



# Next Meeting

**Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant  
5440 Babcock Rd  
Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30

**Guest Speaker: Adam Dominguez**  
**“From Crown to Republic:  
The Transition of the Mexican Army”**

Adam Dominguez is a local reenactor who has been doing living history for over twenty years and has several historically accurate impressions such as a Tejano Alamo defender, a Mexican soldado under Santa Anna, an 1840s Mexican sailor and a Spanish Granadero during the American Revolution, to name just a few. He will be in one of his impressions as Guest Speaker at our March meeting for his presentation “From Crown to Republic: The Transition of the Mexican Army”.



**Saturday, March 4** **2:00 – 7:00**  
Charlotte History Festival. We will staff a living history booth in Charlotte, TX.

**Saturday, April 1** **10:00 – 4:00**  
Tejeda History Faire & Culture Fest. We will staff a living history booth, conduct infantry drills, fire our muskets and perform colonial fife & drum tunes.

## Happy Birthday To Our March Babies

**March 2**  
Pauline Faz

**March 3**  
Rueben Perez

**March 15**  
Urban Urbano

**March 19**  
Dale John Joseph Leppard

## **San Antonio Chapter Officers:**

**Governor**  
Joe Perez

**Deputy Governor:**  
Ricardo Rodriguez

**Treasurer**  
Elizabeth Perez

**Secretary**  
Briana Perez

This article appeared in the March/April 2016 issue of the Texas Numismatic Association magazine and was written by Granadero Frank Galindo, who also designed the medal.

## CAPTAIN ALMERON DICKINSON ALAMO DEFENDER

On the early morning of March 6, 1836, the thick smell of gunpowder and smoke permeated the air surrounding the old Alamo church. Santa Anna's army had mounted three charges against the Alamo. The defenders were able to repel two charges. On the third and final assault the Centralist Forces breached the walls of the garrison. The Alamo had fallen. On the grounds lay a multitude of scattered, bloodstained bodies of the dead Alamo defenders and Santa Anna's Centralists. The eerie sounds of weeping women and children, as well as the painful cries of the critically wounded, rendered a tragic scene. Among the garrison's casualties was Captain Almeron Dickinson, a courageous officer who was designated as the artillery captain at the Alamo. His lifeless body remained near the cannon he manned. Thus on March 6, 1836, thirteen days of fierce combat ended tragically.

Days before the Alamo fell, the news of Santa Anna's rapidly advancing Centralist army had reached San Antonio. Some residents fled to the outskirts for their safety. Captain Dickinson quickly moved his wife Susanna and their baby daughter Angelina into the Alamo compound where other families had taken refuge. Others seeking the safety afforded by the church included Tejano families, their relatives and noncombatant civilians. Some found protection and shelter in the barracks and women with children hid in the chapel. On the cannon ramps Captain Dickinson and Gregorio Esparza stood gallantly at their post with cannons ready to engage Santa Anna's enormous army.

At daybreak on March 6th, Santa Anna ordered his forces to attack the garrison. Captain Dickinson was at his post directing his men as they fired their cannons at Santa Anna's advancing army. The specter of death permeated the air as pistols, rifles and cannons roared. The battle of the Alamo was reaching its climax as Santa Anna's enormous army was gaining ground, despite its heavy losses. The Alamo defenders were greatly outnumbered. Finally, they were overwhelmed by the massive Centralist troops. After thirteen days of fighting, the Alamo was lost to Santa Anna and his army.

Almeron Dickinson was born in circa 1800 and came to Texas from Tennessee. The precise place of his birth is unknown, as well as the date of birth. In 1831 he and Susanna moved to Texas and settled in DeWitt Colony, where he received a league of land. There Dickinson

established a blacksmith shop and founded a hat factory with George C. Kimble as his business partner. On December 14, 1834, Susanna gave birth to their only child, Angelina Elizabeth, who with her mother survived the memorable and fiercely fought Battle of the Alamo. Captain Almeron Dickinson was a soldier, blacksmith, Mason and business man. He is remembered for his courage, service and sacrifice for Texas. He willingly participated in the Battle of Gonzales, the Siege of Bexar and the Battle of the Alamo.

The exact number of Santa Anna's army and Travis's defenders is not known. Historians can't agree on the numbers and offer only estimates of the participants. Although the Battle of the Alamo lasted only about two hours, its impact in Texas history is immeasurable.

"Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" became the battle cry of General Sam Houston's victorious army that defeated Santa Anna and his Centralist troops at San Jacinto.

We should always remember and honor those brave patriots, both Texians and Tejanos, who sacrificed their lives for Texas Independence. May their memory always serve as a vibrant and perpetual inspiration to all Texans.



The obverse of the medal features Alamo defender, Captain Almeron Dickinson, a courageous and loyal soldier. In the field, the dates of his birth and death are shown, as well as the tri-colored flag with two stars, designed to represent Coahuila and Texas. The flag is inside the outline of the Alamo.

The reverse of the medal shows the official seal of the Texas Numismatic Association.

The medal was designed by TNA Medals Officer Frank Galindo of San Antonio, Texas.

Orders may be placed for the silver and bronze medal set or single bronze medals, by contacting Frank Galindo, TNA Medals Officer, via e-mail at [karfra1@netzero.net](mailto:karfra1@netzero.net) or at P.O. Box 12217, San Antonio, TX 78212-0217. Single bronze medals are \$6.50 postpaid. Medal sets (one bronze and one silver) are \$47.00 for each set, plus \$4.50 per set for postage and handling. If insurance is requested, there is an additional cost of \$2.50 per medal set. Make checks or money orders payable to TNA. The Medals will be mailed after the TNA Convention.

# The Seven Sisters of Texas (*Las siete hermanas de Tejas*)

By: José Antonio López

In sharing pre-1836 history of Texas with others, there's one particular feature that surprises many folks. That is, the fact that Texas was already an organized state when the first Anglo immigrants from the U.S. began arriving in Mexico in the 1820s. That fact alone proves that Stephen F. Austin cannot be the "Father of Texas," since Texas was over 130 years old when he immigrated to Mexico!

Indeed, mainstream history books perpetuate skepticism of our state's true origins, because they contain an incomplete picture of

Texas history. That is, Anglo Saxon immigrants from the U.S. did not create Texas, but rather initially crossed over as immigrants. Next, the U.S. absorbed it in 1845-48. Since then, conventional historians have tried to separate Texas from its Mexican birthright. The intentional scheme is insulting to its true founders and continues to this day. In the words of historian David J. Weber, "*Hispanophobia with its particularly vitriolic anti-Mexican variant, also served as a convenient way to keep Mexicans "in their place."* Thus, Anglo Americans repudiated the Spanish past ... and replaced it with their own institutions and culture." Historian Weber continues: "Hispanophobia has lasted longer in Texas than in any other Spanish province. Well into the 20th century, the prejudice retarded the serious study of the state's lengthy Spanish heritage, leaving the field open to distortion and caricature."

In fairness, prudent historians have tried to set the record straight. Perhaps no one has ever said it better than Walt Whitman when he wrote in 1883: "*We Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents..Thus far, impress'd by New England writers and schoolmasters, we tacitly abandon ourselves to the notion that our United States have been fashion'd from the British Islands only ... which is a very great mistake.*" So it is with the manner that the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) wields its rigid mandated curricula program. In their way of thinking, if it doesn't fit the Austin and Sam Houston models, it's left out of classroom lessons. Hopefully, one day soon the SBOE will heed Walt Whitman's wisdom and embrace Texas' pre-1836 history. What's at stake? The answer is that students will finally learn long-ignored Texas facts. In reality, Texas was the most northeasterly member of a family of New Spain sister states commonly called Las Provincias Internas. It's important for readers to know this: Texas and its well-established family of provinces (states) welcomed Mr. Austin and his 300 Anglo families who immigrated to Mexico to be "Mexicans." While borders may have changed, some of the provinces have survived to the present day as Mexican and U.S. states. Below are brief summaries of each:



**New Mexico**: As Texas' big sister, recorded knowledge of the territory can be traced to Francisco Vasquez de Coronado's 1540-42 visit. From New Mexico, the first Europeans, not only explored the area, but also travelled through upper Texas and Kansas. By the way, West Texas (i.e., El Paso) was originally part of New Mexico. Also, here is where Jumano Native Americans requested that Santa Fe missionaries establish missions in their Texas villages. Road connections between Texas and New Mexico began on October 4, 1786, when Pedro Vial and Cristobal de los Santos departed San Antonio, reaching Santa Fe on May 26, 1787.

As to the origins of the name, Francisco de Ibarra, an early Spanish explorer, noticed a distinct difference in flora and fauna. Thus, he informally recorded its name as "un Nuevo México" in his logbook. Then, in 1598, Juan de Oñate formally accepted the name when he became the first Governor of Nuevo México. Please note that the territory of el Reino del Nuevo México at that time encompassed most of what we know today as the Southwest.

**Sonora**: There are several accounts regarding its first European settlements. For example, locals believe that the origins of a village in Sonora can be traced to Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca in 1530. The first Spanish missionaries arrived in 1614. Italian Jesuit priest, Eusebio Kino, established a number of missions in the region, beginning in 1687. Sonora was the point of departure for the settlement of points north, such as Arizona.

**Coahuila**: Bordering Texas along the Rio Grande, Minas de la Trinidad was established in 1577. In the same year, Alberto del Canto established Saltillo, its capital. Coahuila shares a close kinship to Texas because as in New Mexico's case, part of West Texas was once within the state of Coahuila. Additionally, after Mexican independence, the two states were combined as Coahuila y Texas. Many early Texas pioneers came from Coahuila.

**California**: Although settled for the most part in the 1700s, California's story starts in 1533. Later, Spanish navigator explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo entered San Diego Bay on September 28, 1542. Sebastián Vizcaino followed, with the Portolá Expedition of 1769-70, and founded what we now know as California. The name "California" was first recorded in 1562, with several versions as to the word's origin. The most popular of these is "Califia" referring to a mythical land.

**Nuevo León**: After initial endeavors by Alberto del Canto and Luis de Carvajal, Diego de Montemayor is credited with permanently settling pioneer settlers in Nuevo León in 1596. Significantly, all three attempts were initiated by Sephardic Jewish Spaniards. As with Coahuila, many early Texas settlers originate in this region (Monterrey and points in between).

**Nueva Vizcaya**: Today, this sister province of Texas is known as the states of Chihuahua and Durango. Antonio Deza y Ulloa is credited with the establishment of Chihuahua City in 1709, but Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and his shipwreck companions were the first Europeans to set foot in the territory. Predating New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya was settled in 1554, and served as the home base for explorers venturing farther north. Missionaries began arriving in 1569.

**Nuevo Santander**: Texas' youngest sister, this last province was set up in northern Mexico by Count José de Escandón in 1747. (Please note that South Texas was part of Nuevo Santander (Tamaulipas) until 1848.) Count Escandón eventually settled over twenty Villas del Norte. Several of them straddle both banks (ambos lados) of the Lower Rio Grande.



# Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

## Minutes for the meeting held February 1, 2017 at the Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant Submitted by Joe Perez

### Attendance:

Mike Aguayo, Reyna Araiza, Abel Araiza, Eileen Barrientos, Pauline Faz, Joaquin Faz, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Priscilla Hancock, Bob Hancock, Jimmy Peet, Joe Perez, Bill Smith, Alex Zamora, Joe J. Zavala

- The meeting commenced at 7:36 p.m.
- Abel Araiza provided the Invocation.
- Joaquin Faz led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Governor Joe Perez welcomed guests Mike Aguayo and Bill Smith. He also asked that we keep Granadero Richard whynot in our prayers as he undergoes chemotherapy treatments for esophageal cancer. We all agreed we will send up prayers for a speedy recovery for him.
- Treasurer Elizabeth Perez was unable to attend but gave the Treasurer's Report to Governor Joe Perez. The Treasurer's Report for January had a Beginning Balance of \$2,635.20, Expenses of \$6.81, Income of \$60.00, and an Ending Balance of \$2,688.39. A motion to accept the report was made by Jimmy Peet and seconded by Eileen Barrientos. After a vote, the motion carried.
- Governor Perez announced the birthdays for February for Jesse Villarreal and Ricardo Rodriguez. He also announced two upcoming events: the Charlotte History Festival on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and a presentation to the San Antonio Women's Federation on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Joe also announced that, due to continued construction at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, we will conduct this year's ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery, which is the same place we had it in 2016.
- Governor Perez announced that Granadero Jesse Guerra will Chair the 2017 Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez National Meeting Committee and that we need to support him all we can and help him with that project.
- Governor Perez then opened discussion regarding the Gálvez challenge coin. A sample from the vendor Celebrate Excellence was passed around. Joe mentioned that the company has a great reputation and came highly recommended. They have a minimum order requirement of 100 coins. 100 coins will cost \$7.55 each and 200 will cost \$5.91 each, however, Joe cautioned that we probably won't be able to sell 200. After discussion, it was agreed to order 100 from this vendor. Granadero Abel Araiza pointed out a misspelling of Pontchartrain, on the sample. It will be corrected in production.
- Governor Perez introduced Bill Smith as our guest speaker. Bill gave an outstanding presentation on Texas in the Civil War and had a display table of historical items. He was very well received and answered many questions after his presentation.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

