



# LA GRANADA



## August 2025

Granaderos y Damas  
de Gálvez



San Antonio  
Founding Chapter

.....

[www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org)

.....

editor: joe perez

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## ANOTHER SPECTACULAR CEREMONY



The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony was a spectacular event that was a combination of practice, improvisation and luck. There were practice sessions by the soldiers and musicians that led to a successful performance; an



improvising of the Roll Call of the 13 Colonies where Master of Ceremonies Joe González called out each colony and asked the audience to give three “Huzzahs” in lieu of the firing of muskets due to the humidity; and there was luck that the rainfall stopped as the event was about to begin, allowing us to conduct the ceremony. The heavy rains which came that day kept many people away from the event but those who made it expressed their delight in our commitment to go on with the show.

The Shot Heard ‘Round the World started the event. The speakers and singing of the National Anthem were well-done, the wreath-laying was



solemn, the music was entertaining, the Spanish colonial infantry drill was educational, the Roll Call had audience participation and the playing of Taps by a bugler was emotional.

All in all, it was a job well-done. In a word, it was spectacular.

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**Next Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 6

La Fonda Restaurant  
8633 Crownhill Blvd  
Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Presenter:  
Art Martínez de Vara

Presentation:  
Beneath Sacred Ground:  
The Necropolitics of the Alamo  
And Its Cemetery



**August  
Babies**

August 9  
Sean De La Garza

August 10  
Julie Soto

August 26  
Sharon Simonick

August 28  
Deborah Guerra  
Ron Finch

Mr. Martinez de Vara is an attorney, author, and civic leader. He is a three-time winner of the Presidio La Bahia Award and three-time Grand Prize winner of the Texas State Genealogical Society's Book Award.

Governor  
José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor  
Joe Weathersby

Treasurer  
Manny Rodriguez

Secretary  
Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain  
Charles Carvajal

Sergeant Major  
Adam Dominguez



# PATRIOT HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILED AT WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

On Saturday, July 12, a historical marker was unveiled in a beautiful ceremony at the Wilson County Courthouse. It was a joint venture with the Wilson County Historical



Commission and the Daughter's of the American Revolution Susanna Dickinson Chapter. Two granaderos and a drummer accompanied two soldiers from the Sons of the American Revolution San Antonio Chapter. Dama Deanna Rodriguez and Dama Irene Roberts gave interesting talks about their ancestors who ranched in that area, as did Mari Tamez, Director of Bexar Heritage Center. Keynote Speaker Anthony Delgado also gave an excellent, moving speech. Thanks go out to other granaderos and damas who made it out to Floresville to be in attendance.



## Historical Exhibit Coming in March 2026

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ  
and the  
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Which will be based on the forthcoming:  
*AN UNDERAPPRECIATED VICTORY*

A comprehensive study  
of Gálvez's Mississippi  
River campaign in 1779  
by  
Stephen L. Kling, Jr.  
from the United States  
&  
Kristine L. Sjostrom  
from Spain

Opens March 2026 at the Cabildo in New Orleans. More  
details to come including additional sponsors and supporters.

Exhibition  
**THE CABILDO**  
A LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM  
Anise Fiello  
afiello@crt.la.gov

Exhibition Sponsor  
**LOUISIANA  
MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION**

Book  
**THE  
UNDERAPPRECIATED  
VICTORY**  
Stephen L. Kling, Jr.  
skling@thgcpublishing.com





# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebrated in Málaga Spain!

As has been done for several years now, American Independence was celebrated in Spain, but those events are now getting much more attention. As a consequence, public awareness of Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's participation in the American Revolution is also growing.

Below are photos from this year's amazing activities that included a play and a reenactment, among other events. Our fellow Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez in Macharaviaya keep the momentum going across the Atlantic.



## Gálvez Scarf

The La Luisiana Chapter has been putting out beautiful ladies' scarves for a few years now. They now have their newest Gálvez scarf available for order.

The colorful 12-inch by 70-inch oblong scarf can be yours for a \$60 donation to the La Luisiana Chapter of the Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez.

The gorgeous design is repeated in mirror fashion along the length of the scarf. It has the coat of arms for Bernardo de Gálvez and his name surrounded by wording, some of which is "Viceroy of New Spain" and "Bernardo de Gálvez (1746-1786)".

The scarves may be ordered by clicking the following link: <https://secure.anedot.com/la-luisiana-gdg/4eb4e968-2088-4f09-8fcc-9d865c156235>. They will be shipped priority mail. Quantities are limited, so order yours today.



# Recent Articles on the Internet

## A Spanish Village with American Spirit

Macharaviaya, the birthplace of Bernardo de Gálvez celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The link to the article is below.

<https://euroweeklynews.com/2025/06/28/the-axarquia-village-with-american-spirit/>

## The Battle of Arkansas Post (Colbert's Raid)

This is considered to be the last land battle of the American Revolution and it was won by the Spanish, with the aid of Quapaw natives. The link to the article is below.

<https://katv.com/news/local/arkansas-forgotten-revolutionary-war-battle-and-the-epic-charge-that-ended-it-captain-james-colbert-ed-williams-chickasaw-quapaw-spanish-fort-carlos-iii-arkansas-post-1783-galvez-jacobo-du-breuil-mississippi-river>

## San Antonio Mission's Role in the American Revolution

This article mentions Gálvez and the cattle herded from La Bahía (Goliad) to Béxar (San Antonio) to feed the Spanish troops fighting against the British. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.expressnews.com/news/texas/article/missions-world-heritage-american-revolution-20421324.php>

## 4th of July Celebrated in Spain

This is a brief article about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July being celebrated in Spain. It's from Euro Weekly News, the leading English language newspaper in Spain. The link to the article is below.

<https://euroweeklynews.com/2025/07/04/americans-in-spain-celebrate-july-4/>

# Get Your 2025 Fiesta Medals Before They Sell Out

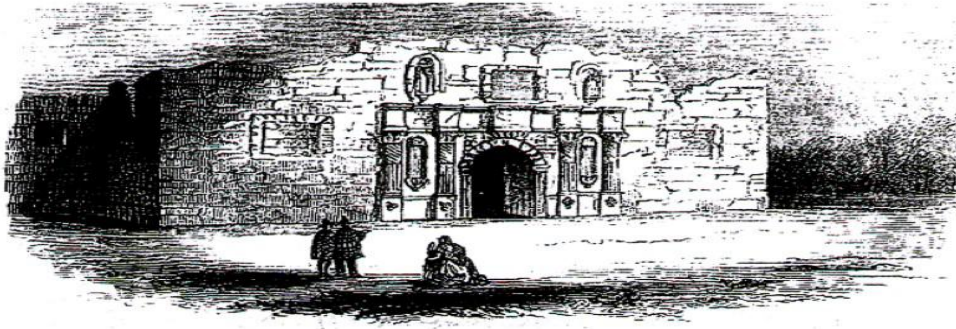
Our 2025 Fiesta medals are selling fast. We completely sold out of last year's medals, so get your 2025 medal before they're all gone.

The medals are only \$10. If mailed, please add \$7 for packaging and postage. You may buy them at our regular meetings (cash or check), through the mail, at any of our events, or by Venmo. You may mail a check to Granaderos Fiesta Medal, PO Box 34691, San Antonio, TX 78265 or pay through Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Manuel-Rodriguez-896>

The front shows the Gálveztown brig sloop and the reverse shows the 5 places where Gálvez captured British forts along the Gulf Coast.







## ALAMO FACTS: I NEVER KNEW THAT.....

BY RUBEN M. PEREZ

Words ring out all over the world to this day, “**Remember the Alamo**”. Historical accounts during Texas Centennial in 1836 Battle of the Alamo gave a one-sided perspective, and intentionally left out important details. Historians went so far as to create myths and disingenuous facts or just changed historical events to benefit their narrative. One account I read was, the only survivors of the Alamo were Susannah Dickenson and daughter, which is false. There are many other myths and inaccurate accounts of the Alamo, however, this story is about interesting facts regarding the Alamo that may have you saying, “**I never knew that**”.

Let’s look back at how the Alamo came to be. San Antonio de Valero is one of six missions, counting the forgotten Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nájera, established by the Spanish missionaries. The Alamo mission was founded by Father San Buenaventura y Olivares after receiving approval from the Duke of Valero, Viceroy Marqués de Valero. Now we have the first fact as to where the original name “Valero” came from. Martin de Alarcón, governor of Coahuila and Texas, accompanied Olivares in the Spring of 1718, then they separated. Mission Valero was founded on May 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by San Antonio de Béxar Presidio and the civil settlement, Villa de Béxar. The original mission was located west of San Pedro Springs and moved three times, to its final resting site on the East bank of the San Antonio River. In 1724, a hurricane destroyed most of the buildings. The mission survived several setbacks as: harassment from Indian tribes, smallpox in the 1730s and 40s, and measles epidemic, devastating the resident Indian population.



*Convento being demolition 1912*

As we reflect on the mission’s beginnings, let’s discuss the physical attributes of the structures and population. The early buildings were of temporary construction and basically did not survive, but by 1727, the work on the *convento* (priest residence) started on the two-story building and had offices, kitchen, dining rooms, and sleeping quarters. A portion today serves as the Long Barracks Museum at the Alamo.

The first stones for the first mission church were laid for a more permanent church building in 1744. Plans were for a sacristy, choir loft, barrel-vaulted roof, twin bell towers, a dome, and elaborate carved façade, however, the poorly built structure fell down due to the architect’s lack of skills. The roof and towers in the original plans were never completed. Reconstruction began in 1758, with the new chapel located at the south end of

the inner courtyard. Construction used material of quarried stones from nearby sites that were solid and strong enough to support the vaults and architectural design. Statues of Saints were placed on the niches of the façade, but over time were damaged and disappeared.



Painting by Ramón Vázquez de Sánchez

An interesting fact is the Alamo mission era church did not have a roof, even during the Battle of the Alamo. The first noted roof was the built by U.S. Quartermaster a wood-framed, gabled roof in 1850, which lasted to 1920. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas added a concrete vaulted roof. As this story is being written, the Alamo Trust approved a new roof to replace the aging, damaged roof. A temporary cover will be placed over the Alamo while a new roof is being installed starting Spring 2025.

From this point on, we will shift from a narrative format of interesting facts to excerpts in no particular order:

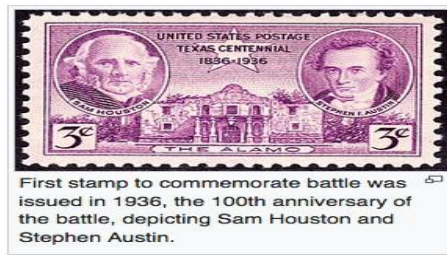
- Left: first known picture of the Alamo taken in 1849, a daguerreotype of the Alamo.
- A keystone at the top of the arch in the doorway that has the date 1758 and letter M.A.R. (Ave Maria or Hail Mary) no one is really sure.
- There were as many as 320 adobe buildings in the Mission San Antonio de Valero complex.
- The Alamo was originally named Mission San Antonio de

Valero (not after the gas).

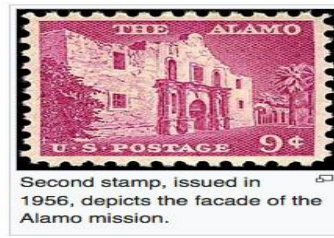
- A lock of Davy Crockett's hair is encased in a glass locket at the Long Barrack Museum.
- The Church Sacristy has etchings dating back to the 1730s-1750s on the wall.
- Broken glass from bottles and beer mug handles can be seen here and there placed on the walls by the U.S. Army to reinforce the walls from dirt from nearby dump.
- A large oak tree on the grounds was planted when it was 40-years-old in 1912.
- The original walls around the Alamo are long gone and the stone walls and arches today were built in the 1920s. The original complex was 4.2 acres.
- The Alamo shrine has its own private police force: the Alamo Rangers.
- The Alamo Long Barracks Museum has one of the two mill wheels brought over from the Canary Islands given by the King of Spain. The second mill wheel is on the grounds of Providence High School.
- San Antonio de Valero (Alamo) was built as a fort and mission since they had to defend themselves at times.
- If anyone asks you where the Alamo is, you can give them the GPS coordinates: 29029'33" N 98029'10" W.



- Stamps of the U.S. Post Office recognizing the Alamo:



First stamp to commemorate battle was issued in 1936, the 100th anniversary of the battle, depicting Sam Houston and Stephen Austin.



Second stamp, issued in 1956, depicts the facade of the Alamo mission.

- The Alamo was the site of the first hospital in San Antonio (1805-1812).
- Between 1810 and 1865 the former mission changed hands at least sixteen times, belonging to Spanish, Mexico, Texas, Union, and Confederate forces.
- Much of the original grounds of the Alamo lie buried beneath streets and buildings.
- The Alamo chapel was constructed of blocks of limestone. It is approximately 30 feet tall and 60 feet wide.

Short Narrative of ownership:



Painting by Ramón Vázquez de Sánchez

San Antonio Valero lost its identity over time during the 19th century. The U.S. Army occupied it 1846, with a three-way title with the City of San Antonio and the Catholic Church. In 1850, the Army obliterated most of the old Indian houses and the walls. The South gate served as a jail until the 1860s and the grounds behind the convent disappeared while the plaza became a public park.

Meanwhile the mission was in a poor state of affairs when the State of Texas purchased it from the Church in 1883 and conveyed it to the City for a museum. After the state purchased it, little was done to restore the mission. The convento was acquired by a merchant as a store until Clara Driscoll purchased the mission for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The second Battle of the Alamo started between Adina de Zavala, who wanted to keep it intact as a mission. The other D.R.T. faction wanted to change it to an 1836 battlefield. In the meantime, the second floor of the Convento was removed, the lower barracks stayed intact as de Zavala locked herself in it to prevent demolition. The D.R.T. eventually acquired the entire block and established a memorial park. As we all are aware, the General Land Office took back the grounds and mission from the Daughters.

- Did you know that with a look back, one would find a beer garden adjacent to the Chapel of the Alamo and a Police Station built into the Alamo? Newspaper accounts had paranormal activities of ghosts reported by the guards and prisoners.
- On the Alamo grounds, a two-story brick Fire Station No. 2, was built on Crockett St. In 1936, the station was removed and turned into a one-story auditorium for a D.R.T. meeting room.
- “St. Joske’s”-The Alamo came close to being a German Catholic Church if circumstances had worked out differently. San Antonio’s German Catholics were seeking a permanent location for a parish church. Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis of Galveston



requested the Army to release the Alamo to the Germans to use as a church, but was told the space was vital for storage by the Quartermaster. The Bishop made land available at the second location of Mission Valero. In 1944, Joske's department store offered to buy the church grounds, but the parishioners of St. Joseph unanimously refused the offer to move, so Joske's built around three sides of the church and the church earned the name by locals as "St. Joske's".

- The Alamo was a working mission with farms, various shops, and two ranches, El Rancho de Monte Galván, and later El Ranch de la Mora.
- In part, the Alamo Madre Ditch Acequia is still found on the Alamo grounds and part of the acequia is not visible to the public that runs beneath the Menger Hotel.
- Mother of Patriots is buried inside of the Alamo, Manuela de la Peña Ruíz, wife of Juan Manuel Ruíz, who helped supply cattle for Gen. Bernardo de Gálvez. She was laid to rest in the sacristy to the left in the Alamo church on May 18, 1834, where she still rests today, refusing to be buried at San Fernando, as it would flood.
- Granadero Rueben Perez had six family members at the Battle of the Alamo: Juana Navarro Pérez Alsbury, Alejo Perez-baby of the Alamo, Juana's sister-Gertrudes Navarro, Dr. Horace Alsbury-husband of Juana, Alamo courier, James Bowie-step-brother-in-law, Manuel Perez, brother-in-law who fought with the Mexican Army.
- Other survivors: In answer to the first myth brought up regarding Susanna and Angelina Dickson, there were also others: Ana Esparza and two sons and daughter, Petra Gonzales, Concepcion Charli Losoya, Juan Losoya, Juana Losoya Melton, Bettie, Victoria de Salinas and three daughters, and Andrea Castañon Villañueva. To this day, no one knows exactly just how many or who they were.
- The Alamo has no basement, however, later the gift shop had one.
- San Antonio de Valero became non-religious (secularized) in 1793 and abandoned. The land was distributed initially to the Indians. At the same time, the first Capital of Texas located at Los Adaes in present-day Louisiana, was moved to San Antonio becoming the second capital and land from the Alamo was distributed to 45 Adaeseños.
- Naming of Alamo-



Painting by Ramón Vázquez de Sánchez

- It is believed the name Alamo came about when the Spanish territory was being reinforced. In 1803, the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, shortened to Compañía del Álamo, came from the village of Alamo of Parras (means grape vineyards), hence giving the name San Antonio de Valero as "Alamo". The soldiers who were already stationed at Presidio San Antonio de B́exar had established their own residences and gave up quarters to Alamo

de Parras soldiers.

- The commander of Alamo de Parras was not satisfied with the poor conditions of the quarters at the presidio and moved the soldiers and families to the abandoned mission

of San Antonio de Valero which offered better protections for the two hundred men, women, and children.

- The word “Alamo” is Spanish for poplar, a type of tree that includes cottonwoods and other fast-growing species of the willow family.
- Renovations of the 1930s culminated with the Alamo Cenotaph, dedicated in 1940.



- Davy Crockett went down fighting, however, it is not really established how he really died, even some saying he was captured and executed.
- Again, accounts say Travis drew a line in the sand, the story surfaced in 1873 by William Zuber and there is no evidence to support it.

- Former teaching was that the Texans were the good guys

and Mexicans the bad guys, but remember, the Mexicans were fighting to defend their country and to hold it intact.

- On March 6, 1836, the Texas Army lost to the Mexican Army, most of the defenders were killed and later burned in two funeral pyres, with the exception of Gregorio Esparza whose brother received permission from Santa Ann for a Christian burial.
- The Alamo courtyard has a Japanese monument donated in 1914.
- The U.S. Army occupied the Alamo until the Civil War for quartermaster purposes and added a new roof for the Alamo and Long Barracks, repaired the Chapel’s stone walls, built a second floor (1850), and most of all added the famous campanuate bell shape parapet top. During the Civil War, the Alamo was surrender with other federal property by Gen David Twiggs in February 1861 to the Confederates.
- BELIEVE OR NOT – IT’S A FACT – There is an official cat of the Alamo. Since the 1980s the first official cat was Ruby, the second was Mistress Clara Carmack or C.C. Now, the cat is “Bella” or full name Francisca Veramendi De Valero.



- The Alamo to Texans is like Washington D.C. to the nation. Founded in 1718, its legend has lived to this day. From the inception of indigenous Native Americans who walked the Alamo grounds, to the brave Texan defenders, women, and children during the Battle of the Alamo, to its present-day reverent

atmosphere, it still memorializes those who lived, fought, and died at the Alamo.

Currently, the Alamo is being renovated and repurposed to preserve over 300 years’ history, recapture the mission site and battlefield footprint, and create a world class educational and visitor center. San Antonio de Valero is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and UNESCO World Heritage site.



Left: Can you identify this?



Congratulations! If you can remember these Alamo Facts you can become Puro Texan when talking to others with your new-found knowledge.

\*References are many and they would take more space than the story.

Answer to question: Mission San Antonio de Valero’s cattle brand.