and one shot with arrow
- 16/1869 An Iron Bridge arrives
- 19/1869 Foundation laid for St. Mary's St. Iron Foot Bridge, street widened at Commerce Street in January 1890
- 21/1877 Work on Quartermaster's Depot/Tower at Quadrangle started
- 24/1870 Agitation for more sidewalks is now the order of the day
- 28/1883 Soledad Block, corner Houston and Soledad Streets, begun

JULY

- 3/1873 The old front of San Fernando is torn down
- 5/1881 The present (1890) Iron Bridge on Commerce Street is begun
- 9/1888 Corner stone of County and City Hospital is laid
- 11/1870 Indians reported eleven miles from the city
- 11/1878 A stone on Washington Square Park marks Ben Milam's grave
- 12/1872 Gross' house on "Alameda" street begun (Alameda now East Commerce street
- 16/1878 Curb hydrants are first established
- 22/1888 Defective work on Federal Building at Alamo Plaza has been reported 25/1859 The Vance building on Houston Street was the old military headquarters before the war
- 26/1869 The Santa Rosa hospital is in progress of being built on the site of the old Mexican burying ground

AUGUST

- 6/1870 Masonry work of Commerce Street Bridge is being done
- 10/1857 The Mexican cart and teamster troubles of Goliad and Karnes counties excite considerable public attention in San Antonio
- 18/1813 Battle of Medina – Spanish Royalists are victorious under Arredondo
- 20/1813 Arrendondo enters San Antonio triumphal, 500 citizens imprisoned, 18 die from suffocation and many remaining citizens shot
- 23/1889 Jim McCoy hanged at County Jail for the murder of Sheriff McKinney
- 27/1880 The Street Railway Company begins its extension to the International depot
- 28/1821 Mexico revolts against Spain to become a Republic
- 30/1840 Henry Karnes died in San Antonio
- 31/1859 San Antonio Gas Works are inaugurated about this date

SEPTEMBER

- 1/1882 Letter carrier system established
- 1/1882 San Antonio and Monterey this day connected by railroad
- 1/1890 Copper pennies are very little used
- 2/1870 Mr. S. A. Maverick dies on this date- a Texas pioneer
- 3/1838 Comanche Indians troublesome around the city. Two surveyors were killed on the Leon Creek. The dians were followed and seven killed
- 4/1888 Corner stone for Joske's building laid
- 6/1850 Work on "Bat Cave" Court House, NW corner Military Plaza started

SEPTEMBER (Cont.)

- 7/1861 Bob Augustin, from Goliad is arrested by Wm. Lyons for disorderly conduct, upsetting and overriding the Chile stands on Main Plaza.
- 9/1861 Bob Augustin lynched on southeast corner of Military Plaza at the entrance of Flores street (the tree was grimly named 'La Ley de Mondragon' at the hands of vigilance committee and unanimous consent of large mass of citizens)
- 9/1870 Ox carts are seeing their great day
- 9/1870 Saengerfest in San Antonio
- 10/1875 Jewish Synagogue on Travis Park is dedicated
- 11/1842 General Woll and his Mexican army invades San Antonio
- 12/1884 Lone Star Brewery is opened
- 14/1889 Last stone of the New Federal Building on Alamo Plaza is laid
- 16/1810 The Black Catholic Church is dedicated by Bishop Neraz
- 16/1889 The corner stone of the City Hall on Military Plaza is laid
- 23/1886 The head of the River is being discussed to little purpose since the city had sold its birthright securely and legally
- 24/1870 Brilliant Aurora Borealis visible a 9 p.m.
- 26/1868 Horns become an artifice of commerce
- 26/1890 The first electric motor car was made by Alamo Electric Street Railway Company's track is from Navarro Street to Fair Grounds
- 27/1868 The corner stone of the new Cathedral of San Fernando is laid
- 30/1847 The James' residence was built in September is perhaps the oldest American residence of two stories in the city
- 30/1858 US Government is still using the Alamo as a commissary store

OCTOBER

- 2/1859 Guenther's lower (first) mill begun
- 5/1857 The mail from San Antonio arrives at San Diego, California, in 26 ½ days "Fastest time on record"
- 5/1883 Second annual Volksfest, parade and great success
- 7/1858 The first St. Mary's street bridge is erected
- 13/1834 First revolutionary meeting held in San Antonio headed by Angel Navarro
- 16/1866 A three hundred dollar footbridge is opened on Commerce Street
- 19/1858 Eighty-two camels are imported by private enterprise from the Canary Islands
- 21/1889 Decision made today to build the Southwestern Lunatic Asylum
- 23/1850 Suit on Alamo property between City and Bishop Odin begun
- 25/1873 Some genuine Gypsies camp this week at San Pedro Springs
- 26/1868 Fastest record of stage mail from El Paso in six days
- 31/1874 The bell of St. Mark's arrives from N.Y. after being cast from an old cannon dug up in the Alamo, at the expense of S.A. Maverick
- 31/1834 Refusal of Santa Anna to separate Texas from Coahuila

NOVEMBER

- 1/1859 The United States Arsenal started on its present site
- 3/1866 The city is first lighted with gas
- 3/1878 Edison Phonograph makes its first appearance in San Antonio
- 5/1868 German Catholic Church St. Joseph cornerstone is laid
- 6/1889 The second International Fair is opened
- 8/1835 Texans take up position at Powder House Hill overlooking San Antonio
- 8/1852 Giraud, City Engineer and Mayor begs City Council to reserve the lots and head springs at the head of the river and a strip land on the east bank of river
- 9/1859 A large train of U. S. camels passes through Commerce Street headed to Camp Verde and Ft. Tejon
- 12/1872 Vance House opens as hotel after being old Military Headquarters

NOVEMBER (Cont.)

- 13/1885 First trial of the new steamroller for streets
13/1888 First International Fair at Riverside Park opened by President Diaz using the telegraph
15/1887 The West End Town Company receives the final transfer of the property
20/1866 San Antonio Ice Factory established
22/1867 The first city ordinance against carrying concealed deadly weapons
25/1857 Fire Company established about this date with A. A. Lockwood, chief

DECEMBER

- 1/1889 Postmaster Johnson takes charge of the San Antonio Post Office
3/1858 The population of the City of San Antonio is reported 5281
6/1858 George Hoerner's saloon opened on Commerce Street
9/1835 Gen. Cos surrenders to Gen. Burleson, commander of the Texans
13/1876 Alazan ditch nearly completed
15/1879 Buffalo Bill entertains us at the Casino
17/1886 Copper pennies introduced into the city
25/1881 The International Railroad track is completed to Laredo, first train this day
28/1858 San Antonio is just beginning to feel the possibility of becoming a market for cotton
31/1858 German-English school established

Adapted from *San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History*, Compiled and Edited by William Corner, Bainbridge and Corner, San Antonio Texas, Christmas 1890.
Consultant: Robert H. Thonhoff

More Photos From Our 4th of July Ceremony



Our extraordinary Fife & Drum Corps



Steven Draper



Our Color Guard with General Gálvez and our Chapter Governor



The Musket Detail



Relaxing before the ceremony



Officers and Gentlemen

Why Do We Celebrate July 4th Independence Day At A Cemetery?

by Judge Ed Butler
Keynote Speaker at the 32nd Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony
San Antonio National Cemetery
July 4, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

Before I begin my prepared remarks I want to share an experience that Robin and I had in 1998. We were on a 14 month around-the-world trip. On July 3, 1998, we arrived in Taipei, Taiwan, which was formerly known as Formosa. We were surprised to see that lining all the central city streets were alternative placed American and Confederate Flags. While taking a city tour we asked our guide why the Nationalist Chinese on Taipei were celebrating the United States Independence Day. We were told that the Chinese in Taiwan look at themselves in a very similar light as the American Colonists who rebelled from England - as they also feel an affinity toward the Confederates who rebelled against the Union. On July 4th, we went to a Friday's Restaurant, where we enjoyed bar-b-que pork ribs, potato salad, corn on the cob, and copious amounts of ice tea. We felt right at home.

The official reason we celebrate Independence Day is to commemorate the day in which the United States obtained its independence from the British Empire by virtue of the execution of the Declaration of Independence. How we celebrate varies around the country: fireworks & patriotic music; parades & concerts; bar-b-ques & picnics; carnivals & fairs; Yes, and even political speeches.

Why are we celebrating our national holiday at a cemetery? First, let's take a look at who is buried in this cemetery. Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran.

So, today we are among our nation's heroes; men and women who have served a grateful nation. Many of them died in combat. The veterans we honor today fought in the following wars: The French & Indian War; the American Revolutionary War (this includes our French and Spanish allies, and those who had migrated from Germany, Ireland, Scotland, etc.); the War of 1812; the Spanish-American War; the Civil War; World War I; World War II; Korea; Vietnam; and the War against Terrorism in the Middle East.

At this point I would like for all those of you who have served in our nation's military to stand and be recognized. If we take a look at the tombstones, we see that many of our heroes were Jewish, and the Christians belonged to a large number of faiths - Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, etc. Further, a look at the tombstones tells us another story. Many of our soldiers were born in foreign lands: France - many died in the American Revolution; Spain - many died in the American Revolution; the Philippines; Germany; Ireland and Scotland.

This is a diverse country which includes many ethnic and cultural groups. By working together, we have created the greatest country on the face of the earth. When you are bar-b-queing later today and when you are setting off fireworks tonight, please take a minute to hold hands with members of your family and take a minute to give thanks to our military which helped us obtain our independence from England, and which over the centuries has protected our democracy.

Here are some interesting facts about Independence Day:

- Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but another Founding Father who became a President, James Monroe, died on July 4, 1831, thus becoming the third President in a row who died on the holiday. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only U.S. President to have been born on Independence Day.
- In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.
- In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.

The Question of why we celebrate is boiled down to a few very good reasons:

1. We are here today to honor our founding fathers who led us to independence.
2. We are here today to thank all the soldiers and sailors in the American Revolutionary War, who died so that we could be free - together with all the soldiers over the history of our nation who have served our country during peacetime and war, giving special thanks to those who gave their lives.

3. We acknowledge the importance of our U.S. Constitution and the first 10 amendments to it known as the Bill of Rights which were adopted at the conclusion of the war. All of our rights stem from those two documents:

- 1st. Protected freedom of religion, press, speech and assembly.
- 2nd Preserved the right to keep and bear arms.
- 3rd Prevented the quartering of soldiers in private homes.
- 4th Prohibited unreasonable searches and seizures.
- 5th Required an indictment by a grand jury for crimes; prohibited double jeopardy; and prevented a person from being required to testify against himself, or be deprived of life, liberty or property without "due process of law". It also prohibited the taking of private property without just compensation.
- 6th Guaranteed the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury, and to be Informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.
- 7th Guaranteed the right to civil trial by jury.
- 8th Prohibited excessive bail, excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment.
- 9th The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.
- 10th The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. This was the cornerstone of the defenders of "states rights."

I would like to conclude my remarks by quoting U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Mr. Carter had a distinguished career as a U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine Captain. He had this to say about "human rights: "*American did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it is the other way around. Human rights invented America.*" Have a safe and patriotic July 4th!

Recent Internet Articles



Fourth of July Festivities at Ferry Farm

Ferry Farm, the boyhood home of George Washington, held festivities celebrating the 4th of July. Several reenactors participated in the event throughout the day. Hector Diaz, the Governor of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Washington D.C. Chapter portrayed Bernardo de Gálvez at the event and spoke with several people.

More information about the event can be found at:

http://www.insidenova.com/lifestyles/the-fourth-at-ferry-farm/article_eccc7620-44ab-11e6-b5fb-335872057720.html?mode=image&photo=

The Haunted Portrait of Bernardo de Gálvez

Gaining in popularity is the so-called haunted painting of Bernardo de Gálvez at the Hotel Gálvez in Galveston, Texas. It is said that in order to take a clear photo of the painting, you must first ask Gálvez for permission. If not, the photo will not come out right. In addition to that, the eyes of Gálvez in the painting eerily follow you no matter where you go in the room. This article is from Horror Amino, an internet site about the macabre.

More information about this painting can be found at:

<http://aminoapps.com/page/horror/9015759/the-haunted-portrait-of-bernardo-de-galvez>



An online course about Bernardo de Gálvez With a course outline for teachers

Hubslide.com, a site that provides slides and presentations free of charge. They have very interesting presentation materials for teachers on the site at:

<https://hubslide.com/mfrs/bernardo-de-galvez-revolutionary-war-s576a0b6d5e090382afc23a58.html>



A comic book in Spanish by Daniel Torrado Medina

Artist Daniel Torrado Medina of Spain has created a comic book in Spanish all about Bernardo de Gálvez and his ultimate battle of the American Revolution, the Siege of Pensacola in 1781.

This is sure to be a hit with Spanish speaking children all over the world.

<http://www.domestika.org/en/projects/263688-bernardo-de-galvez-pensacola-1781>

Pensacola Honors General Gálvez

Spanish dignitaries including the Mayor of Macharaviaya, the birthplace of Bernardo de Gálvez, visited Pensacola, where Gálvez won a battle against the British, a battle recognized by General George Washington as a deciding factor in the American Revolution. More about this can be found at:

<http://wuwf.org/post/pensacola-honors-gen-galvez#stream/0>

Another article about the weeklong celebration in Pensacola honoring Gálvez can be found at:

<http://wuwf.org/post/galvez-celebration-culminates-fort-george-ceremony#stream/0>

Searching for Spanish reformer José de Gálvez – Minister, Mastermind, Madman

http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2016-05/lu-sfs052416.php